



UNITED NATIONS  
 GENERAL  
 ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
 GENERAL

A/35/444 and Add. 1-3  
 27 October 1980  
 ENGLISH  
 ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Thirty-fifth session  
 Agenda item 79

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

Report of the Secretary-General

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ANNEX

Report of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976, the General Assembly proclaimed 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons. Preparations for the Year were considered by the Assembly at its thirty-second and thirty-third sessions. In its resolution 32/133 of 16 December 1977, the Assembly decided to establish an Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons.

2. In its resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979, the General Assembly approved the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and adopted them as a Plan of Action for the Year. In paragraph 12 of that resolution, the Secretary-General was requested to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee in 1980 to examine the implementation of the Plan of Action and to begin the consideration of a long-term programme of action.

3. In paragraph 9 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities of continuing the activities of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries and to submit a report to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session. The report is contained in section III of the present document (see A/35/444/Add.1).

4. In paragraph 19, the Secretary-General was requested to report on the implementation of the resolution. The report on implementation of provisions of resolution 34/154 other than those mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 above is contained in section IV of the present document (see A/35/444/Add.2).

## II. WORK OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

5. In resolution 32/133, the General Assembly decided to establish an Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons which would consider, and consult with Member States and specialized agencies on the draft programme for the Year prepared by the Secretary-General. The report of the Advisory Committee on its first session (A/34/158 and Corr.1, annex), which was held from 19 to 23 March 1979, was considered by the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session.

6. As requested by the General Assembly in resolution 34/154, the Secretary-General convened a meeting of the Advisory Committee at Vienna from 20 to 29 August 1980 to examine the implementation of the Plan of Action and to begin consideration of a long-term programme of action. The report of the Advisory Committee on its second session is annexed to the present report.

ANNEX

Report of the Advisory Committee for the International Year  
 of Disabled Persons

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

30 August 1980

Sir,

On behalf of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, which held its second session at Vienna from 20 to 29 August 1980, I have the honour to present you with the report of the Advisory Committee prepared pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Mansur Rashid KIKHIA  
Chairman  
of the Advisory Committee for the  
International Year of Disabled Persons

His Excellency  
Mr. Kurt Waldheim  
Secretary-General of the  
United Nations

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## I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. Opening of the session

1. The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons held its second session at the Vienna International Centre from 20 to 29 August 1980, during which it held 12 meetings.
2. The session was opened by the representative of the Secretary-General, who stated that the second session of the Advisory Committee was being held pursuant to General Assembly resolution 34/154.
3. In her presentation, she expressed the hope that international and national efforts would continue after the International Year was over, in order to bring about a fresh and practical approach to the solution of a number of problems impeding social integration of the millions of disabled persons in the world, and to alleviate the difficult position of those disabled persons living in the developing countries.
4. She stressed the importance of putting problems related to social integration of disabled persons in a broader perspective and stated that the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs were intended to help not only disabled persons but also other less advantaged population groups whose social problems had been singled out in various United Nations resolutions. Those activities involved such important matters as the improvement of the status of women, the creation of better living conditions for young people, social integration of aging persons, family and child welfare, improvement of living conditions of migrant workers, treatment of offenders and prevention of crime. She expressed her concern about the lack of sufficient financial resources for broader action in the interests of the Year, in particular at the regional level, and for a more efficient programme of technical assistance to developing countries in their efforts to develop rehabilitation technology and to train the necessary personnel. One of the ways to solve that problem was to strengthen the Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons and to make its resources available for the implementation of those aspects of the action programme for the Year not covered by regular United Nations sources of financing.
5. Ms. Franziska Fast, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, conveyed the greetings of the Government of Austria to the Advisory Committee. Ms. Fast outlined Austria's programme to improve the lot of its disabled citizens. The country had established a national committee to plan and co-ordinate measures to provide disabled persons with the best assistance, training, care and guidance as well as to make additional opportunities available for suitable work, thus ensuring their full social integration.
6. Mr. Mansur R. Kikhia (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), who had been the Chairman of the first session of the Advisory Committee, pointed out that the proclamation of the International Year of Disabled Persons, an initiative from his country, was a

reflection of the humanitarian principles affirmed in the Charter of the United Nations. The problem of disabled persons had to be tackled by the United Nations and other United Nations bodies concerned, with economic and social issues.

7. Mr. Kikhia made four important points: (a) it was essential that negative attitudes towards disabled persons, within any society, had to be changed; (b) he appealed to the mass media, internationally and nationally, to play a constructive role in educating people and raising their awareness of the rights of disabled persons; (c) the concept of co-ordination represented a keystone in the success of the Year; and (d) the International Year of Disabled Persons was different from other International Years that had taken place within the United Nations system. The Year had limited resources both of the regular budget for the Year and of personnel. In addition, the transfer of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs from New York to Vienna had delayed certain activities related to the preparatory stage.

8. In her statement the Executive Secretary of the Year expressed her gratitude to Governments, including the host Government of Austria, specialized agencies and United Nations bodies, particularly the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the regional commissions and non-governmental organizations for their co-operation and encouragement and for their continued support of the Year. She pointed out that the proclamation of the Year by the General Assembly was not and could not be the concern of the United Nations Secretariat alone, and she was gratified to find that all United Nations agencies had committed themselves to that common undertaking.

9. She said that in proclaiming 1981 the International Year of Disabled Persons, the international community had aroused the hopes of millions of people, and those hopes must be fulfilled. She noted that only eight countries had contributed to the Trust Fund for the Year, for a total of less than \$US 1 million. Those countries were Canada (\$Can 100,000), Ethiopia (\$US 5,000), Federal Republic of Germany (DM 500,000), India (\$US 10,000), Japan (\$US 100,000), Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (\$US 100,000), Oman (\$US 5,000) and Sweden (\$US 10,000). The Executive Secretary stated that within five days the special session of the General Assembly on the third United Nations development decade (1980-1990) would start and this event could serve as a major source of inspiration to the deliberations of the Advisory Committee. On the eve of the third decade, the gap between poor and rich countries continued to widen. In this context, the situation of disabled persons might worsen.

#### B. Attendance

10. The session was attended by the following 18 States members of the Advisory Committee:

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Algeria	Oman
Argentina	Panama
Barbados	Philippines
Belgium	Sweden
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Canada	United States of America
German Democratic Republic	Uruguay
India	Zaire
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	
Nigeria	

11. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Austria	Lebanon
Chile	Malaysia
Colombia	Netherlands
Cuba	Pakistan
Czechoslovakia	Peru
Egypt	Portugal
Greece	Saudi Arabia
Guatemala	Thailand
Iran	Turkey
Italy	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

One observer from a non-member State, the Holy See, also attended.

12. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organisation  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization

13. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Development Programme  
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

14. The following intergovernmental organization was represented:

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Special Fund)

15. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

Institute for Social Design  
International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Societies  
International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped  
Rehabilitation International  
World Federation of United Nations Associations



C. Election of officers

16. At its 1st, 4th and 7th meetings, on 20, 21 and 25 August 1980, the Advisory Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Mansur Rashid Kikhia (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Alicia Amate de Esquivel (Argentina)

Ms. Reycie Santayana (Philippines)

Mr. Gerhard Thomas (German Democratic Republic)

Rapporteur: Mr. André LeBlanc (Canada)

D. Agenda and organization of work

17. At its 2nd meeting, on 20 August, the Advisory Committee considered the provisional agenda, which it adopted after adding item 7. The agenda, as amended, read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons.
3. Consideration of a long-term programme of action.
4. Interagency programme.
5. Public information programme.
6. Consideration of proposals on which the Advisory Committee has reached no decisions at its first session.
7. Participation of disabled persons and their organizations in the International Year of Disabled Persons.
8. Adoption of the report of the Advisory Committee.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended informal working group to prepare a draft document on the long-term programme of action (agenda item 3).

19. At its 3rd meeting, on 21 August, the Committee decided to establish a drafting group formed of the Vice-Chairmen, the Rapporteur, and the representatives from Barbados, India, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sweden and the United States of America.

20. The Committee agreed that it should be represented by the three Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur or their representatives at the regional meetings on the Year.

E. Administrative and financial implications

21. The Advisory Committee requested the Secretary-General to submit a statement on the administrative and financial implications of its recommendations to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

F. Documentation

22. The list of documents before the Advisory Committee at its second session is given in appendix II to the present report.

G. Adoption of the report

23. The Advisory Committee considered and adopted its draft report (A/AC.197/L.7 and Add.1-10), as orally revised, at its 8th, 11th and 12th meetings, on 26, 27 and 29 August.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS AND INTERAGENCY PROGRAMME

(Items 2 and 4)

A. General discussion

24. The Advisory Committee discussed items 2 and 4 at its 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 10th and 11th meetings, on 21 and 22, 26 and 27 August. The Executive Secretary of the International Year of Disabled Persons introduced the items and commented on the report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.197/5) and the preliminary report of the interagency meeting on preparations for the Year (Conference Room Paper No. 1). She underlined the importance of co-ordinated activities of the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations and the need for the Committee to deal with the International Institute for Rehabilitation in Developing Countries.

25. She stressed the importance of the organization of an international symposium of experts on technical assistance in the field of disability and technical co-operation among developing countries and stated that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had agreed to provide a special consultant to assist the secretariat in its preparatory work for that symposium. She suggested that a report should be prepared on activities for the Year, e.g. meetings, seminars, publications, workshops, etc.

26. A representative of the secretariat for the Year provided the Committee with background information on the International Institute for Rehabilitation in Developing Countries. Reference was made to General Assembly resolution 34/154, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities of continuing the activities of the Institute and to submit a report in that respect to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session.

27. He outlined the purpose and function of the Institute, described briefly the activities that it had initiated prior to the conclusion of the project, e.g. training courses and fellowships for rehabilitation personnel.

28. The representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) reported on two meetings that had been held recently in Geneva on the Year, one with the specialized agencies and the other with some 60 non-governmental organizations. The first, a high-level meeting, was convened by the Deputy Director-General of WHO on 11 August to consider ways in which additional interagency support could be developed and co-ordinated by the members of the United Nations system most concerned with the success of the Year. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the United Nations Office at Geneva, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

29. The meeting of interested non-governmental organizations, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies representatives concerned with the Year was convened on 13 August 1980. Representatives of the non-governmental organizations described their present and planned activities related to the Year at the local, national, regional and international levels in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation, education and training, and information. There was a clear recognition of the significant role that non-governmental organizations could play in the preparation for and follow-up of the Year. Their readiness to collaborate in the efforts of the bodies of the United Nations system in connexion with the Year was fully appreciated.

30. At these meetings it was emphasized that the problem of disability was global but that the solutions must be specific and suited to the regional and local situation. Emphasis was placed on the need for preventative activities at all levels and the importance of mental health in all aspects of disability. It was agreed that total commitment of the United Nations members most directly concerned would be necessary, particularly as the resources of the secretariat of the Year were severely limited. A number of concrete measures were agreed upon.

31. Two WHO consultants spoke on different aspects of public health. They stated that disability would become a major problem in the last quarter of the century and stressed the need for world-wide research and surveys to be carried out at the local level. Of particular importance was the monitoring of disabilities caused by preventable diseases such as measles and polio.

32. The representative of UNICEF agreed with the points made by the representatives of WHO and referred to a 1978 study in Bangladesh and other countries carried out by Rehabilitation International. According to that study, most childhood impairments could have been prevented and most impairments did not have to become disabilities. The findings further indicated that a great deal could be done for disabled children by their families and people in their own communities. As a follow-up to the International Year of the Child, UNICEF would increase its efforts to prevent disability and expand its basic service programmes to include disabled children particularly in developing countries, with special attention being given to rural areas and urban slums. He reported that in order to strengthen the secretariat of the Year, UNICEF would provide the services of a staff member or a consultant.

33. The representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) spoke on the proposed regional meeting to be held in September 1980 at Bangkok and underlined the severe financial constraints facing a number of member States that had been asked to participate. He indicated that some \$US 30,000 would be required to enable adequate representation of member States. He further indicated that with a zero growth budget it was impossible for the regional commission to secure adequate resources.

34. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) then spoke and agreed with the points made by the representative of ESCAP and indicated that the problems were even greater in the African region. He stated that a number of

member States could not afford to participate in the two meetings that were scheduled for the autumn unless financial assistance was quickly made available. He stated that some \$US 76,000 would be required for those two meetings and proposed that the Secretary-General and UNDP be informed of the situation on an urgent basis.

35. To illustrate the magnitude of the problems in the African region the representative of ECA stressed that a large percentage of disabled persons in that region were not provided with any rehabilitation services whatsoever and that the problems were compounded by illiteracy and the presence of preventable crippling diseases.

36. The representative of ILO reported briefly on the involvement of that agency in activities for the Year. ILO was considering a number of special activities to mark the Year. Those would probably include a substantive revision of Recommendation 99 on Vocational Rehabilitation. The International Labour Conference was considering the preparation of an international convention on occupational health in co-operation with WHO. That convention would give particular importance to the prevention of disability.

37. The representative of UNESCO outlined that agency's programme in the field of disability prevention and rehabilitation and gave assurances that UNESCO was fully committed to the Year. She stated that UNESCO was prepared to contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Year in all its fields of competence and in its budgetary provisions to be adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-first session to be held at Belgrade in September and October 1980. She suggested that delegations might wish to discuss special programme activities related to the Year with the UNESCO secretariat during the General Conference.

38. In the field of public information, among other things, a special issue of the UNESCO Courier would be devoted to the Year in January 1981 and be published in braille, and UNESCO Features would have one or two special issues on the Year.

