

clude the implementation of the Guiding Principles in their programmes of work and to assist Governments, particularly those of the developing countries, in formulating appropriate social welfare policies so that effective programmes can be set up according to their needs;

7. *Urges* the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to give adequate attention to the recommendations for action at the regional level contained in the Guiding Principles;

8. *Stresses* the role of non-governmental and voluntary organizations in the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Guiding Principles, particularly in social crisis management, as reflected in the proceedings of the international expert meeting on the role of voluntary organizations in crisis management: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), drug abuse and mass migration as cases in point, held at Berlin from 18 to 22 November 1990;

9. *Urges* Member States in all regions to initiate regional expert group meetings devoted to issues raised in the Guiding Principles and to translate their recommendations into specific social policy activities;

10. *Welcomes* the idea of holding regional conferences such as the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs, to be held in Czechoslovakia in 1992, and the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development, held in the Philippines from 7 to 11 October 1991;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To strengthen the follow-up action to the Interregional Consultation by, *inter alia*, appropriately reflecting the Guiding Principles in global programmes and events, including the preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family in 1994;<sup>49</sup>

(b) To strengthen advisory services to Governments, especially those of developing countries, focusing on the policy, institution-building capacity, planning, administration and training aspects of developmental social welfare;

(c) To ensure that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, which is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Guiding Principles, is provided with sufficient resources, without incurring additional expenses, through the regular budget of the United Nations, for an effective follow-up to the Interregional Consultation;

(d) To reflect appropriately resource and programme requirements for monitoring the implementation of the Guiding Principles in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

(e) To report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council, on the progress achieved in the implementation of and follow-up action to the Guiding Principles and the present resolution;

12. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in the section II, paragraph 3, of his report entitled "Implementation of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future",<sup>50</sup> and emphasizes the need for activities in this field to be carried out within existing resources;

13. *Decides* to consider the question of the implemen-

tation of the Guiding Principles at its forty-eighth session under the item entitled "Social development".

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#### 46/91. Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and related activities

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/50 of 24 May 1989, in which the Council endorsed a draft programme of United Nations activities relating to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, in 1992,

*Pursuant* to its resolution 45/106 of 14 December 1990, in which it endorsed the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the question of ageing,<sup>51</sup> invited Member States, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations to consider innovative and effective ways of cooperating on the selection of targets in the field of ageing during 1991 and 1992, and urged Member States, the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to participate in the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, especially in selecting targets in the field of ageing, in organizing community-wide activities and in launching an information and fund-raising campaign to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing at the local, national, regional and global levels,

*Recalling* that in resolution 45/106 it endorsed also the convening of an ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session to monitor the activities for the tenth anniversary, especially the launching of a global information campaign, and the selection of targets that might form the basis of the third review and appraisal of the International Plan of Action on Ageing to be made by the Commission at its thirty-third session, in 1993, and recommended that the Commission should give consideration to the desirability of convening, subject to the availability of funds, regional and sectoral meetings on the selection of targets in the field of ageing during 1991 and 1992 and global consultations in 1993 and 1997,

*Recalling also* that in resolution 45/106, it recognized the complexity and rapidity of the ageing of the world's population and the need to have a common basis and frame of reference for the protection and promotion of the rights of the elderly, including the contribution that the elderly can and should make to society,

*Aware* of the plight of the elderly in developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, as well as those in difficult circumstances, such as refugees, migrant workers and victims of conflict,

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1751 (LIV) of 16 May 1973 on the aged and social security,

1. *Recommends* that the United Nations define, on the basis of the recommendations of a small expert group meeting to be held in 1992 within existing resources, targets on ageing to provide a pragmatic focus for the broad and ideal goals of the International Plan of Action on Age-

ing, and issue them as "Targets on ageing: programme recommendations at the national level for the year 2001";

2. *Urges* Member States to identify their specific national targets on ageing for the year 2001, on the basis of the proposed targets on ageing;

3. *Invites* the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with United Nations organizations and bodies and international non-governmental organizations, a set of suggested global targets designed to support implementation of the national targets on ageing;

4. *Decides* to devote four plenary meetings, that is, two working days, at its forty-seventh session to an international conference on ageing to consolidate a set of targets on ageing for the year 2001 and to celebrate on an appropriate global scale the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

5. *Urges* the United Nations to give special attention to implementing the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to give all possible support, in the form of both regular and extrabudgetary resources, to the Ageing Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, to enable it to fulfil its mandate as lead agency for the action programme on ageing;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to designate the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna as coordinator for the preparations for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing and for the implementation of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to explore the feasibility of appointing an interregional adviser on ageing to assist developing countries in expanding their ability to respond effectively to the ageing of their populations;

9. *Invites* the United Nations to examine the feasibility of launching a service composed of experts who are elderly, modelled on the United Nations Volunteers;

10. *Urges* the United Nations Postal Administration, as called upon in General Assembly resolution 44/67 of 8 December 1989, to issue a stamp to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

11. *Also urges* the United Nations Postal Administration to consider, on an exceptional basis, issuing a medal on ageing bearing the emblem of the World Assembly on Ageing to mark activities planned for the decade 1992-2001;

12. *Decides* to launch a global information campaign on the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, and welcomes the cooperation of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations in this endeavour;

13. *Recommends* that the United Nations provide further advisory services to countries in the process of development, change and transition, at their request, to ensure that the issue of ageing remains an important part of their social development programmes;

14. *Adopts* the United Nations Principles for Older

Persons, based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing, annexed to the present resolution.

