

mation is communicated by the competent United Nations bodies in conformity with article 15 of the Convention;

5. *Strongly condemns* the policy of *apartheid* in South Africa and Namibia as a crime against humanity and urges all Member States to adopt effective political, economic and other measures in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations bodies, in order to support the legitimate struggle of the oppressed peoples of South Africa and Namibia for their national liberation and human dignity and to secure the elimination of the racist *apartheid* system;

6. *Commends* the Committee for its continuous endeavours towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin, in particular the elimination of *apartheid* in South Africa and Namibia, and welcomes the decision on *apartheid* adopted by the Committee at its thirty-second session;<sup>46</sup>

7. *Notes with appreciation* the Committee's continued participation in the activities within the framework of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Committee aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against national or ethnic minorities, persons belonging to such minorities and indigenous populations, wherever such discrimination exists, and the attainment of the full enjoyment of their human rights through the implementation of the principles and provisions of the Convention;

9. *Welcomes further* the efforts of the Committee aimed at the elimination of all forms of discrimination against migrant workers and their families, the promotion of their rights on a non-discriminatory basis and the achievement of their full equality, including the freedom to maintain their cultural characteristics;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to adopt effective legislative, socio-economic and other necessary measures in order to ensure the prevention or elimination of discrimination based on race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin;

11. *Further calls upon* the States parties to the Convention to protect fully, by the adoption of the relevant legislative and other measures, in conformity with the Convention, the rights of national or ethnic minorities and persons belonging to such minorities, as well as the rights of indigenous populations;

12. *Commends* the States parties to the Convention on measures taken to ensure, within their jurisdiction, the availability of appropriate recourse procedures for the victims of racial discrimination;

13. *Reiterates its invitation* to the States parties to the Convention to provide the Committee, in accordance with its general guidelines, with information on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, including information on the demographic composition of their populations and on their relations with the racist régime of South Africa;

14. *Appeals* to the States parties to take fully into consideration their obligation under the Convention to submit their reports in due time;

15. *Commends* the Committee for its efforts towards a further universalization and a more consistent implementation of the Convention and welcomes its General Recommendation VII relating to the implementation of article 4 of the Convention;<sup>47</sup>

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure wider publicity of the work of the Committee, which would facilitate its task to implement effectively its functions under the Convention, and to inform the General Assembly at its forty-first session of the action taken in that regard.

96th plenary meeting  
29 November 1985

#### 40/29. Question of aging

*The General Assembly:*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 39/25 of 23 November 1984, in which it recognized the increasing awareness in many countries of issues related to aging and of the need to provide national authorities, at their request, with technical and financial assistance in their efforts to implement policies and programmes,

*Endorsing* Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/28 of 29 May 1985, in which Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations were urged to continue to strengthen their efforts to implement the principles and objectives of the International Plan of Action on Aging<sup>48</sup> and in which the Secretary-General was requested to include, on an annual basis, the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging<sup>49</sup> among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,

*Emphasizing* the importance of regional meetings to consider the implementation of the recommendations of the Plan of Action, as demonstrated by the African Regional Conference on Aging, held at Dakar in December 1984,

*Emphasizing also* the positive results of the convening of seminars and meetings to exchange information, knowledge and experience on the question of aging, particularly among developing countries,

*Recognizing* that the dramatic increase in the numbers and proportion of older adults has serious socio-economic implications and is resulting in an increasing need for research and training at all levels,

*Recalling* the recommendations of the International Conference on Population,<sup>50</sup> which paid particular attention to the urgent and emerging issues of aging,

*Appreciating* the efforts of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to establish a steering committee and a working group to follow up the implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/228 of 18 December 1984 on the International Conference on Population,

*Appreciating* the attention given to the question of elderly women by the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace and the inclusion of this issue in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,<sup>51</sup>

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, sect. VII.B, decision 1 (XXXII).

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, decision 2 (XXXII).

<sup>48</sup> See Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

<sup>49</sup> Previously known as the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging.

<sup>50</sup> See Report of the International Conference on Population, 1984, Mexico City, 6-14 August 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8 and corrigenda), chap. I.

