

Women into Development at Vienna from 7 to 11 October 1991 by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in collaboration with the American Association of Retired Persons,

*Noting with concern* that the contributions to the Trust Fund for Ageing have steadily declined since 1982 and that if this trend continues the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing will be compromised,

*Mindful* of the need for innovative and effective international cooperation in the field of ageing if countries are to achieve self-reliance in responding to the ageing of their populations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation on ageing for 1992 and beyond;<sup>58</sup>

2. *Recommends* wide multisectoral cooperation in setting global targets on ageing to be reached by the year 2001 and invites wide participation in a proposed interregional symposium and other meetings on target-setting;

3. *Requests* Member States to consider setting appropriate and, where feasible, quantifiable, national targets on ageing for the year 2001;

4. *Requests* all participants in target-setting to pay special attention to practical strategies, identifying in detail the key agencies and the necessary means for reaching the targets;

5. *Urges* Member States to participate, at the highest level, in the plenary meetings of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session to be devoted, *inter alia*, to launching a set of global targets on ageing to be reached by the year 2001;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to participate in the inquiry for the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, in the first half of 1992, and to take the occasion of the review to plan ahead, setting national targets on ageing for the year 2001;

7. *Invites* the Secretary-General to consider the feasibility of appointing eminent personalities as good will ambassadors for ageing during the decade 1992-2001;

8. *Invites* Member States, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the regional commissions and non-governmental organizations to disseminate widely the United Nations Principles for Older Persons<sup>59</sup> at the local, national, regional and global levels, especially in the year 1992, the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Ageing;

9. *Urges* Member States and non-governmental organizations of the elderly to second experts and administrative personnel to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in 1992-1993 to help in selected priority activities, including the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the support given by the United Nations Population Fund to the applied research and training project entitled "Developmental Implications of Demographic Change: Global Population Ageing" being implemented by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and in view of the importance of the subject matter, encourages the United Nations Population Fund to continue its support;

11. *Invites* the United Nations Population Fund to support a senior adviser on population ageing at the Centre for

Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in view of the importance of the ageing in future population changes and the role of the Centre as focal point in the United Nations system for ageing;

12. *Calls upon* the United Nations Population Fund and all other bodies of the United Nations system involved in preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, to utilize the results of the project mentioned in paragraph 10 above as a major input to the Conference;

13. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to give recognition to the contribution of the elderly to social and economic development in the context of major events and conferences of the 1990s, such as those dealing with the environment, human rights, the family, population and the advancement of women;

14. *Notes with satisfaction* the recent establishment, under the patronage of the United Nations, of the Banyan Fund Association: A World Fund for Ageing, whose main goal is to secure or broker funds for activities that would support implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

15. *Also notes with satisfaction* the leading role of the International Institute on Ageing in Malta in global training initiatives on ageing and its increasing involvement in other countries in the execution of projects funded by the United Nations Population Fund;

16. *Urges* the United Nations, Member States and non-governmental organizations to support the African Society of Gerontology in developing and implementing a regional programme of activities on ageing;

17. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue close collaboration with the United Nations system in the field of ageing;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in celebrating the International Year of the Family in 1994, to draw attention to the contributions that the elderly make to the family;

19. *Invites* special observance of the International Day for the Elderly on 1 October 1992, to mark the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Ageing;

20. *Urges* all organizations of the United Nations system and bilateral and multilateral development agencies to include the elderly in their development efforts, with particular focus on the mainstreaming approach;

21. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme to include the elderly in the programmes of their social funds that aim, *inter alia*, to alleviate poverty;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Social development".

74th plenary meeting  
16 December 1991

#### 46/95. World social situation

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1392 (XIV) of 20 November 1959, 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 40/98 and 40/100 of 13 December 1985, 42/49 of 30 November 1987,

43/113 of 8 December 1988, 44/56 of 8 December 1989 and 45/87 of 14 December 1990,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/39, 1987/40, 1987/46 and 1987/52 of 28 May 1987, 1989/72 of 24 May 1989 and 1990/28 of 24 May 1990, and taking note of Council resolution 1991/4 of 30 May 1991,

*Having considered* the interim report of the Secretary-General,<sup>60</sup>

*Bearing in mind* the objective of improving the well-being of the world's population on the basis of the full and equal participation of all members of society in the process of development and the fair distribution to them of the benefits therefrom,

*Conscious* that each country has the sovereign right freely to adopt the economic and social system that it deems the most appropriate and that each Government has the primary responsibility of ensuring the social progress and well-being of the people,

*Deeply concerned* about the continued worsening of the economic and social situation in many developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, as evidenced by the significant decline in living conditions, the persistence and increase of widespread poverty in a large number of those countries and the decline in their main social and economic indicators,

*Bearing in mind* that certain developing countries have achieved some economic and social progress,

*Convinced* that the pace of development in the developing countries should be accelerated substantially in order to enable them to achieve their social objectives, especially in meeting the basic needs for food, housing, education, employment and health care and to struggle against scourges which endanger the health and well-being of their population,

*Recognizing* that progress in the social and economic fields constitutes an essential priority for national policies, the United Nations and the international community, as well as a prerequisite for international development and peace,

*Believing* that there is a need for greater effort by the United Nations system to study and disseminate accurate and balanced data and material on the existing world social situation, particularly with regard to emerging trends and institutional structures that have an impact on social development,

*Mindful* of the need to reflect objectively on the sensitivity and importance of the social problems of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Secretary-General;<sup>60</sup>

2. *Notes with concern* that the interim report of the Secretary-General did not adequately focus on the continuing deterioration of the economic and social situation in many developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, which is the prevailing problem in many of those countries;

