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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD
SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED
PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

International cooperation on ageing for 1992 and beyond

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/46/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/106 of 14 December 1990 in which, inter alia, the Assembly endorsed an action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, designated 1 October as International Day for the Elderly, and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the resolution.
2. In its resolution 43/93, the Assembly decided to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Aging in the plenary General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in 1992.
3. The Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-second session, requested the Economic and Social Council to transmit its draft resolution VI to the General Assembly for adoption at its forty-sixth session (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9). In the resolution the Assembly would recommend several measures pertaining to the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond.
4. The present report is an interim one, outlining progress, plans and information relevant to the above-mentioned resolutions.

II. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The plans and activities outlined in the present report evince a remarkable increase in the international community's response to the ageing of populations. The impulse for this response lies in the year 1992, the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing. ¹/ It also lies in the rapidity with which populations are ageing. The "age of ageing", the "grey revolution", "humanity's coming of age": these and similar phrases are now part of common discourse and have no uncertain statistical basis. In the 75 years from 1950 to 2025, the world's elderly population (persons 60 years of age and over) will have increased from 200 million to 1.2 billion, or from 8 to 14 per cent of the total global population. Among the elderly, the "old" old (those who are 80 years of age and over) will have grown from 13 million in 1950 to 137 million in 2025. The total world population will have grown by a factor of little more than three, the elderly will have grown by a factor of six and the "old" old by a factor of ten.
6. First to age, the developed countries are adjusting and refining policies and programmes especially for the very old. The developing countries, projected to age more quickly in the coming decades than developed countries have aged in the past, are gradually introducing ageing policies and programmes. The ageing of populations in developing countries is rendered particularly serious by two factors: the absence of an institutional infrastructure to accommodate the increasing numbers and proportions of the elderly, and the uncertainty that the family will be able to continue providing care and solidarity for its elderly members as in the past.

7. When the General Assembly endorsed the International Plan of Action on Ageing in its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, it established a broad and ideal framework for national and international policies and programmes on ageing. The implementation rate of the Plan has been poor, however (see report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing conducted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-first session, E/1989/13). The Assembly therefore endorsed an action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond (resolution A/45/106). The action programme has two themes: the development of a practical strategy to improve implementation of the Plan in the decade 1992 to 2001, and a promotional campaign to mark in 1992 the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan. Preparations for the anniversary year have begun. Consultations on developing a practical strategy for the decade are underway and point in several possible directions, including towards a short list of global targets (see annex). Consultations will continue in the coming months on developing draft global targets for submission to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

8. While, at its forty-seventh session, the Assembly will consider for adoption a set of draft global targets on ageing, it has for possible endorsement at its current session a draft set of United Nations Principles for Older Persons annexed to draft resolution VI of the Commission for Social Development (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9). The Principles and the global targets would supplement the Plan of Action, supporting its implementation in distinctive ways from 1992 to 2001. The three instruments would complement and reinforce each other.

9. The United Nations action programme is currently focused on three events: the decade 1992 to 2001, the anniversary year of 1992, and the International Day for the Elderly of 1 October.

10. With the expansion of the United Nations system-wide activities on ageing, the Commission for Social Development recommended in its resolution VI, now before the Assembly for adoption, that the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna be designated Coordinator for the implementation of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond.

11. Parallel to these activities, there has been a significant increase in development cooperation, including in the areas of resource mobilization, institutional development, training, research, publications and technical cooperation.

12. In preparation for the third quadrennial review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action, a short inquiry will be made of Member States in the spring of 1992. The Commission for Social Development at its thirty-third session in 1993 will conduct the third review and transmit its findings through the Economic and Social Council to the forty-eighth session of the Assembly. It is proposed that the Commission be immediately followed by the fifth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing.

13. Thus, the General Assembly may wish to:

(a) Endorse draft resolution VI of the Commission for Social Development, thirty-second session (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9);

(b) Recommend that Member States be represented at an appropriately high level in the plenary of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session in order to reflect strong support for the adoption of a set of targets on ageing for the year 2001 and to celebrate on an appropriate global scale the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(c) Invite Member States to mark the anniversary year and the International Day for the Elderly, inter alia, by inviting national and local leaders to issue statements and by encouraging the preparation of programmes and projects on ageing with the participation of the elderly, schools, the business sector and the media;

(d) Endorse efforts being made to develop an operational strategy for the decade 1992 to 2001;

(e) Elaborate the preliminary draft global targets annexed to the present report as a basis for further consultations;

(f) Encourage wide participation in the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing;

(g) Call for extrabudgetary resources to strengthen the United Nations programme on ageing, supporting and supplementing the activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna as lead agency for the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond and as the focal point of development cooperation on ageing.

