

and national strategies and programmes formulated in response to important world problems and needs,

Recalling its resolution 35/129 of 11 December 1980, in pursuance of which the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging was established to finance preparatory and follow-up activities in connection with the World Assembly, and its resolution 36/20 of 9 November 1981, in which it requested the Secretary-General to use the Trust Fund to encourage further interest in the field of aging among developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, within the context of the conclusions and recommendations of the World Assembly on Aging,

Acknowledging the role played by the United Nations and the specialized agencies through their efforts in the field of aging and the need to strengthen this role in order to make the implementation of the recommendations of the Plan of Action effective,

Emphasizing the importance of the Plan of Action and stressing the spirit of co-operation that prevailed during the World Assembly on Aging,

Expressing appreciation to the Government of Austria for acting as host to the World Assembly on Aging,

*Having considered the Report of the World Assembly on Aging,*⁴⁴

1. *Takes note of the Report of the World Assembly on Aging;*

2. *Endorses* the International Plan of Action on Aging, adopted by consensus by the World Assembly on Aging;

3. *Affirms* that aging should be considered in the context of economic, social and cultural development, as well as in the context of international strategies and plans;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to make continuous efforts to implement the principles and recommendations contained in the Plan of Action in accordance with their national structures, needs and objectives;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure that sufficient resources within reasonable limits are made available for effective implementation of, and follow-up action to, the Plan of Action, as well as to maintain the momentum generated by the World Assembly on Aging; in doing so, the Secretary-General should make every effort to reallocate existing global resources;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take such steps as may be appropriate for the necessary strengthening of activities in the field of aging at the central and regional levels of the United Nations, as set forth in the Plan of Action;

7. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the international network of existing information, research and training centres in the field of aging in order to encourage and facilitate the exchange of knowledge, skills and experiences, as well as technical co-operation between countries within the various regions;

8. *Urges* the Secretary-General to implement the recommendations concerning international co-operation with respect to aging, as well as those concerning the assessment, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action, using the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to use the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging to meet the rapidly increasing needs of the aging in the developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to use the Trust Fund to encourage greater interest among developing countries in matters related to aging and to assist Member States, at their request, in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for the elderly; further requests the Secretary-General to use the Trust Fund for technical co-operation and research related to the aging of populations and for promoting co-operation among developing countries in the exchange of relevant information and technology;

11. *Appeals* to Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;

12. *Urges* the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, in co-operation with all organizations responsible for international population assistance, to strengthen its assistance, within its mandate, in the field of aging, particularly in developing countries;

13. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission for Social Development, to review the implementation of the Plan of Action every four years, beginning in 1985, and to transmit its findings to the General Assembly;

14. *Invites* the specialized agencies concerned to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the Plan of Action within their fields of competence;

15. *Invites* the intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue to give attention to major issues related to aging and to co-ordinate their work with the United Nations, particularly in view of the need for well co-ordinated activities for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session on the progress achieved in implementing and following up the Plan of Action and to include in his report an account of project activities financed by the Trust Fund;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-eighth session a single item entitled "Question of aging" to replace the items entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged" and "World Assembly on Aging".

*90th plenary meeting
3 December 1982*

37/52. World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/123 of 16 December 1976, by which it proclaimed the year 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, 32/133 of 16 December 1977, by which it established the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, 33/170 of 20 December 1978, 34/154 of 17 December 1979, in which it, *inter alia*, decided to expand the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons to "full participation and equality", 35/133 of 11 December 1980 and 36/77 of 8 December 1981,

Deeply concerned that no less than five hundred million persons are estimated to suffer from disability of one form or another, of whom four hundred million are estimated to be in developing countries,

Reiterating the continuing need to promote the realization of the right of disabled persons to participate fully in the social life and development of their societies and to enjoy living conditions equal to those of other citizens, as well as to share equally in improvements in living conditions resulting from social and economic development,

⁴⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16.

