

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.

would be assisted by activities at the international level of the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and organizations of disabled persons,

Recognizing that such activities will be difficult to finance at present and that every effort must be made to reallocate existing resources within the United Nations system,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to assist in the early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons by ensuring its wide distribution and promotion;

2. *Requests* Member States to develop plans for the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as for prevention and rehabilitation, and thereby ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

3. *Requests* all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to formulate and undertake measures within their respective spheres of competence, through a reallocation of existing resources, to ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and requests, in particular, the regional commissions to implement suitable programmes, on the understanding that effective consultation and co-ordination between the various bodies are essential;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to establish inter-organizational task forces, as recommended by the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons at its third and fourth sessions,⁴⁸ in order to provide support services, as described in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 36/77, within the existing arrangements for inter-agency co-ordination in order to support national and regional activities in the developing regions in the fields of prevention of disability, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities for disabled persons;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to find the means to provide the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat with the necessary resources to enable it to ensure follow-up to the International Year of Disabled Persons and to facilitate the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue consultative services to Member States concerning the design of national programmes for the prevention of disability, for rehabilitation and for equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, to develop a practical check-list dealing with the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons which could be used by consultants in discussion with Governments of Member States and to compile and distribute information on available technical and financial resources to assist developing countries in the prevention of disability, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to give appropriate priority, within the programmes for disabled persons, to activities related to organizations of disabled persons;

8. *Again urges* all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to undertake new measures or expedite those already under way to improve employment opportunities for disabled persons within those bodies at all levels and to improve access to their buildings and facilities and to their information sources, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on these measures to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments, to examine the need and possibility of continuing the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons for the purpose of assisting Governments, at their request, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

10. *Requests* all Governments in a position to do so, the United Nations Development Programme and all relevant United Nations organs, organizations and agencies to assist Governments of developing countries, at their request, in the formulation of national policies and programmes for disabled persons;

11. *Proclaims* the period 1983-1992 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons as a long-term plan of action, on the understanding that no additional resources from the United Nations system will be needed for this purpose, and encourages Member States to utilize this period as one of the means to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

12. *Encourages* Governments to proclaim national days for the disabled;

13. *Urges* international organizations and funding bodies to give higher priority to human resources development, in particular to training activities in the fields of prevention of disability and rehabilitation, and to enhance the equalization of opportunities and the participation of disabled persons;

14. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system to recognize the needs of disabled persons in their activities relating to the International Youth Year and in the international and regional congresses and meetings that they sponsor;

15. *Requests* the World Health Organization, in the light of the experience of the International Year of Disabled Persons, to review its definitions of impairment, disability and handicap in consultation with organizations of disabled persons and other appropriate bodies;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of convening in 1987 a meeting of experts, consisting largely of disabled persons, to prepare a report that would enable him to help the General Assembly at its forty-second session to evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, as provided for in paragraph 3 of resolution 37/52;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

*90th plenary meeting
3 December 1982*

37/54. World social situation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/48 of 14 December 1978 on world social development, 34/59 of 29 November 1979 on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development and 34/152 of 17 December 1979 on the world social situation,

Recalling its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, con-

⁴⁸ See A/36/471/Add.1, annex, sect. IV, recommendation 3 (III) and A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 2 (IV).