III. DEVELOPING AN OPERATIONAL STRATEGY FOR 1992 TO 2001

14. The need for a feasible and operational global strategy on ageing for the 1990s was proposed at the third ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing in 1989 and subsequently given priority by the Assembly at its forty-fifth session (resolution 45/106) and by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9). Following on these, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna is eliciting the views and support of Member States, non-governmental organizations, individual experts and practitioners in developing the operational strategy. Several studies and meetings are planned for 1991 and 1992, and will focus on developing the strategy, whose core element lies in identifying targets on ageing and the means of reaching them by the year 2001.

15. Initial consultations have identified a preliminary list of 10 global targets (see annex). The preliminary targets were developed mainly on the

basis of consultations held at the ad hoc working group of the thirty-second session of the Commission for Social Development and the fourth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing, held at Vienna earlier this year. The inter-agency meeting reviewed the targets and goals set by other United Nations agencies and bodies and concluded that two basic approaches were possible for ageing, a technical and a promotional one. The technical approach, such as that taken by the European regional office of the World Health Organization for achieving its goal of Health for All by the Year 2000, would require several years and considerable financial resources to develop. It would yield precise indicators to quantify and record a changing situation within a time-frame. Such an approach would be suitable and feasible at the national level for Member States that have identified ageing as a priority. The promotional approach, in contrast, would aim principally at generating broad political support. Promotional targets would be suitable for generating activities in developing countries where, for the time being, priority must be given to establishing and strengthening the basic infrastructure, policies and programmes. Promotional targets would also be more manageable at the global level than technical targets, at least for the next decade. They could be developed more quickly than technical targets, and could be expected to promote broad cooperation between sectors as well as among and between developing and developed countries. The targets annexed to the present report might in time, and as experience is gained, form the basis of a set of more technical targets.

16. To facilitate consultations in 1991 and 1992 on target-setting, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs will issue two publications with an operational and practical focus: in 1991, the second edition of the World Ageing Situation and in 1992, the publication "Ageing: Programme recommendations at the national level for the year 2001". Both publications give special attention to the needs of developing and least developed countries.

17. The major and concluding consultation on target-setting is expected to be an interregional symposium of eminent persons tentatively planned to take place from 7 to 11 April 1992 at Yokohama, Japan, in cooperation with Japanese authorities, and the Japan Well-Aging Association. Japan, a country with a rapidly ageing population, is giving priority attention to measures for a society-wide adjustment to its demographic change and would serve as a suitable location for the final consultation on developing draft global targets before their submission to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. The proposed symposium of eminent persons would focus on two tasks: first, on critically examining and finalizing the draft global targets for subsequent submission to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session and, secondly, on identifying innovations and model programmes and projects for reaching selected targets that would be published in 1992.

18. Prior to and following on the proposed interregional symposium, the following meetings, to be held in cooperation with the United Nations, will also examine target-setting and related innovations and model programmes and projects: "Societies in change and transition: meeting the needs of elderly

people" at Vienna in July 1991, organized by HelpAge International; "Integration of ageing and elderly women into development" at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia in October 1991, organized by the American Association of Retired Persons; "The European senior citizen of the 1990s" in the autumn of 1991, organized by the Commission of the European Communities; "Home care policies, with special reference to the elderly: repercussions on social security schemes" at Paris in November 1991, organized by the International Social Security Association; "The quality of life of the elderly in a united Europe" at Bratislava in April 1992, organized by the European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly and the European Exchange Centre on Gerontology; "Changing status and emerging roles of the elderly in the twenty-first century" at Pune near Bombay, India, in August 1992, organized by the International Federation on Ageing in cooperation with the Government of India; "Population Ageing" at San Diego, California, in September 1992, organized by San Diego State University; "Celebrating the International Day for the Elderly and the tenth anniversary of World Assembly on Ageing" at Barcelona, Spain, in October 1992, organized by the International Federation of Organizations of the Elderly.

