

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;⁵²

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,⁴⁸

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 Action⁵³ 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

⁵² A/40/219.

⁵³ See E. 1985.6 and 1985.7.

concerned within the United Nations system to comment on ways and means of implementing the International Plan of Action on Aging and, in particular, on the desirability and viability of elaborating a United Nations programme for the implementation of the Plan of Action, and to prepare a report on the basis of these comments for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1986;

2. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to include in that report a full analysis of the programmatic and financial aspects of activities undertaken by all organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system under the Plan of Action since its inception;

3. *Invites* interested non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to provide, through the Secretary-General, information and documentation that will facilitate this work;

4. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to consider the report at its first regular session of 1986 and to submit appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-first session;

5. *Decides* to consider at its forty-first session the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council as a matter of high priority.

96th plenary meeting
29 November 1985

40/31. Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,⁵⁴ 37/53 of 3 December 1982, by which, *inter alia*, it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, 38/28 of 22 November 1983, in which it recognized the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons as an important instrument for the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the desirability of the continuation of the Trust Fund throughout the Decade, and 39/26 of 23 November 1984, by which it adopted further specific measures for implementation of the World Programme of Action,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/35 of 29 May 1985, in which, *inter alia*, the Secretary-General was requested, in order to facilitate contributions by Governments, to include, on an annual basis, the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons among the programmes for which funds are pledged at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities,

Noting with satisfaction the concrete measures already carried out by the Governments of Member States, the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to implement the objectives of the World Programme of Action within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Noting with appreciation the steps taken by the United Nations system and by non-governmental organizations concerned to establish a monitoring procedure and prepare a consolidated questionnaire to monitor the implementation of the World Programme of Action,

Noting with concern that, in spite of a number of contributions made by Governments between 1981 and 1985 and constant appeals by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs to contribute to the financing of activities for the disabled, progress towards the improvement of the situation of the disabled in the developing countries has been slow,

Noting with serious concern the alarming situation of disabled persons in developing countries and the critical economic situation in a number of countries, in particular in Africa and Latin America and the least developed countries,

Mindful that, since developing countries are experiencing difficulties in mobilizing resources, international co-operation should be encouraged to assist national efforts in implementing the World Programme of Action and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,⁵⁵

Expressing its appreciation to Member States and organizations, in particular to the twenty-five States that have donated \$1.6 million over the past few years,

Expressing its appreciation of the useful role played by the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons in implementing the World Programme of Action,

1. *Urges* all Member States and other donors to consider further generous contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to Member States that have established national committees or similar bodies to co-ordinate activities in the field of disability and encourages all Member States to do so;

3. *Invites* Member States to reinforce national committees as focal points for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, to stimulate activities at the national level, to mobilize public opinion on behalf of the Decade, to participate in the implementation of disability projects with regard to the International Year of Disabled Persons and to assist in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

4. *Encourages* Member States to translate the World Programme of Action into national languages;

5. *Invites* Member States, in close collaboration with the national committees and non-governmental organizations concerned, to submit their replies to the questionnaire for the first round of monitoring and implementing the World Programme of Action to the Secretary-General as soon as possible for inclusion in his report on the evaluation of progress at mid-Decade, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second session;

6. *Urges* the Secretary-General to comply with paragraphs 157 and 158 of the World Programme of Action;

7. *Invites* all States to give high priority to consideration of projects concerning the prevention of disabilities, rehabilitation and the equalization of the opportunities of disabled persons within the framework of bilateral assistance;

8. *Reiterates* the need to give greater publicity to the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and calls upon Member States, national committees and non-governmental organizations to assist in publicizing the Decade by all appropriate means;

⁵⁴ A/37/351/Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

⁵⁵ A/40/728 and Corr.1.