39. The representative of UNDP indicated the importance which that agency attached to the Year and outlined the commitments of UNDP to the Year. Early in 1980 UNDP had pledged \$30,000 to support the symposium in 1981 and had retained a high-level consultant to assess the activities of the United Nations system in disability and related fields. UNDP also agreed to finance the participation of 10 experts from around the world in the symposium at a cost of \$23,000.

40. The representatives of all countries in which UNDP had offices had been instructed by the Administrator to examine with Governments the possibility of including disability-related projects in their individual country programmes with UNDP finances.

41. The representative of Rehabilitation International outlined the special programme of that organization to support the Year. It included preparation of programme guides for community projects, the operation of a world-wide speaker's bureau, technical assistance to enable organizations of disabled persons and other organizations in developing countries to initiate projects during the Year, the charter for the 1980s, and several special events and regional conferences.

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42. He stated that the Council of World Organizations Interested in the Handicapped (CWOIH), which spoke for 40 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, was ready to support the activities of the Year, especially in connexion with the stimulation and co-ordination of participation by non-governmental organizations. In response to a request from the 1978 Interagency meeting, CWOIH had prepared and submitted to the Interagency meeting held in June 1980 specific proposals for criteria for the evaluation of the Year. He also stated that CWOIH strongly urged that an evaluation procedure should be established and applied as soon as possible to the planning process to implement and to assess the results of the Year.

43. The representative of the Division of Narcotic Drugs of the United Nations expressed the Division's willingness to co-operate fully with the secretariat of the Year to promote measures of prevention and rehabilitation. He pointed out that the use of drugs was a significant factor contributing to disability and spoke of the efforts of the Division to establish educational programmes on drug use in schools, communication, etc.

44. The Committee took note of the resolution adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace entitled "Improving the situation of disabled women of all ages" (A/CONF.94/34/Add.1, resolution 2).

45. Several members reported on the status of planning for the Year in their countries. National committees had been established in many countries. Those varied in size and composition according to the local situation. The Chairman expressed concern that, with so few months left before the start of the Year, many member States had still to report on their national committees.

46. The Committee reiterated its earlier recommendation that every effort should be made to include disabled persons on national committees. Although information was lacking on the subject, it was noted with regret that a number of countries had not found it possible to do so.

47. Some members stated that in developing countries it was frequently difficult to arrange for participation by disabled persons on the national committees owing to a lack of rehabilitation services and educational measures that would enable disabled persons to participate fully in all aspects of the Year.

48. The Executive Secretary mentioned that although the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination had approved a recommendation encouraging the employment of disabled persons within the United Nations system, she had encountered difficulties in retaining a disabled employee. The Secretary-General was appraised of the matter and gave instructions to make the appropriate modifications. The Executive Secretary stated that her experience had shown that the recruitment of disabled persons not only in international civil service but also in public and private enterprises necessitated the prior fulfilment of certain conditions. Nevertheless, the Committee insisted that the secretariat explore ways and means of adding disabled persons to the staff, possibly by secondment of such staff members from member States.

49. In reference to the report from the Interagency meeting on the Year held at Geneva in July 1980 (Conference Room Paper No. 1), the Committee agreed that equal emphasis should be given to both prevention and rehabilitation in activities undertaken by the international agencies with respect to the Year.

50. The Committee urged the international agencies and organizations to involve disabled persons in planning for the Year and to make every effort to employ disabled persons.

51. The Committee strongly urged that the agencies and organizations in the United Nations system should take into account the particular needs of disabled persons in the development of their programmes, for example, in the fields of transportation, housing and the environment.

52. Concern was expressed by certain participants at the lack of representation from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Western Asia at the session. The secretariat was requested to make every effort to ensure participation by those commissions in activities of the Year and, in particular, at meetings of the Committee.

53. Some participants expressed interest in the revitalization of the International Institute for Rehabilitation in Developing Countries. Furthermore, it was suggested that the Institute should be reinstated on a regional basis to ensure relevance to regional needs.

54. A participant stressed the need for training of rehabilitation personnel in developing countries and underlined the possible use of mobile teams and similar measures. He proposed that financial assistance be provided to educational institutions to allow them to expand their curriculum and training capacity to meet the needs of disabled persons in those countries. A regional institute such as was proposed could play a role in the realization of those objectives.

55. The Committee expressed concern at the inadequacy of the budget for the Year and inquired as to the possibility of using the special Fund for the Year.

#### B. Discussion of draft recommendations

56. A draft recommendation on the International Institute for Rehabilitation in Developing Countries was submitted (A/AC.197/L.6). The sponsor stressed that this recommendation was complementary to the previous one (A/AC.197/L.5) and it arose out of the conviction that because of cultural differences it was necessary first to work within the context of each particular country or region. It was recommended to begin slowly and then spread out to other regions.

57. The idea of reviving the Institute was considered important by several participants, but it was pointed out that information was lacking and that the situation might have changed since the establishment of the Institute. More agencies were becoming active in the field of disability but no new agencies should be established if existing ones could carry out the work.

58. While several participants supported the recommendations, some expressed reservations at the proposal for regional institutes.

59. Some participants suggested that disabled persons in rural regions should be given attention and that definition of the function of the Institute should be spelled out.

60. Some participants asked for more information on the Caribbean Institute mentioned in the draft recommendation. They pointed out that two training institutes existed in Panama and Uruguay and drew attention to the need to avoid duplication.

61. The Secretary of the Advisory Committee drew attention to the fact that the document had financial and administrative implications and, therefore, that instructions and information from New York Headquarters were essential.

62. With regard to the recommendations of participation of disabled persons in the operation of the Institute, on the board, etc., some participants were against quotas of disabled persons in the management of institutes and suggested that, for instance, in paragraph 2 (c) of the draft recommendation the words "composed by a majority of disabled persons" should be replaced by "include disabled persons from the region". One participant stated that he could not accept the recommendation as it stood because it was too specific. Another participant quoted General Assembly resolution 34/154 on the Year, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to explore further the possibilities of continuing the activities of the Institute, and said that it should be taken into account. Other participants said that it would be useful to explore the matter further before any financial recommendation with implications was made.

63. The sponsor of the recommendation pointed out that it was difficult to submit, at that stage, a more precise plan or a more functional outline and that by establishing a demonstration project it was hoped to "learn by doing".

64. No conclusion was reached on this recommendation and a decision was postponed.

65. The draft recommendation (A/AC.197/L.6) was subsequently withdrawn. Instead a new text was submitted (A/AC.197/L.10) and adopted by the Committee with minor amendments at its 11th meeting, on 27 August (see recommendation 6 (II), sect. VII).