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#### ANNEX

##### United Nations Principles for Older Persons<sup>52</sup>

TO ADD LIFE TO THE YEARS THAT HAVE BEEN ADDED TO LIFE

*The General Assembly,*

*Appreciating* the contribution that older persons make to their societies,

*Recognizing* that, in the Charter of the United Nations, the peoples of the United Nations declare, *inter alia*, their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

*Noting* the elaboration of those rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>6</sup> the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights<sup>26</sup> and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights<sup>26</sup> and other declarations to ensure the application of universal standards to particular groups,

*In pursuance* of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted by the World Assembly on Ageing and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982,

*Appreciating* the tremendous diversity in the situation of older persons, not only between countries but within countries and between individuals, which requires a variety of policy responses,

*Aware* that in all countries, individuals are reaching an advanced age in greater numbers and in better health than ever before,

*Aware* of the scientific research disproving many stereotypes about inevitable and irreversible declines with age,

*Convinced* that in a world characterized by an increasing number and proportion of older persons, opportunities must be provided for willing and capable older persons to participate in and contribute to the ongoing activities of society,

*Mindful* that the strains on family life in both developed and developing countries require support for those providing care to frail older persons,

*Bearing in mind* the standards already set by the International Plan of Action on Ageing and the conventions, recommendations and resolutions of the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization and other United Nations entities,

*Encourages* Governments to incorporate the following principles into their national programmes whenever possible:

##### *Independence*

1. Older persons should have access to adequate food, water, shelter, clothing and health care through the provision of income, family and community support and self-help.

2. Older persons should have the opportunity to work or to have access to other income-generating opportunities.

3. Older persons should be able to participate in determining when and at what pace withdrawal from the labour force takes place.

4. Older persons should have access to appropriate educational and training programmes.

5. Older persons should be able to live in environments that are safe and adaptable to personal preferences and changing capacities.

6. Older persons should be able to reside at home for as long as possible.

##### *Participation*

7. Older persons should remain integrated in society, participate actively in the formulation and implementation of policies that directly affect their well-being and share their knowledge and skills with younger generations.

8. Older persons should be able to seek and develop opportunities for service to the community and to serve as volunteers in positions appropriate to their interests and capabilities.

9. Older persons should be able to form movements or associations of older persons.

*Care*

10. Older persons should benefit from family and community care and protection in accordance with each society's system of cultural values.

11. Older persons should have access to health care to help them to maintain or regain the optimum level of physical, mental and emotional well-being and to prevent or delay the onset of illness.

12. Older persons should have access to social and legal services to enhance their autonomy, protection and care.

13. Older persons should be able to utilize appropriate levels of institutional care providing protection, rehabilitation and social and mental stimulation in a humane and secure environment.

14. Older persons should be able to enjoy human rights and fundamental freedoms when residing in any shelter, care or treatment facility, including full respect for their dignity, beliefs, needs and privacy and for the right to make decisions about their care and the quality of their lives.

*Self-fulfilment*

15. Older persons should be able to pursue opportunities for the full development of their potential.

16. Older persons should have access to the educational, cultural, spiritual and recreational resources of society.

*Dignity*

17. Older persons should be able to live in dignity and security and be free of exploitation and physical or mental abuse.

18. Older persons should be treated fairly regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability or other status, and be valued independently of their economic contribution.

**46/92. Preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family***The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 44/82 of 8 December 1989, in which it proclaimed 1994 as International Year of the Family, designated the Commission for Social Development as the preparatory body and the Economic and Social Council as the coordinating body for the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of his report and in consultation with Member States, concerned specialized agencies and interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year,

*Recalling also* its resolution 45/133 of 14 December 1990, in which it invited all Governments, specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as interested national organizations, to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year, and requested the Secretary-General to finalize a draft programme for the preparation for and observance of the Year and to submit it for consideration by the Commission for Social Development at its session in 1991 and by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session,

*Conscious* of the existence of various concepts of the family in different socio-political and cultural systems,

*Noting with satisfaction* that the unanimous proclamation by the General Assembly of 1994 as International Year of the Family has increased the awareness and highlighted the importance of family issues among Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as interested national organizations and, consequently, has promoted a better knowledge of the economic, social and demographic processes affecting families and their members and has focused attention on the equal rights and responsibilities of all family members,

*Expressing its appreciation* to Governments, specialized agencies and the non-governmental organizations concerned for the activities they have already undertaken in support of the objectives of the International Year of the Family, thereby increasing awareness of family issues at local and national levels,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family",<sup>53</sup>

1. *Approves* for implementation the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report;

2. *Invites* all Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to step up all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the International Year of the Family;

4. *Reaffirms its invitation* to all States to take prompt action to establish national mechanisms, such as coordinating committees, to prepare for, observe and follow up the Year, in particular for the purpose of planning, stimulating and harmonizing the activities of the governmental and non-governmental agencies and organizations concerned with the preparation for and observance of the Year;

5. *Requests* the relevant United Nations preparatory and coordinating bodies for the Year to keep preparations for the Year under constant review;

6. *Invites* Governments, as far as possible, to contribute resources, including staff, to the secretariat of the Year;

7. *Invites* all Governments, specialized agencies, regional commissions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, as well as interested national organizations, to exert all possible efforts in the preparation for and observance of the Year and to cooperate closely with the Secretary-General in achieving the objectives of the Year;

8. *Requests* that in the planning and executing of programmes and activities for the Year, special attention should be given to socio-economic and cultural conditions in developing countries as they affect the approaches taken to family issues;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide effective means of coordination between the secretariat of the Year and the relevant non-governmental organizations, in support of the Year;

10. *Urges* the Secretary-General to provide adequate staff to the secretariat of the Year and to reflect its strengthening in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session on the state of preparations for the Year;

12. *Invites* the Commission for Social Development to ensure that all plans, programmes and activities related to the family are in accordance with the concept of equality between women and men as expressed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,<sup>54</sup> and to ensure that the principle relating to policies aimed at fostering equality between women and men, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>55</sup> is reflected in the programme of the year;