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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Miss Olajumoke Oladayo OBAFEMI (Nigeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "International Year of Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979.
2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 1980, the General Assembly decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
3. The Committee considered this item jointly with items 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 76 and 81 at its 35th to 46th, 49th and 50th meetings, from 28 October to 5 November and on 7 November 1980. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States, specialized agencies and observers on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/35/SR.35-46, 49 and 50).
4. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of Disabled Persons (A/35/444 and Add.1-3);
 - (b) Letters dated 16 May and 18 September 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/274 and Add.1);
 - (c) Note verbale dated 12 June 1980 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/35/291);

- (d) Letter dated 29 September 1980 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.3/35/5).

5. At the 35th meeting, on 28 October 1980, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement on the item.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/35/L.34

6. At the 49th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/35/L.34), sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Egypt, India, Italy, Jamaica, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Oman, the Philippines, the Sudan, Sweden, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia; subsequently joined by Afghanistan, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Bhutan, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya orally revised draft resolution A/C.3/35/L.34, as follows:

- (a) In operative paragraph 8, the word "buildings," was inserted after "United Nations";
- (b) In operative paragraph 9, the words "including information activities" were deleted.

8. A statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was circulated in document A/C.3/35/L.41.

9. At the 50th meeting, on 7 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution as orally revised without a vote (see para. 10).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

10. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International Year of Disabled Persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976, by which it proclaimed the year 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons,

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Recalling also its resolutions 32/133 of 16 December 1977, by which it established the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, 33/170 of 20 December 1978 and 34/154 of 17 December 1979,

Recalling further resolution 2, entitled "Improving the situation of disabled women of all ages", 1/ adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, held at Copenhagen from 14 to 30 July 1980,

Recognizing that the International Year of Disabled Persons should promote the realization of the right of disabled persons to participate fully in the social life and development of their societies and to enjoy living conditions equal to those of other citizens, as well as an equal share in the improvements in living conditions resulting from social and economic development,

Bearing in mind the importance of co-ordination at the national, regional and international levels in the programming for the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled persons,

Convinced that the International Year of Disabled Persons should give the impulse for the establishment of a long-term world plan of action to follow up the activities of the Year,

Recognizing that the International Year of Disabled Persons should contribute to a greater awareness of the magnitude and the complexity of the incidence of physical, sensorial and mental disabilities through, inter alia, effective public information activities,

Having considered the offer of the Government of Argentina 2/ to act as host to the action-oriented international symposium of experts on technical assistance in the field of disability and technical co-operation among developing countries, to be convened during the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Concerned about the need to provide the secretariat of the International Year of Disabled Persons with the resources necessary for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Year 3/ and its follow-up,

1/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3, p. 61.

2/ A/C.3/35/5.

3/ The Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons adopted by the General Assembly consists of the text appearing in paras. 57 to 76 of the annex to document A/34/158 and Corr.1, with the deletion of the phrase following the words "(see subpara. (i) below)" in para. 74 (c), of para. 74 (u) and of the words following the word "nationally" in para. 75 (b).

1. Notes with satisfaction the steps already taken in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons by Member States, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, and encourages them to intensify their action and co-ordination during the Year;
2. Recommends that, in their efforts to promote the full participation of disabled persons in all aspects of life, Member States and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should pay particular attention to the participation of disabled persons themselves and of their organizations in the activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year of Disabled Persons and its follow-up;
3. Invites Member States which have not yet done so to establish national committees or similar bodies for the International Year of Disabled Persons;
4. Urges Member States to give higher priority to development assistance projects in developing countries in the fields of rehabilitation services, technical aids and training of appropriate personnel, including disabled persons themselves;
5. Welcomes the voluntary contributions made by Governments to the International Year of Disabled Persons and appeals for further voluntary contributions to the Year;
6. Decides to accept the offer of the Government of Argentina to act as host in 1981 to the action-oriented international symposium of experts on technical assistance in the field of disability and technical co-operation among developing countries, to be held in conformity with the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons.
7. Requests the regional commissions to formulate appropriate programmes for implementing the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to examine the question of access to United Nations buildings, documents and information for persons with sensorial disabilities;
9. Further requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the information activities and to provide the secretariat of the International Year of Disabled Persons with all the resources and personnel necessary for carrying out its work;
10. Welcomes the progress already made in the drafting of a long-term world plan of action and approves the procedure and time-scale for its adoption proposed by the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons at its second session; 4/

11. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a session of the Advisory Committee in 1981;

12. Requests the Advisory Committee to examine the possibilities of continuing the activities of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries in the light of the experience of the International Year of Disabled Persons;

13. Invites all heads of State or Government, the President of the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General to issue special messages at the beginning of the International Year of Disabled Persons;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-sixth session the item entitled "International Year of Disabled Persons" and recommends, in view of its importance, that this item should be considered by the General Assembly in plenary meeting, in observance of the Year;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.