III. PARTICIPATION OF DISABLED PERSONS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS  
IN THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

(Item 7)

A. General discussion

66. The Advisory Committee discussed this item at its 5th to 8th and 10th meetings, on 22, 25, 26 and 27 August. The importance was stressed of full participation of disabled persons in the implementation of the IYDP plan of action, in accordance with the theme of the Year "Full participation and equality". In order to realize the objectives of the Year, the United Nations and its organizations must demonstrate their commitment to the basic needs of disabled persons for employment, independent living conditions and direct participation. Tokenism was not needed; a real effort was necessary to bring disabled persons to all meetings on the Year and to ensure their active participation in the Year. In order to promote direct participation of disabled persons in all aspects of economic and public life, a World Coalition of People with Disabilities had been founded and would have its meeting in October 1980.

67. Several representatives supported the need for direct participation by disabled persons in the regional meetings, the international symposium and other aspects of the programme for the Year at both national and international levels, including the work of the secretariat. Representatives from some developing countries, while supporting in principle the need for participation of disabled persons in activities of the Year, pointed out that, because of a lack of rehabilitation services, the number of disabled persons in those countries able to contribute to regional and other activities was very limited.

68. Several delegations mentioned national experiences in organizing activities of disabled persons and their social security system for disabled persons. The importance of care for war victims and the efforts for peace in the world by people disabled in war and other forms of violence were also mentioned. One delegation mentioned a study concerning economic benefits of rehabilitation undertaken as part of its national programme for the Year.

69. During the discussion it became clear that a large number of countries, in particular the least developed, would not be able to attend the regional meetings unless additional resources were provided. Therefore, the Committee approved the sending of a cable to the Secretary-General of the United Nations proposing urgent measures to solve that problem (see appendix I to the present report). A representative of the UNIDO secretariat made a statement regarding the organization and use of special funds in general.

70. The representative of Rehabilitation International referred to the conference of non-governmental organizations to be held in Vienna as soon as possible with the purpose of supporting activities of the Year. UNIDO services in providing a meeting room, preparing documentation and interpretation for that meeting were requested. The Secretary of the session pointed out that that conference was not

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part of the regular United Nations schedule of meetings and conferences. The General Assembly or its Committee on Conferences would consider the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and make a decision thereon.

71. The representative of the International League of Societies for Mentally Handicapped Persons (ILSMH) took part in the discussion and informed the meeting of the proposal of ILSMH to organize training of personnel in developing countries to work with mentally retarded persons. Such a project had already been submitted to the secretariat for financing from the Fund for the Year. A representative of ILSMH, a disabled person himself, emphasized the wish of the mentally retarded persons to live in the community rather than to be closed up in institutions.

#### B. Discussion of draft recommendations

72. Most participants stressed the importance of full participation by handicapped persons in all activities, including those of the United Nations and the secretariat and the specialized agencies during 1981. Almost all subparagraphs of the draft recommendation under item 4 were concerned with participation of disabled persons. Some of them, however, had financial implications.

73. The Secretary drew attention to paragraph 4 (b) of the draft recommendation presented by Argentina, Canada and the United States of America on participation of disabled persons and their organizations in the Year (A/AC.197/L.5), and said that she would cable to New York for full information on the financial implications. Several participants said that they would have to seek instructions from their Governments with regard to the paragraphs of the recommendation involving finance.

74. While the largest possible participation of disabled people in society in general and in specific activities during the Year was advocated by most participants, some participants expressed the reservation that their countries might not yet be able to accomplish these important goals.

75. Several participants suggested for instance that in paragraph 4 (f) the word "more" should be inserted between "hire" and "handicapped persons". Although recruitment policies in the United Nations system had more flexible medical standards than in the 1950s and 1960s it should be borne in mind that groups other than disabled persons had to be given special consideration also.

76. Recommendations with regard to recruitment policies to the United Nations system could, moreover, raise legal problems.

77. With regard to item 4 (b) of the draft recommendation on a world conference (A/AC.197/L.9), some participants were in favour of it (e.g. because many activities are still done for rather than with handicapped people, and that therefore in 1981 some activities should focus on handicapped people as participants); others expressed concern about the financial implications of such a conference, in particular of the funds that otherwise could go to national or regional projects.

Others expressed concern that a meeting in which disabled persons participated exclusively might contradict the concept of the integration of disabled persons. Participation and integration were two important concepts and the holding of the world conference might have an effect of segregation, one participant thought. Yet another participant expressed the view that segregation was sometimes necessary in order to achieve better integration.

78. It was suggested by those in favour of the world conference that it should not be envisaged as a large conference but rather as a gathering of a few hundred people being representatives of organizations of disabled persons and also individuals who are disabled.

79. The Executive Secretary of the Year expressed concern regarding the possibility of organizing such a world conference given the staff and budget at the disposal of the secretariat.

80. Another issue discussed was the possibility of inclusion of an item entitled "Full participation of handicapped people" in the agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and of requesting the Secretary-General to prepare a report for presentation to the Assembly at that session on this issue since there would be already an item on the Year on the agenda.

81. A revised text of the draft recommendation (A/AC.197/L.5/Rev.1) was discussed and adopted by the Committee, after being amended orally, at its 10th meeting, on 27 August (see recommendation 1 (II), sect. VII).

82. A draft recommendation entitled "World Conference of Disabled People" was submitted by Argentina and Canada (A/AC.197/L.9) and adopted at the same meeting after being orally revised (see recommendation 2 (II), sect. VII). One delegation could not support the recommendation because of the absence of any information on financial implications of such a conference, and referred to General Assembly resolution 34/154 which stated that the major focus of the Year was at the national level.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF A LONG-TERM PROGRAMME OF ACTION

(Item 3)

83. The Advisory Committee discussed this item at its 9th meeting, on 26 August. The working group suggested that its report should be adopted by the Advisory Committee as the outline of the long-term plan of action, which would subsequently be developed into a draft text to be considered by the Advisory Committee at a future meeting. The Committee could then consider specific recommendations to be included in the plan. The final text of the plan could be adopted by the Advisory Committee at a session to take place in 1982 and it would subsequently be adopted by the General Assembly.

84. Some participants suggested that the following items be included in the outline:

(a) The need for technical assistance, both multilateral and bilateral, in developing countries;

(b) The needs of disabled persons in developing regions of the world, as emphasized during the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Social Integration of Disabled Persons held from 30 June to 5 July 1980 in Vienna, in particular the needs for rehabilitation services of disabled persons living in rural areas;

(c) The necessity of eliminating the threat of war, which caused disabilities on a massive scale, and of reducing the military expenditures of member States in order to allocate a part of these resources to improving the well-being of disabled persons and to alleviating the consequences of war and violence;

(d) The cost to society of not attending to the problems of disability and the economic and social benefits of integrating disabled people as active members of society;

(e) The need to transfer resources to poor countries from countries that are well-endowed with natural resources.

85. These proposals were incorporated into the outline for the long-term plan of action which was adopted by the Advisory Committee at its 9th meeting, on 26 August (see recommendation 11 (II), sect. VII). This outline was based on the draft document prepared by the secretariat and the draft charter for the 1980s which was prepared by Rehabilitation International.

V. PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMME

(Item 5)

86. The Advisory Committee discussed this item at its 7th meeting, on 22 August. The representative of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat said that the Department had already succeeded in arousing considerable public interest in the Year, but that unless that was followed by substantive information on projects and programmes the efforts would be fruitless. The logo for the Year and guidelines for its use had been widely distributed. A series of radio and television interviews had been made, and a film and press kit would be available before the end of the year. The kit of information material included a flyer, a poster, the first issue of the Newsletter, several features and background notes, and a selection of photographs. A bibliography of source material was being prepared by the United Nations library.

87. United Nations Information Centres throughout the world, with initial financial resources of no more than \$1,000, had already initiated a wide range of activities in support of the Year. An interagency information task force had been set up, and a number of joint projects had been agreed on, including a major photographic exhibit. The Information Services in New York and Vienna were working closely together, and with national commissions and interested non-governmental organizations, to make the maximum impact with the limited resources available. However, there was no substitute for good programmes, and she appealed for more substantive information on both international and national activities for the Year.

88. Some participants asked to what degree disabled persons were involved in the United Nations public information programme for the Year. It was stressed that a positive image of disabled persons should be projected in line with the theme of the Year. They offered assistance in that regard.

89. A participant raised the question of the means of informing the people of developing countries of the Year, in particular those who were illiterate, and proposed that the public information programme should take the relevant action.

90. Another participant indicated the lack of specific information, particularly statistical, on disabled persons that could be used by the national committees for the Year.

91. The Vienna-based IYDP secretariat is responsible for implementing the entire substantive programme for the Year. To this end, it agreed to enter into direct contact with the national committees in order to establish working relationships through, inter alia, the publication of a document entitled "IYDP Secretariat News", which would highlight the most important activities. The New York-based Division for Economic and Social Information is responsible for the dissemination of substantive information, that is to say, for the promotional aspect of the programme for the Year (relations with the mass media, publicity, posters, films, etc.) which is particularly important in order to reach the developing countries where most disabled persons are illiterate.

92. The representative of the Secretary-General offered to act as a clearing house for information on disabled persons available from the United Nations organizations and other sources.

93. Some participants stressed the need for guidelines on public information for the use of national committees. It was noted that some public information material that could be used for the purpose was available at United Nations Information Offices. A new poster was being designed but the resources for that purpose were limited.

94. One participant stated that his country reproduced General Assembly resolutions and documents relevant to the Year and disseminated them and other public information material widely. In co-operation with Rehabilitation International, a collection was being prepared of all resolutions on disability from international organizations.

95. Another representative emphasized that because of lack of public information material in Spanish, Latin American television and radio networks were not sufficiently publicizing the Year. Similar problems existed in other regions of the world.

96. The Chairman stressed the importance of providing public information material at the regional level.

97. One participant indicated that very little information, particularly visual material, was available on the situation of disabled persons in developing countries. That was an obstacle in the efforts of her Government to increase assistance to those countries during the Year.

98. The representative of the International League of Societies for the Mentally Handicapped emphasized that prevention of disability should be part of the information programme on the Year and that it should emphasize the positive aspects of prevention and not compare prevention with the negative aspects of disability or raise fears of it as a result.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS ON WHICH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
HAS REACHED NO DECISIONS AT ITS FIRST SESSION

(Item 6)

A. General discussion

99. The Advisory Committee discussed this item at its 6th, 10th and 11th meetings, on 22 and 27 August. The Chairman introduced the item which was listed in the Secretary-General's report on that session (A/34/158 and Add.1 and Corr.1, paras. 43 to 55). Paragraphs 51 to 55 dealt with the strengthening of the secretariat of the Year; the General Assembly had already adopted relevant budgetary measures at its thirty-fourth session and UNDP and UNICEF had also contributed. In addition, the United Nations Secretary-General had been requested to assist in that regard.

100. One member suggested that the discussion concerning the long-term programme of the year should also deal with its funding. However, because the regional meetings would also consider the long-term programme, the Committee agreed to postpone the discussion on those Funds to the third session of the Advisory Committee for the Year.

B. Discussion of draft recommendations

101. The Committee considered draft recommendation A/AC.197/L.8 on the plan of action and the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General for the International Year of Disabled Persons.

102. With regard to subparagraph 2 (b), a participant stated that the International Year of Disabled Persons had not so far been given the same importance as the International Year of Women or of the International Year of the Child. There was a serious lack of funds because no substantial financial contributions had been made. Only seven countries had so far contributed to the Voluntary Fund. On the positive side, the specialized agencies had actively participated. A participant said that he was distressed to hear that, owing to financial problems and lack of interest, the personnel and resources needed might not be available. Another participant felt that the success of the Year required the allocation of financial and all other possible resources. Another participant suggested that the General Assembly should be urged to allocate appropriate general services and financial resources.

103. Two participants could not endorse subparagraph 2 (c) of that recommendation without further instructions from their Governments. One participant said that if the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General would serve the purpose of furthering and expanding the objectives of the Year he would agree to the recommendation, although he was not in a position to make a firm commitment at that point. Another participant felt that subparagraph 2 (c) was too specific.

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104. One participant expressed the opinion that the proposal was not acceptable since the General Assembly had already acted on the matter and the Secretary-General had not appointed a special representative. Some participants supported that view.
105. The Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the three courses of action open to it in that connexion: (a) the Committee could accept the proposal; (b) it could decide not to reopen the discussion on the subject; or (c) it could ask the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session to reopen the discussion and review its decision contained in resolution 34/154.
106. The Chairman gave the background to the matter and stated that his country did not insist on the appointment of a special representative only because he understood that the United Nations Secretariat did not wish that post to be established.
107. As subparagraph 2 (c) was not agreed upon, it was decided to set up a small informal drafting group to revise the text in line with the discussion. That was done and the orally revised text A/AC.197/L.8 adopted (see recommendation 10 (II), sect. VII).
108. One participant made a verbal recommendation on the use of the Fund indicating that priority should be given to developing countries with particular emphasis on projects in rural areas.
109. The Executive Secretary explained that there were requests by one non-governmental organization and some member States for contributions from the Fund. She would welcome suggestions and guidelines from the Committee on the use of the Fund, but the final decisions would be taken by the Secretary-General, who would establish priorities for the use of the Fund.
110. The Chairman indicated that the situation regarding the Fund would be clarified following the regional meetings. He stressed the need to help projects for the Year planned by organizations of disabled persons and urged the Secretary-General to pay urgent attention to such projects.