19. The non-governmental committees on ageing in New York and Vienna, representing over 60 international organizations of considerable diversity and expertise, are contributing to the evolution of the global strategy. So, too, are entities with special expertise, such as the International Social Security Association in the area of social security or the International Institute on Ageing in Malta, in the area of training.

20. Target-setting, together with the identification of related innovations and model programmes, the focus of attention during 1991 and 1992, is intended to serve as a catalyst for new thinking, better planning, courageous programming, effective cooperation, resourceful fund-raising, and practical training programmes in the 1990s. Once the selected targets will have been endorsed by the Assembly in 1992, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs will focus attention on developing cooperative strategies, including between the formal and informal sectors to support implementation of such targets, in accordance with each country's cultural and socio-economic conditions. It will use major global events to promote and publicize the targets and to mobilize cooperative action around them. Two major events will take place in 1993: the XV International Conference on Gerontology, Budapest, organized by the International Association of Gerontology and the European Year for the Elderly and Solidarity between the Generations, organized by the European Community. Two notable events in 1994 include the International Year of the Family, coordinated by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the International Conference on Population and Development organized by the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. In 1995, two notable events are the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year and an international conference on women, both organized by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. In 1997, the XVI International Conference on Gerontology will be held at Adelaide, Australia.

21. Well-defined targets would help not only to implement the Plan, but also to measure its implementation. Thus a few key indicators will be identified for each target and incorporated in the inquiry for the third quadrennial review of the implementation of the Plan to be sent to Member States in the spring of 1992. The third inquiry will be shorter than the first and second inquiries held in 1984 and 1988 in which 77 and 58 Member States participated, respectively. It is hoped that a shorter inquiry will facilitate universal participation. The Commission for Social Development will conduct the third review and appraisal at its thirty-third session, in 1993.

22. The fifth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing, immediately following the Commission in 1993, will consider, *inter alia*, implications for the United Nations system of the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, and system-wide programmes of cooperation for reaching selected targets on ageing by the year 2001. There is widespread interest in convening a two-day meeting after the inter-agency meeting for developing collaborative strategies between the United Nations system and major non-governmental organizations aimed at integrating ageing into mainstream development and into the major events planned for the 1990s.

IV. PROMOTING THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR AND THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELDERLY

23. This year, for the first time, 1 October will be celebrated as the International Day for the Elderly at United Nations offices around the world as well as by Member States and non-governmental organizations. Activities for 1 October 1991 will act as a prelude for 1992, the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Ageing. A compendium of the many activities and events is being planned as a means of promoting both occasions.

24. To mark the Day at United Nations Headquarters, the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the non-governmental committee on ageing in New York, plans an extended discussion and briefing entitled "Humanity comes of age". The programme will focus on challenges facing the United Nations programme on ageing, Governments and non-governmental organizations in implementing the Plan of Action in the decade ahead. Three themes will be explored: the elderly as a resource, the elderly in developing countries, and inter-generational cooperation. A brief review of cooperation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations on ageing since 1982 will be made. Tentative plans for celebrating 1 October 1992 include a two-day event featuring retired classical musicians; an art exhibition illustrating ageing through painting, sculpture and other means; presentation of inter-generational programmes and projects; illustration of the elderly as leaders in society; and poster and book displays. The Department will organize a Seniors' Week at United Nations Headquarters in both 1991 and 1992.

25. Planned observation of the International Day for the Elderly at the United Nations Office at Vienna includes a forum involving speakers from the Austrian Government and the local non-governmental committee on ageing. Film and slide shows, as well as a photographic and poster exhibit are planned. The event will be given radio and press coverage. The newly established Czechoslovak-based European Exchange Centre on Gerontology prepared a special poster for the event. The regional commissions of the United Nations are exploring the feasibility of collecting photographs of the elderly in their regions for promoting the Day in the years ahead. The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat is planning to mark the Day at selected United Nations information centres around the world.