3. *Notes* the increasing awareness of the importance of formulating policy measures at all levels based on the interrelationship between economic growth and social progress in the achievement of overall development;

4. *Notes with deep concern* that despite efforts made at national levels, the economic and social situation in many

developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries, continues to deteriorate;

5. *Notes also with deep concern* the substantial weakening of the overall position of the majority of developing countries in international trade and finance, which has been made worse by a downward trend in commodity prices, a serious deterioration in the terms of trade, the net transfer of resources from developing countries, protectionism and the serious debt burden, combined with high real interest rates;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to accord particular attention to the deteriorating economic and social situation in the developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, and to ensure that emerging tendencies in global international relations do not impact negatively on the plight of those countries;

7. *Calls upon* all Member States to promote economic development and social progress by pursuing an interrelated set of policy measures to achieve the goals and objectives established within the framework of national plans and priorities for employment, education, health, nutrition, housing facilities, crime prevention, the well-being of children, equal opportunities for the disabled and the ageing, full participation of youth in the development process and full integration and participation of women in development;

8. *Reaffirms* the commitments and policies for international development cooperation as set out in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,<sup>61</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session;

9. *Reaffirms* the validity of the principles and objectives of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development<sup>44</sup> as well as the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future<sup>43</sup> and calls for their effective implementation as a means of attaining a more equitable world social situation;

10. *Endorses* the request of the Economic and Social Council, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1991/4, that the Secretary-General should reorient the draft framework for the 1993 report on the world social situation so that it would be in consonance with the requests set forth in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the 1993 report, to take into account the intrinsic relationship between economic growth and social development and to analyse in depth the economic problems of the developing countries and the impact of those problems on the world social situation;

12. *Recommends* that the draft of the 1993 report be reviewed by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure that an integrated interdisciplinary focus is given and to provide a source of information for the report;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Work being done within the United Nations system on improving quantitative and qualitative indicators on social conditions and standards of living";<sup>62</sup>

14. *Invites* all appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparation of future reports

by making available all relevant information pertaining to their respective areas of competence;

15. *Decides* to consider the issue of the world social situation under the item entitled "Social development" at its forty-seventh session.

*74th plenary meeting  
16 December 1991*

**46/96. Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* all its relevant resolutions, including resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,<sup>63</sup> and resolution 37/53 of 3 December 1982, in which, *inter alia*, it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons as a long-term plan of action,

*Recalling also* its resolution 43/98 of 8 December 1988, in which it urged Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to translate into action at all levels, as appropriate, the priorities for global activities and programmes during the second half of the Decade, such as those set forth in the annex to the resolution,

*Recalling further* the request to the Secretary-General made in its resolution 45/91 of 14 December 1990, to shift the focus of the United Nations programme on disability from awareness-raising to action, with the aim of achieving a society for all by the year 2010, and considering that appropriate means will be required to achieve this,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/9 of 30 May 1991, in which the Council invited Member States to review their policies and programmes with the aim of designing national annual priorities until the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons in 1992 and concrete long-term strategies to ensure the full implementation of the World Programme of Action beyond the Decade,

*Welcoming* the progress made by the ad hoc open-ended working group established by the Commission for Social Development by its resolution 32/2 of 20 February 1991,<sup>64</sup> to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

*Noting with concern* the deteriorating economic and social situation of many developing countries, which adversely affect vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities,

*Aware* of the need for new and concerted efforts, more vigorous and broader action, and measures at all levels to fulfil the objectives of the Decade,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the efforts of a number of Member States during the Decade to improve the conditions and well-being of persons with disabilities and the willingness of those States to involve persons with disabilities and their organizations in all matters of concern to them,

*Noting with appreciation* the generous support to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled

Persons provided by some Governments through voluntary contributions,

*Aware* of the important role national committees are playing in furthering the implementation of the World Programme of Action,

*Noting with appreciation* the convening of the International Meeting on the Roles and Functions of National Coordinating Committees on Disability in Developing Countries at Beijing from 5 to 11 November 1990, and the adoption of the Guidelines for the Establishment and Development of National Coordinating Committees on Disability or Similar Bodies,<sup>65</sup>

*Encouraged* by the emergence of organizations of persons with disabilities in all regions and their positive influence on the image and condition of persons with disabilities,

*Noting* the important contributions being made by other non-governmental organizations in improving the status of persons with disabilities,

*Recognizing* the World Congress of Rehabilitation International, the World Congress of Disabled Peoples' International, the General Assembly of the World Blind Union, Independence '92, and other such important events to be held in 1992 as important activities helping both to mark the end of the Decade and to launch future efforts for persons with disabilities,

*Commending* the work done by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat as the focal point in the United Nations system for issues of disabilities,

*Commending* the work being done by the Statistical Office of the Secretariat and welcoming its publication of the *Disability Statistics Compendium*,<sup>66</sup>

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>67</sup>

*Desirous* of encouraging the continued and practical implementation of the World Programme of Action beyond the Decade,

1. *Reiterates* the need to achieve the objectives set out in the agenda for action until the end of the United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons and beyond, and the preliminary outline of a long-term strategy to the year 2000 and beyond: a society for all, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility study on alternative ways to mark the end of the Decade;<sup>68</sup>

2. *Affirms* that, in implementing the agenda for action, special attention should be given to persons with disabilities in developing countries;

3. *Invites* Member States, all organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to review and evaluate, with the active participation of persons with disabilities, their current disability-related policies, programmes and available services with a view to identifying areas in which major progress has been achieved, as well as obstacles encountered in the prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities;

4. *Invites* all organizations of the United Nations system to incorporate the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in their programmes and activities, including these persons both as active agents and as beneficiaries;

5. *Stresses* the need, within existing resources, for priority to be given to action-oriented programmes that will