

1987/42. Need to enhance international co-operation in protection of and assistance for the family

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of the resolve of the peoples of the United Nations to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, with a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being, which are necessary for peaceful and friendly relations between nations,

"Recalling that according to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,¹ the widest possible protection and assistance should be accorded to the family, which is the natural and fundamental group unit of society,

"Recalling also the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,⁴⁴ which provides that the family, as a basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children and youth, should be assisted and protected so that it may fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

"Convinced of the urgency of meeting the diverse needs of the family, both as a beneficiary and as an active participant in the development process,

"Recognizing the necessity of consolidating the efforts of all States in carrying out specific programmes concerning the family in which the United Nations may have an important role to play,

"Aware of the international consensus on the importance of the role of the family as an agent of positive change in society,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/23 of 26 May 1983 and 1985/29 of 29 May 1985,

"Convinced that appropriate measures should be taken to mobilize efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels on behalf of the family,

"Recalling in this connection its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning the guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

"1. Invites all States to make their views known concerning the possible proclamation of an international year of the family and to offer their comments and proposals thereon to the Secretary-General before 30 April 1988;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-third session a comprehensive report, based on the comments and proposals of Member States on the possible proclamation of such a year and other ways and means to improve the position and well-being of the family and intensify international co-operation as part of the global effort to advance social progress and development;

"3. Decides to consider that report as a matter of high priority, and to take appropriate decisions on it at its forty-third session, under an item of the provisional agenda entitled 'Families in the development process'."

*17th plenary meeting
28 May 1987*

1987/43. United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and 37/53 of 3 December 1982, by which, *inter alia*, it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 39/26 of 23 November 1984, by which the Secretary-General was requested to convene in 1987 a meeting of experts, consisting largely of disabled persons, to help the General Assembly at its forty-second session to evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action,

Recalling that the review of the World Programme of Action includes a review of the Vienna Affirmative Action Plan adopted by the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons,⁵⁶

Welcoming the offer of the Government of Sweden to act as host in 1987 to the above-mentioned meeting of experts, in conformity with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 39/26, and noting with appreciation the status of the preparations for that meeting,

Mindful that the principles of full participation and equality emphasized in the World Programme of Action call for disabled persons to be fully responsible for their own development, and that the most important criteria for evaluating the implementation of the World Programme of Action are suggested by the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, "Full participation and equality",

Affirming that well-functioning social security schemes often form one of the important pre-conditions for the introduction of de-institutionalization and independent living of persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the importance of disability prevention, stressed in the World Programme of Action, and of the principle of equalization of opportunities—that is, that the services and facilities of society should be made accessible and open to all people, including those with disabilities,

Noting with appreciation the progress made in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,

1. *Urges* the Secretary-General to take all measures within existing resources to enable the meeting of experts called for in General Assembly resolution 39/26 to evaluate progress at the mid-point of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, so that priority areas can be identified and effective international action can be launched to help translate into practice the concepts of full participation and equalization of opportunities for disabled persons;

2. *Calls upon* Member States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to exert all possible efforts for the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and to stimulate efforts at all levels within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons;

⁵⁶ IYDP/SYMP/L.2/Rev.1.