VII. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE AT ITS SECOND SESSION

111. At its second session, held at Vienna from 20 to 29 August 1980, the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons adopted the following recommendations:

1 (II) Participation of disabled persons and their organizations in the International Year of Disabled Persons a/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons

1. Reinforces its earlier recommendation that all Member States should include representatives of disabled persons in their delegations to the Advisory Committee;

2. Considers it essential that a significant number of disabled persons and particularly representatives from organizations of disabled persons should be involved in the United Nations regional meetings and seminars at all levels;

3. Considers it imperative that disabled persons and representatives from organizations of disabled persons should be involved as experts in the international symposium of experts on technical assistance in the field of disability and technical co-operation among developing countries;

4. Recommends that:

(a) All Member States should make a concerted effort to involve a significant number of disabled persons and particularly representatives from organizations of disabled persons on their national committees;

(b) At future meetings of the Advisory Committee and at meetings of specialized agencies relating to the International Year of Disabled Persons, representatives from organizations of disabled persons should be invited to attend in a consultative capacity;

(c) It is imperative that ways should be found by the United Nations to employ a significant number of disabled persons as staff members on the secretariat of the International Year of Disabled Persons. Disabled persons should also be employed as consultants by specialized agencies in developing activities relating to the Year, for example the architectural barrier manuals;

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a/ Adopted by the Advisory Committee at its 10th meeting, on 27 August 1980.

(d) The United Nations and the relevant agencies should make funding and expertise available to help initiate and develop organizations of disabled persons throughout the world and particularly in the developing countries;

(e) It is imperative that an affirmative action programme to hire more disabled persons and a policy to make all its facilities accessible to disabled persons should be adopted by the United Nations and its specialized agencies;

(f) It is imperative that disabled persons and particularly representatives from organizations of disabled persons should be involved in all aspects of the long-term plan of action in development implementation and evaluation, which would include staffing, advising and management roles;

(g) Member States should encourage national and local service agencies to include disabled persons in all aspects of their organization;

5. Recommends that a subitem entitled "Full participation of disabled persons" should be included in the agenda of the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly and requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on "Full participation of disabled persons", including a special section on implementation of this concept.

2 (II) World conference of disabled persons a/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons

Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of holding a world conference of disabled persons in co-operation with international organizations of disabled persons and to inform the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session as to the feasibility of holding such a conference at the end of 1981 or the beginning of 1982 as a special event to mark the International Year of Disabled Persons.

3 (II) Disabled children and the prevention of disability b/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recalling the efforts made by the United Nations system on the occasion of the International Year of the Child,

Emphasizing the importance of involving concerned United Nations organizations in all aspects of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recognizing that the majority of these organizations are developing activities to mark the importance of the Year,

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b/ Adopted by the Advisory Committee at its 12th meeting, on 28 August 1980.

1. Congratulates the heads of these organizations for their interest and commitment to the Year;

2. Suggests that in their plan for the Year emphasis be given to activities that are aimed at the prevention of disability among children, the provision of direct services to children with disabilities and projects with potential for a longer term impact.

4 (II) Funding of projects and activities for the International Year of Disabled Persons b/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recalling its earlier recommendations on the lack of resources to finance projects and activities for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Aware of the commitment of the United Nations Development Programme to the Year as reflected in its report to the Committee and commending the Administrator field offices of the Programme for the support already given to the objectives of the Year,

1. Urges Member States to give higher priority to requests to the Programme and other financing organizations for technical assistance with respect to rehabilitation services and training of appropriate personnel in the developing countries;

2. Recommends that field offices of the Programme should further assist national committees in carrying out the Plan of Action and give particular attention to facilitating the involvement of disabled persons in these activities.

5 (II) Access to United Nations information b/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recognizing that many persons with sensorial or motor disabilities are deprived access to information produced by the United Nations and the specialized agencies,

Recalling its earlier recommendation concerning accessibility to the facilities and services of the United Nations and specialized agencies,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to review the whole question of access to information both in oral and written or printed form;

2. Recommends that consideration should be given to the provision of gestural interpretation for persons with a hearing disability, whenever it is required at United Nations meetings, as part of its regular language interpretation services;

3. Also recommends that consideration should be given to the establishment of a committee of experts to study the possibility of standardizing gestural interpretation or sign language for the purpose of facilitating interpretation in international meetings;

4. Further recommends that a special effort should be made to reproduce in braille and on cassette those United Nations documents that have elicited a wide degree of interest from the general public and that an expert committee might be considered for this purpose.

6 (II) International Institute for Rehabilitation  
in Developing Countries c/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Taking account of General Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979, particularly paragraph 9 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities of continuing the activities of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries and to submit a report in that respect to the Assembly at its thirty-fifth session,

1. Recommends that the Secretary-General should give consideration to the possibility of launching an International Institute for Rehabilitation in Developing Countries with a view to assisting Governments of developing countries in integrating disabled persons into the over-all social development process; this institute to become the nucleus of similar institutes established on a regional basis to meet special indigenous and local needs and eventually to promote a network of self-help agencies around the world;

2. Recommends that the General Assembly should invite Member States, especially developing countries, to consider the possibility of launching an international institute for rehabilitation in their region, or expanding the functions of existing bodies;

3. Recommends that the General Assembly should urge Member States to ensure that disabled persons and their organizations should be involved in all aspects of the planning and operation of these institutes;

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c/ Adopted by the Advisory Committee at its 11th meeting, on 27 August 1980.

4. Also recommends that the General Assembly should invite the United Nations Development Programme and other funding organizations to consider favourably any request which may be addressed to them by Governments for the funding of this institute or institutes and should also encourage funding by special voluntary contributions;

5. Further recommends that the General Assembly should invite Member States to encourage close co-operation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations concerned with human welfare and development in setting up the institutes and also to encourage the use of the resources of the relevant non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations.

7 (II) Conference of non-governmental organizations d/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons

1. Supports the request from Rehabilitation International that a meeting of all non-governmental organizations with official relations with the United Nations system and other organizations, including especially those representing disabled persons, should be held in Vienna as soon as possible to support activities for the Year, the meeting to be organized by the Council of World Organizations Interested in the Handicapped;

2. Recommends that the facilities, documentation and interpretation services of the United Nations should be provided at this meeting.

8 (II) Public information programme for the International Year of Disabled Persons d/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons

1. Stresses the need to involve disabled persons in all aspects of the public information programme in order to ensure its relevance to the theme and objectives of the Year;

2. Recommends that information guidelines should be developed for use by national committees and the media to project an image of disabled persons active in the life of their community and directly involved in the organization of their Year;

3. Recommends that informational material should be provided in various formats to make it accessible to persons with sensorial disabilities as well as to people deprived of basic education;

4. Also recommends that appropriate staff and financial resources should be provided urgently to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to assist its efforts, with priority being given to the preparation of material for use at the regional levels;

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d/ Adopted by the Advisory Committee at its 12th meeting, on 28 August 1980.

5. Also recommends that, to increase the impact of public information activities, national committees, specialized agencies, regional commissions, non-governmental organizations and the secretariat of the Year should be urged to provide substantive information on the situation of disabled persons and the content of their programmes in support of the Year to the Department of Public Information to enable it to produce material for use by national and local committees and the media;

6. Further recommends that the Secretary-General should be urged to stress the importance of the implementation for the Year, including public information activities at the regional level and to make staff and financial resources available to the regional commissions;

7. Further recommends that every effort should be made by national committees and public information offices to stimulate interest of and participation by the mass media in activities and programmes relating to the Year and, to this end, a special effort should be made to involve disabled persons in those activities in a manner that will emphasize the fact that it is their Year.