26. Member States and non-governmental organizations throughout the world have expressed interest in marking the International Day for the Elderly, including by implementing selected activities suggested in the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond. The suggestions encompass, for example: (a) meetings, seminars and lectures on ageing; (b) exhibits, videotapes, radio and television programmes highlighting international cooperation on the question of ageing; (c) drawing, photographic, or writing competitions on themes such as grandparenthood, inter-generational family life, senior enterprise and the challenges and triumphs of ageing; (d) conferences on ageing in schools for youth to develop plans of action for life after 60; and (e) leading personalities to assume the role of ambassadors of the ageing. For example, the Japan Well-Aging Association with the support of the Ministry of Health and Welfare has launched a campaign for "invention, ideas and design" for the elderly which, at the time of writing, had elicited over 300 entries. The winning entries are to be announced on 1 October 1991.

27. Throughout the 1990s, the International Day for the Elderly offers an opportunity for examining issues of ageing, including those contained in the draft United Nations Principles for Older Persons. Once adopted, the Principles could be translated into national languages throughout the world, produced in a variety of poster formats, published in magazines and newspapers and used as the theme of radio, television, schools and community talks and discussions. Many organizations, including the International Federation on Ageing, have expressed interest in promoting the worldwide dissemination of the Principles.

28. Notable among the activities planned to mark 1992 is the decision of the General Assembly to commemorate the event in the plenary of its forty-seventh session (see resolution 43/93). The Assembly may decide to devote up to four plenary meetings to an international conference on ageing. A high-level preparatory committee could be established to ensure the maximum global and long-term impact from the event.

29. As lead agency for the anniversary year, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs launched its promotional activities by publishing in the Bulletin on Ageing (No. 1 1991), a short form of the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond. The short form of the action programme is essentially a "do-it-yourself" manual containing suggestions for

celebrating 1992 at the national level and project proposals for collaboration of the formal and informal sectors at the local level. It contains an international calendar of events updated in March 1991. The Bulletin was distributed throughout the world in English, French and Spanish.

30. In follow-up to the fourth ad hoc inter-agency meeting on ageing, the heads of United Nations specialized agencies and bodies concerned with ageing are being invited to issue statements on the international Day, the anniversary year, and their strategies on ageing for the decade 1992 to 2001.

31. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is collaborating with the United Nations Postal Administration to produce in Vienna a United Nations commemorative stamp on ageing. It is exploring with other offices of the Secretariat the possibility of issuing a United Nations medal for the decade 1992 to 2001.

32. The Department of Public Information is planning a range of activities for 1992. At the time of writing, the Department was planning to issue a booklet on the action programme on ageing for 1992 and beyond, feature articles and public service announcements, a short documentary film, and highlights on ageing in the television magazine "UN in Action".

33. A number of posters and calendars are being planned. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is exploring the feasibility of producing in Vienna a calendar for 1992 with photographs of the elderly in all world regions. It is cooperating with the Department of Public Information in efforts to launch a global poster competition in which United Nations information centres would play a major role. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements plans to produce a poster. The Statistical Office of the United Nations plans to produce a statistical wall chart. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women is preparing an information kit and video on elderly women. As well, the International Labour Organisation and the International Social Security Association intend to devote special issues of their newsletters or journals to the question of ageing as it relates to labour and social security issues.

34. As the anniversary Year approaches, Member States, specialized agencies and bodies and major non-governmental organizations make interesting proposals for the Year and the decade. An Olympics for the elderly has been suggested by a Member State, an international and a national non-governmental organization. The International Federation of Organizations of the Elderly has established "1992 Committees" from among its 100 million members, and launched a survey of the needs, concerns and aspirations of the elderly to be completed in 1992. The International Council of Nurses is preparing an information kit on "Health in Ageing" for 1992 for circulation among national member associations in 106 countries encompassing over a million nurses, most of whom are in developing countries. The European Community plans a series of activities which would simultaneously mark the tenth anniversary as well as its own preparations for 1993, the European Year of the Elderly and Solidarity between the Generations.

V. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

35. New and continuing initiatives in development cooperation at the present time encompass resource mobilization, institution strengthening, research, training, publications, and technical cooperation.
36. In the context of new approaches to international fund-raising in the field, an initiative of the Secretariat and a group of eminent persons came to fruition with the establishment of The Banyan Fund Association: A World Fund for Ageing, in May 1991. The main goal of the Banyan Fund is to promote activities which would enable the elderly to remain independent and contribute to society in the context of the International Plan of Action on Ageing. To that effect, the Banyan Fund will serve to secure or broker funds from corporations, foundations, charitable bodies and individuals, and allocate them for specific projects and programmes on ageing, especially in the developing countries.
37. The Banyan Fund is located in France and incorporated as a private non-profit association under French law. Its statutes provide for its conversion into a foundation when it is able to accumulate the equity capital required by French law. It will then be known as The Banyan Foundation.
38. Though autonomous and private, the Banyan Fund is under the patronage of the United Nations, in accordance with the mandates in General Assembly resolution 44/67 and 45/106. The relationship between the Banyan Fund and the United Nations is governed by the special Relationship Agreement which was signed by the President of the Banyan Fund Board and the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna on 3 May 1991. The working relationship between the Fund and the United Nations Office at Vienna is supervised by a Joint Coordinating Committee of eight members: four from the Banyan Fund Board, and four from the United Nations, including the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna who chairs the Committee.
39. In response to the Assembly's requests (resolutions 45/106, 44/67, 43/93) to support the establishment of an African Society of Gerontology, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs will invite experts from the newly established Society to participate in the development of the global strategy on ageing for the years 1992 to 2001, and will elaborate a programme of cooperation with the Society as a means of strengthening and integrating it into global activities in the decade 1992 to 2001.
40. Efforts are under way to establish a technical cooperation network in response to the General Assembly's request, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 44/67, to the major international non-governmental organizations and donor countries to join the United Nations system in establishing a technical cooperation network that would design and support the implementation of series of straightforward self-help projects by the elderly in order to bridge the gap between major funding entities and local self-help initiatives, as well as the gap between globally espoused standards and the real living conditions of the elderly. The nucleus of the network would be established

during an interregional training seminar now under consideration, subject to availability of resources. The seminar would train representatives of Government-appointed national mechanisms on ageing and non-governmental organizations in developing and least developed countries in project formulation, implementation, evaluation and funding.

41. The proposed technical cooperation network could, as well, include retired volunteer experts. A service of senior experts, modelled on the United Nations Volunteers, if established, could become an integral part of the technical cooperation network. Draft resolution VI of the Commission for Social Development, submitted to the Assembly for adoption, "Invites the United Nations to examine the feasibility of launching a service composed of experts who are seniors, modelled on the United Nations Volunteers" (E/1991/26-E/CN.5/1991/9).

42. An applied research and training project entitled "Developmental Implications of Demographic Change: Global Population Ageing", which the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is implementing, could further support the emergence of a technical cooperation network. The main funding for this research project comes from the United Nations Population Fund, with co-financing from the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development and the United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing as well as from two non-governmental organizations, HelpAge International and the St. Clares Riverside Medical Center, New Jersey. The aim of the project is to identify the specific developmental implications of population ageing, assess the contributions of the elderly to development, and suggest policy options to enhance these contributions. This is being accomplished through a research programme over two years which synthesizes disparate secondary data and collects primary data in eight developing countries. The first phase of the project, covering four countries in the Latin American, Caribbean and Asian and Pacific regions - Chile, the Dominican Republic, Sri Lanka and Thailand - is now under way. Research protocols have been designed, a common survey instrument allowing for cross-national comparison developed, and national research teams assembled and trained. Based upon random, nationally representative samples, surveys are currently proceeding in the four host countries. The second phase of the project will use the common survey instrument for four further country studies in Africa and Western Asia. When completed, the project will provide an empirical basis for policy development in developing countries that are confronted with the ageing of their populations.

43. Other current research on ageing by the United Nations system is focused on (a) ageing policies and programmes being conducted by the United Nations regional commissions; (b) determinants of healthy ageing, epidemiology, immunology, nutrition, osteoporosis, and age-related dementias being conducted by the Research Programme on Ageing, World Health Organization (WHO); (c) small area planning, by WHO's Regional Office for Europe; (d) population ageing, old age security and social and economic policies, by ILO; (e) the elderly as agents in socio-economic programmes, by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in cooperation with

the European Inter-university Institute for Social Action; (f) curriculum development and student participation at Third Age Universities, by UNESCO in cooperation with the French Union of Third Age Universities; (g) preparation for retirement, by UNESCO in cooperation with the French National Foundation of Gerontology.