Recognizing that the International Year of Disabled Persons contributed to the acceptance by the community of the right of disabled persons to participate fully in the social life and development of their societies and to enjoy living conditions equal to those of their fellow citizens,

Convinced that the International Year of Disabled Persons gave a genuine and meaningful impetus to activities related to equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as prevention and rehabilitation at all levels,

Expressing its satisfaction with the efforts of Member States during the International Year of Disabled Persons to improve the conditions and well-being of disabled persons and their willingness to involve disabled persons and their organizations in all matters of concern to them,

Also expressing its satisfaction with the initiatives taken by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and, in particular, organizations of disabled persons,

Taking note of the emergence of organizations of disabled persons in all parts of the world and their positive influence on the image and condition of persons with a disability,

Having considered the Vienna Affirmative Action Plan adopted by the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons,⁴⁵

Expressing its appreciation to the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons for the work it has done,

Having considered the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons on its fourth session and its recommendations for a World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,⁴⁶

Desirous of ensuring effective follow-up to the International Year of Disabled Persons and aware that, if this is to be achieved, Member States, organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and organizations of disabled persons must therefore be encouraged to continue the activities already undertaken and to initiate new programmes and activities,

Stressing that the primary responsibility for promoting effective measures for prevention of disability, rehabilitation and the realization of the goals of "full participation" of disabled persons in social life and development and of "equality" rests with individual countries and that international action should be directed towards assisting and supporting national efforts in this regard,

1. *Adopts* the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons as set forth in recommendation 1 (IV) of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons;⁴⁷

2. *Calls upon* all Member States, all non-governmental organizations concerned and organizations of disabled persons and, through a reallocation of existing resources, calls also upon all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

3. *Decides* to evaluate at its forty-second session, with the help of the Secretary-General, the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

90th plenary meeting
3 December 1982

37/53. Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/123 of 16 December 1976, by which it proclaimed the year 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, 32/133 of 16 December 1977, by which it established the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, 33/170 of 20 December 1978, 34/154 of 17 December 1979, in which it, *inter alia*, decided to expand the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons to "full participation and equality", 35/133 of 11 December 1980, 36/77 of 8 December 1981 and 37/52 of 3 December 1982, in which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,⁴⁷

Recognizing that the International Year of Disabled Persons contributed to the acceptance by the community of the right of disabled persons to participate fully in the social life and development of their societies and to enjoy living conditions equal to those of their fellow citizens,

Convinced that the International Year of Disabled Persons gave a genuine and meaningful impetus to activities related to equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as prevention and rehabilitation at all levels,

Expressing its appreciation to the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons for its work, in particular for its contribution to the formulation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,

Expressing its satisfaction with the efforts of Member States during the International Year of Disabled Persons to improve the conditions and well-being of disabled persons and their willingness to involve disabled persons and their organizations in all matters of concern to them,

Also expressing its satisfaction with the initiatives taken by the specialized agencies, other organs and organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and, in particular, organizations of disabled persons,

Encouraged by the emergence of organizations of disabled persons in all parts of the world and their positive influence on the image and condition of persons with a disability,

Having considered with appreciation the Vienna Affirmative Action Plan adopted by the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons,⁴⁵ in which it was emphasized that, in developing countries, efforts to prevent disabilities should be intensified and standards of rehabilitation for disabled persons should be as high as possible,

Noting in particular the results of the meetings organized for the International Year of Disabled Persons by the regional commissions, which stressed the need for more efficient technical co-operation at the regional and subregional levels in the training of rehabilitation personnel and the production of prosthetic appliances and aids using locally available resources, and also stressed the need for an interregional exchange of experience in the elaboration of national programmes for the development of such services,

Stressing that the primary responsibility for promoting effective measures for prevention of disability, rehabilitation and the realization of the goals of full participation and equality of disabled persons rests with the individual countries and that, in this regard, international co-operation is highly desirable and should be directed towards assisting and supporting national efforts,

Believing that, in addition to national programmes, effective implementation of the World Programme of Action

⁴⁵ IYDP/SYMP/L.2/Rev.1.

⁴⁶ A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, sect. VIII.