9 (II) Use of the Fund for the International  
Year of Disabled Persons d/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recognizing the need to put the resources available to the International Year for Disabled Persons to efficient use,

Recalling its earlier recommendations on full participation by disabled persons, with special emphasis given to disabled persons in developing countries,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to authorize disbursements from the Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons as soon as possible, preferably before the end of 1980;

2. Recommends that in reviewing project proposals concerning the Year priority should be given to the following:

(a) Projects that will directly benefit disabled persons, in particular those developed by and with disabled persons or by their organizations;

(b) Projects in developing countries with particular emphasis on projects in rural areas.

10 (II) Strengthening of the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons e/

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Noting with interest the statements made before the Advisory Committee, including those of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, of the members of the Advisory Committee, particularly its Chairman, and of the representatives of the specialized agencies,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, f/

1. Commends:

(a) The work already accomplished in implementing the Plan of Action to assist the Member States, as described in the report of the Secretary-General;

(b) The presentation of the plans of the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, and particularly the fruitful collaboration and co-operation which have been established between those agencies and the secretariat of the Year, as well as with the non-governmental organizations.

2. Recommends that:

(a) The Long-Term Plan of Action be studied during the third session of the Advisory Committee and that the Secretary-General's draft Long-Term Plan of Action should take into account the different priorities expressed in the consultations held at the national and regional levels;

(b) The Secretariat accord to the activities of the Year the same importance as to the other international years proclaimed by the General Assembly, providing the secretariat of the Year with all the financial resources and personnel necessary for carrying out its work;

(c) The General Assembly should reconsider its earlier decision contained in resolution 34/154 concerning the organization of preparatory work for the International Year of Disabled Persons, and consider the advisability of appointing a special representative of the Secretary-General for the Year.

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e/ Adopted by the Advisory Committee at its 11th meeting, on 27 August 1980.

f/ A/AC.197/5 and Add.1 and 2.

11 (II) Basic outline for a long-term world plan  
plan of action g/

Preamble

Statement in brief and forceful language of the magnitude of the problem - about 500 million disabled (10 per cent of world population), effect on their families (affects 25 per cent of world population) and acute situation in developing countries. Emphasis be put on the cost to society due to its neglect of the problems of disability and the social and economic benefits of integrating disabled people as active members of their communities.

1. Conceptual framework of the world plan of action

- Purpose: "Full participation and equality"

It is necessary to place the situation of disabled people in a broader context and take into account developments in other areas of relevance to the plan. Sections explaining the relevance of the following (and possibly other) concepts should, therefore, be included.

- "The objective of the long-term world plan of action is to promote the realization of the goals 'full participation' of disabled persons in the social life and development of the societies in which they live, and 'equality', meaning living conditions equal to those of other citizens in their societies, and an equal share in the improvements in living conditions resulting from social and economic development." (Extract from para. 57 of IYDP Plan of Action)
- the WHO "strengthening of primary health care services"
- the ILO "basic needs strategy"
- the UNICEF "basic services"
- the need for massive mobilization of human resources in the development effort (thus the necessity to involve also disabled persons)
- the need for transfer of resources from developed to developing countries with the objective of reducing world poverty, which in itself is a major cause of disability and of disabled persons not receiving the services they need
- the need for technical assistance, both multilateral and bilateral, to developing countries

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g/ Adopted by the Advisory Committee at its 9th meeting, on 26 August 1980.



- technical co-operation among developing countries - the need to develop technology appropriate to the local situation.
- a/the new international economic order (see p. 59 of IYDP Plan of Action)

In the drafting process, extensive consultations should take place with appropriate agencies to work out the specific ways in which these concepts can be applied to the situation of disabled persons.

## 2. Definition of concepts

Much confusion arises in international discussion due to varying uses of terminology. Without pinning too much importance on the use of words, the Committee feels it would be desirable if definitions on a number of key concepts could be agreed on and included in the plan of action. They should include:

- impairment
- disability
- handicap
- habilitation/rehabilitation
- equalization of opportunities)
- integration and normalization) } Two perspectives of the same concept

The WHO definition of impairment, disability and handicap should be used and included in the text. For "habilitation/rehabilitation", the Committee agreed on the following definition:

"Habilitation/rehabilitation is a time-limited process aimed at enabling a person to reach an optimum physical, mental and/or social functioning level, thus providing her or him with the tools to change her or his own life. It can involve measures intended to compensate for a loss of function or a functional limitation (for example by technical aids) as well as measures intended to facilitate social adjustment or readjustment."

Equalization of opportunity - definition to be developed to take account of link with "integration" and "normalization"

Draft to be based on:

- "Equalization of opportunities is the process through which the general systems of society such as the physical environment, housing and transportation, social and health services, educational and work opportunities, cultural and social life, including sports and recreational facilities, are made accessible to all. This involves the removal of barriers to the full participation of disabled persons in all these areas, thus enabling them to reach a quality of life equal to that of others."

### 3. Analysis of world situation of disabled persons

A brief section containing an analysis of the world situation of disabled persons (based on existing research material, and consultations with appropriate United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, including the international organizations of disabled persons) should be included in the plan. It should deal with the effects of development on disabled persons, taking into account the situation both in developed and developing countries. It should explain the main causes of disability in the world today.

#### To be discussed

- effects of urbanization
- problems in rural areas
- role of the family and effects of weakening of family unit (coinciding with increasing number of elderly)
- effects of war and violence
- improvements in medical science saving the lives of people who earlier would have died but who now survive with a disability.

#### Positive effects of development:

- improved nutrition
- improved hygiene
- improvements in preventive medicine (reducing, in particular, childhood disabilities)
- improvement in methods of education
- improved methods of care, treatment, rehabilitation
- development of technical aids
- positive changes in attitude due to increased knowledge.

#### Negative effects of development:

- pollution of the environment
- increase in industrial accidents
- increase in traffic accidents
- increase in stress symptoms and mental disorders due to a more complicated society
- damage caused by drugs (side effects (e.g. thalidomide) and misuse).

It should be emphasized that most solutions to the problems relating to disabilities have been formulated in the context of developed countries with a high level of technology and professionalization of services, and that other appropriate approaches and strategies must be found if we are to improve conditions for the large numbers of disabled persons in the third world. Emphasis must be put on low-cost, community-based, self-help projects and similar activities aimed at reaching disabled people at all levels. It should be stressed that such programmes cannot be effective unless they are understood and accepted by those for whom they are intended - where necessary this will involve mounting an "awareness" campaign.

It is important that the technology developed is appropriate to the local situation and uses indigenous materials.