44. A demographic statistics database system is being developed to increase the availability and effective use of demographic and social statistics including on ageing by the Statistical Office of the United Nations. Advisory services to developing countries in collecting, organizing, analysing and using basic information vital to national social and economic development including with regard to population ageing is provided by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, in cooperation with the Statistical Office. A computerized information system is being set up to provide access to a database on pension legislation and similar social security enactments concerning the aged by ILO. Statistics and indicators for measuring various aspects of age structure will be reviewed at the fifth inter-agency meeting on ageing proposed for 1993.

45. Global training initiatives on ageing are being spearheaded by the International Institute on Ageing in Malta, in cooperation with specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system and a global network of gerontological institutes. The Director-General of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs chairs the Governing Board of the Institute. The Institute's wide range of current activities are aimed at fulfilling the training needs of developing countries in the field of ageing and include: curriculum development, course and in situ training, research, advisory services and publication of training materials. The Institute offers a postgraduate one-year diploma course in gerontology; short-term training courses in geriatrics and gerontology; training for physiotherapists, and training in income generation for the elderly in developing countries. The Institute will publish in 1991, and update in 1992, a global survey on training needs in service delivery systems to the elderly in developing countries. It is developing an advisory service on training in which context the first project will train senior researchers in Beijing in data collection, analysis and interpretation, report writing and policy formulation. It is conducting, in 1991-1992, research on population ageing in developing countries in collaboration with the Center on Ageing, San Diego State University. It is producing 16 country monographs on population ageing in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada (Quebec Province), China, Finland, France, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Poland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

46. Four important publications on ageing to be issued by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in 1991 and 1992, focusing special attention on the needs of planners and practitioners in developing countries, include The World Ageing Situation (second edition); Ageing: Programme recommendations at the national level for the year 2001; Technical Guidelines on the Participation of the Elderly in Development; and Guide to reaching selected targets on ageing by the year 2001. A fifth publication, the

Profiles of National Coordinating Mechanisms on Ageing will contain information on Government-appointed national focal points on ageing in 93 countries.

47. The Statistical Office of the United Nations plans to publish in 1993 the 1991 Demographic Yearbook with a special supplement on ageing. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements is preparing "Guidelines for improving the housing and living conditions of the elderly and the disabled in human settlements management and development". The International Institute on Ageing in Malta intends to publish training manuals. Two publications on elderly women are under preparation: a handbook of model programmes around the world serving mid-life and older women by the International Federation on Ageing and the American Association of Retired Persons in cooperation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, and a manual on improving concepts and methods for statistics and indicators on the situation of elderly women by the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. Reports, studies and articles on ageing are being prepared throughout the United Nations system for publication in the years 1991 and 1992.

48. In response to requests from the Governments of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guinea, Indonesia and Togo, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development, in cooperation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, provided advisory services on ageing policies and programmes during 1990 and 1991 in those countries.

49. The United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing supported eight projects in 1989 and 1990 including two at the national level funded by earmarked contributions from Germany: a pilot project on integrated services to the rural elderly in cooperation with the Government of India; and assistance to the aged in cooperation with the Anglican Church of Uganda. Three training courses were supported, in cooperation with the International Institute on Ageing in Malta, encompassing social gerontology, geriatrics and income security for the elderly in developing countries. Two meetings were supported: a Seminar on Ageing and Development in cooperation with the Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Government of Malaysia; and, the International Conference on Population Ageing in the Context of the Family in cooperation with the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Government of Japan. A research project on development implications of demographic change was supported in cooperation with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Since it became operational in 1983, the Fund has disbursed over \$1 million in seed-money grants to 42 projects. Table 1 shows the distribution of grants from the Trust Fund by region since January 1983, and table 2 by subject area.

UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR AGEING
1989-1990

Table 1. Distribution of grants by region

Region	United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing 1989-1990			
	Number of projects supported		Value of grants (United States dollars)	
	1983-1988	1989-1990	1983-1988	1989-1990
Africa (RAF)	9	1	211 636	23 400
Asian and the Pacific (RAS)	3	1	37 800	43 300
Latin America and the Caribbean (RLA)	10	-	416 500	-
Western Asia (RWA)	2	-	23 000	-
Interregional/Global (INT/GLO)	10	6	196 680	76 000
TOTAL	34	8	885 616	142 700

Table 2. Distribution of grants by subject areas

Area	United Nations Trust Fund for Ageing 1989-1990			
	Number of projects supported		Value of grants (United States dollars)	
	1983-1988	1989-1990	1983-1988	1989-1990
Training	8	4	234 800	44 000
Data collection and research	8	1	283 900	20 000
Exchange of technical expertise	11	1	256 616	12 000
Support to organizations of or for elderly	5	2	101 200	66 700
Cooperation on ageing policies and programmes	2	-	9 100	-
TOTAL	34	8	885 616	142 700

50. Contributions to the Fund, which reached a peak in connection with the 1982 World Assembly on Ageing, have been levelling off and are inadequate to fulfil the Fund's mandate to assist developing countries in responding to the ageing of their populations. Each year in its resolutions on ageing, the Assembly has urged more generous support for the Fund. Despite such appeals, contributions have remained low. To supplement the Trust Fund as well as the limited Regular Budget funds, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs has had to resort to innovative ways of tapping human and financial resources. The ever increasing mandates from Member States compound the situation and suggest an urgent need for joint ventures, including with interested Governments, as the only viable course of action over the next few years.

Notes

1/ See Report of the World Assembly on Ageing, Vienna, 20 July to 6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16, chap. VI, sect. A).

ANNEX

Preliminary draft global targets on ageing for the decade 1992
to 2001 based on the International Plan of Action on Ageing

1. A set of global targets on ageing to be reached by the year 2001 should serve to generate wide support for a selected number of activities of a catalytic nature. They would be implemented at the national level in accordance with each country's cultural values, stage of development and state of population ageing.
2. A set of 10 preliminary global targets have been identified to date, and are given below. They span the full range of the International Plan of Action on Ageing. Activities to promote the 18 recommendations emanating from the second review and appraisal of the Plan of Action (E/1989/13) and the 18 draft United Nations Principles for Older Persons could be clustered conveniently under one or more of the 10 targets. Consultations will continue throughout 1991 and in the early part of 1992 on the preliminary global targets, to examine their suitability and identify ways of reaching them. A set of final draft global targets will be submitted to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session for possible endorsement. Upon their endorsement by the Assembly, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna would promote and coordinate programmes and projects for reaching them.
3. The two most challenging dimensions of target-setting will be first, achieving consensus on a limited number of targets, for, to be manageable, they should not replicate the full scope of the Plan of Action and, secondly, identifying the necessary resources and means of reaching them.
4. Each target should be accompanied by a time-frame for implementation as well as a series of operational steps which would state, for example:
(a) purpose; (b) current situation; (c) a lead agency and cooperating agencies; (d) data collection and research needs; (e) strategies for disseminating information and for education; (f) specific training courses; (g) essential institutional infrastructure (and obstructing institutional barriers); (h) funding needs, and possible fund-raising initiatives; (i) a list of related innovative model programmes and projects from all world regions (from a compendium to be published separately).
5. The preliminary draft global targets are as follows:
 - (a) Integrate the question of ageing in the relevant major events and meetings of the 1990s to promote a broad understanding of the ageing of populations: its implications for national, community and family life;
 - (b) Integrate ageing in mainstream development in the 1990s to ensure support for developing countries in adjusting their institutions, policies and programmes to the ageing of their populations;

(c) Develop and promote cooperation across sectors, especially in small areas with particular emphasis on the formal and informal health and social sectors;

(d) Establish a network of regional and subregional training and research centres, based on existing institutes, which would support national training needs and ensure that all training centres and institutions for the caring professions will include a short-term module on gerontology/geriatrics by 1997, and will offer an accredited course in gerontology/geriatrics by 2001;

(e) Establish a global corps of senior volunteers for development, based on existing groups and organizations;

(f) Develop and promote appropriate standards, design and technologies for institutional and independent living by the elderly;

(g) Review existing social security systems and determine feasible options for countries in development and transition;

(h) Develop and promote programmes to support family and social networks and to maintain integration of the elderly in their communities;

(i) Develop and promote educational programmes in preparation for old age encompassing health, social, economic and legislative matters;

(j) Develop and promote opportunities and choices for the elderly in training, generating income, education and community services.