<sup>51</sup> Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.16), chap. I, sect. A.

*Stressing* the importance of the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging to assist countries, at their request, in formulating and implementing policies and programmes on aging,

*Noting with concern* the discrepancies between the resources of the Trust Fund and the number of requests received for assistance,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of aging;<sup>52</sup>

2. *Calls upon* Governments to ensure that the question of aging is incorporated into their national development plans in accordance with the culture and traditions of their countries;

3. *Encourages* Governments to consider convening regional and subregional meetings on the applicability of the recommendations of the International Plan of Action on Aging to their particular needs and conditions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote the exchange of information and experience in order to stimulate progress on the question of aging, to encourage the adoption of measures to respond to the economic and social implications of aging and to meet the needs of older persons;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that due consideration is given to the question of aging in the work of the steering committee and the working group to follow up the implementation of General Assembly resolution 39/228 on the International Conference on Population;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in implementing the programme on aging, to pay special attention to the question of elderly women;

7. *Invites* the United Nations Development Fund for Women to give due consideration to projects aimed at benefiting elderly women;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to respond favourably to the request of the African Regional Conference on Aging for assistance in establishing an African gerontological society;

9. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take immediate and urgent steps to promote the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging so that it may effectively continue to provide assistance to developing countries, at their request;

10. *Urges* the Secretary-General to include in technical co-operation programmes, to the extent feasible under the funding of those programmes, advisory services to developing countries that request them;

11. *Invites* Governments and non-governmental organizations to continue and, where possible, to increase their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging, and calls upon Governments and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to consider contributing to the Trust Fund;

12. *Invites* the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to consider co-operating with the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging in providing assistance for projects received by the Trust Fund that fall within its mandate;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-first session a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "Question of aging"

56th plenary meeting  
29 November 1985

## 40/30. Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978, by which it decided to organize a World Assembly on Aging in 1982 as a forum to launch an international programme of action aimed at guaranteeing economic and social security to older persons, as well as opportunities for them to contribute to national development,

*Recalling further* its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, by which it endorsed the International Plan of Action on Aging adopted by consensus by the World Assembly on Aging,<sup>48</sup>

*Reaffirming* the part of the preamble of the Plan of Action that solemnly recognizes that the quality of life is no less important than longevity and that the aging should therefore, as far as possible, be enabled to enjoy in their own families and communities a life of fulfilment, health, security and contentment and be appreciated as an integral part of society,

*Well aware* that the formulation and implementation of policies on aging are the sovereign right and responsibility of each State, and recognizing that the promotion of the activities, safety and well-being of the elderly should be an essential part of an integrated and concerted development effort,

*Concerned* that the report of the Secretary-General on the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action<sup>53</sup> shows that, in 1985, 55.4 per cent of the global population of the elderly is living in developing regions and that, according to projections, by the year 2025 more than 70 per cent of all persons sixty years of age and over will live in developing countries, which are least prepared to meet the economic and social consequences of this drastic shift in population structure,

*Convinced* that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

*Convinced also* that increasing longevity is an achievement of mankind and a sign of progress, and that the aged are an asset and not a liability to society because of the invaluable contribution they can make by virtue of their accumulated wealth of knowledge and experience,

*Mindful* that 1985 is the first year in which the General Assembly has had the opportunity to review the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action, adopted in 1982,

*Noting with concern* that contributions pledged to the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging decreased to \$39,110 in the twelve-month period ending in December 1984, despite the repeated appeals of the Secretary-General to increase contributions,

*Noting also with concern* that the expenditures of the Trust Fund are expected to decrease from \$450,000 in the biennium 1984-1985 to \$150,000 in the next biennium,

*Alarmed* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1986-1987 shows a projected cut of 30 per cent in the funds to be allocated from the regular budget to the Aging Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs,

*Deeply preoccupied* with the fact that the Aging Unit lacks the structural organization, autonomy, funds and necessary manpower to carry out effectively its mandate of implementing the Plan of Action,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations

<sup>52</sup> A/40/719.

<sup>53</sup> See E. 1985.6 and 1985.7.