#### 4. Scope of world plan

The Advisory Committee agreed to include the following aspects within the scope of the world plan:

- first level prevention (sickness and impairments, including improved nutrition, hygiene, sewage systems, water conditions, preventive medicine, vaccination campaigns, improved maternal and child health care, early identifications of at-risk groups, improvements in work safety and in traffic safety, controlling or minimizing the effects of disasters, environmental control).
- second level prevention (preventing disabilities due to sickness or impairment, including improvement of methods or dissemination of knowledge about, and/or resources for, improved methods in care or treatment).
- rehabilitation including initiation and improvement of methods of training in functional skills, development of technical aids, the provision of social or psychological counselling of the disabled person and her/his family and the dissemination of knowledge about all of these. The over-all objective is to achieve maximum independence.

These sections are to be worked out in close consultations with the WHO.

- equalization of opportunities (see definition under 3) (education, housing, transport employment, etc.) to be worked out in close consultation with appropriate agencies and organizations of the disabled.

#### 5. Principles on which action should be based

/References from appropriate United Nations documents/

##### Integration/normalization

Action must aim at enabling disabled people to lead a normal life, i.e. a life as similar as possible to that expected from a person of the same age, sex, etc. in

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his/her society. Segregation measures, such as providing services for the disabled person primarily through institutions, should be avoided. The right of a disabled person to remain within his family and community should be preserved.

#### Governments' responsibility

A section should be included emphasizing the duty of every Government to ensure that the benefits of any national reform or development programme reach the entire population. It should be underlined that, even with massive preventive efforts, any population will continue to include a certain percentage of disabled persons with the same right as others to benefit from these programmes. The need to incorporate special measures to this effect into the planning process and administrative structures should be stressed, as well as the need to add components to existing or planned programmes in the field, in order to include disabled people in their scope of activity.

/ A paragraph on the role of non-governmental organizations should be inserted here. /

Even when a Government decides to use non-governmental organizations to provide services, it cannot discard its final responsibility for the welfare of its disabled citizens. It must ensure that the provision made by the organizations is in line with the over-all policy for development of services.

#### Participation of disabled people in decision making

Disabled people must have the opportunity to participate in decisions that effect their own lives. This involves participation in planning their own rehabilitation as well as in broader decision making about rehabilitation policies by Governments, local authorities and non-governmental organizations working in the field.

Since the need of disabled persons must be taken into account in the general policy and planning within every area of society, it is also necessary to secure the participation of disabled persons in the ordinary processes of political decision making which concern the community in general.

This influence should be channelled mainly through the organizations of disabled people, which should be encouraged and developed. They should have a real and substantial impact on policies and legislation which affect the lives of the groups they represent. Political parties, trade unions and other influential groups must make it possible for disabled persons to take part in their work.

#### 6. Recommendations for action

The world plan of action should contain recommendations for action at the international, regional and national level on a short, medium and long-term basis.

#### 7. Implementation and monitoring of progress

A machinery for implementation of the long-term world plan of action and for monitoring of its progress will be required.

Procedure and timescale

The draft text should be reviewed by the Advisory Committee at its next meeting. At the same time it should consider draft recommendations on action, implementation and monitoring.

The complete draft report (including the recommendations) should be sent out for comment to Member States, international agencies and non-governmental agencies and they should be encouraged to discuss it at meetings, seminars, etc. in connexion with IYDP. They should be invited to submit any amendments to the draft recommendations in the light of their experience before and during IYDP.

The complete text should be finalized at a further meeting of the Advisory Committee prior to its adoption by the General Assembly in 1982.

Advisors/observers from non-governmental organizations particularly from organizations of disabled people should be invited to take part in the Committee meetings.

In order to allow time for careful study and consultation drafts must be sent out at least two months prior to meetings.

The timescale is attached as an annex.

ANNEX

Timescale

August 1980	Advisory Committee adopts basic guidelines
Sept. 1980 onwards	Secretariat develops draft text (excluding recommendations) leading to
1981 (date to be fixed)	Advisory Committee to review draft and consider recommendations
early 1982 (date to be fixed)	Draft (including recommendations) sent to member States and others for comment
July (?) 1982	Advisory Committee to finalize complete text
Autumn 1982	Adoption of long-term world plan of action by General Assembly.

APPENDIX I

Telegram dated 22 August 1980 from the Chairman of the Advisory  
Committee to the Secretary-General

The second session of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons currently assembled in Vienna notes with great concern the situation of the least developed countries' ability to participate in regional meetings on the International Year of Disabled Persons due to lack of funds. It is generally agreed that problems of disability are the most acute problems in these countries and consequently participation by them would be most essential. The Committee will therefore appreciate urgent action to secure necessary funds from various sources available to you to enable to assist the participation of the least developed countries in regional meetings on the International Year of Disabled Persons, in particular the participation of disabled persons in these regional meetings. It was agreed by the Advisory Committee in this session that the Trust Fund for the Year (General Assembly resolution 34/154) could be used for this purpose. Due to limited time factor, the Advisory Committee believes that this matter should be treated urgently since the earliest of the regional meetings starts 9 September 1980.

APPENDIX II

Documentation before the Advisory Committee at its second session

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/34/158 and Corr.1 and Add.1	6	Report of the Secretary-General on the first meeting of the Advisory Committee
A/AC.197/4	1	Provisional agenda
A/AC.197/5	2	Report of the Secretary-General
A/AC.197/5/Add.1	3	Report of the Secretary-General
A/AC.197/5/Add.2	5	Report of the Secretary-General
A/AC.197/6	1	Agenda
A/AC.197/7	-	Resolution adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace - Note by the Secretariat
A/AC.197/L.3	1	Note by the Secretariat
A/AC.197/L.4	1	Organization of the work of the session
A/AC.197/L.5 and Rev.1	7	Argentina, Canada and United States of America: draft recommendations - Participation of disabled persons and their organizations in the International Year of Disabled Persons
A/AC.197/L.6	4	Canada: draft recommendations - Rehabilitation Institute
A/AC.197/L.7 and Add.1-10	8	Adoption of the report of the Advisory Committee - draft report
A/AC.197/L.8	3 and 6	Belgium and Zaire: draft recommendation

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<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/AC.197/L.9	7	Argentina and Canada: draft recommendation - World Conference of Disabled People
A/AC.197/L.10	4	Canada and India: draft recommendation - Rehabilitation Institute
A/AC.197/L.11	7	Administrative and financial implications of the draft recommendations contained in document A/AC.197/L.5 - Statement by the Secretary-General
Conference Room Paper No. 1	4	Preliminary and unofficial text of the report of the interagency meeting on preparations for the International Year of Disabled Persons
A/AC.197/WP.2	3	Basic outline for a long-term world plan of action
A/AC.197/INF.1 and A/AC.197/INF.2/Corr.1	-	Information for participants
A/AC.197/INF.3	-	List of national committees and liaison offices for the Year

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