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WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING
Report of the Secretary-General

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REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present progress report is prepared in compliance with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 35/129 of 11 December 1980 in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a progress report on the preparations for the World Assembly on Aging, including the report of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging.
2. In that resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed its resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978, in which it decided to convene a World Assembly on the Elderly in 1982 and adopted the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council contained in its resolution 1980/26 by which, inter alia, the Assembly decided to establish an advisory committee for the World Assembly and requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to prepare a draft international plan of action on aging. In its resolution 35/129, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to change the name of the World Assembly on the Elderly to the World Assembly on Aging in view of the interrelatedness of the issues of aging individuals and the aging of populations, as defined by the Secretary-General's programme. It requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the World Assembly on Aging and to inform Member States of the existence of the fund and to invite Member States to consider establishing national committees for the World Assembly and to conduct preparatory activities at the national level.
3. The present report should be read in conjunction with the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the elderly and the aged (A/36/70).
4. The Secretary-General, in accordance with the request of the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1980/26 of 2 May 1980, has appointed a Secretary-General for the World Assembly on Aging, Mr. William Kerrigan, from outside the United Nations.
5. The Chairman of the Third Committee of the General Assembly informed the Secretary-General (A/35/806 and Add.1) that he had designated the following 22 Member States as members of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging, after consultation with different regional groups, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution: Benin, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Togo, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America and Venezuela. The Advisory Committee met from 17 to 21 August 1981 at Vienna, and its report is annexed to the present report.

II. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

6. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 35/129, the Secretary-General issued three aide-mémoires to Member States. The first requested their ideas and suggestions for the draft international plan of action on aging. The second informed Member States of the General Assembly's decision to invite them to consider establishing national committees for the World Assembly and requested them

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to provide the Secretary-General with information on the establishment of such national committees and, in due course, on activities being conducted at the national level in preparation for the World Assembly on Aging. The third aide-mémoire informed Member States that the Secretary-General had established a Trust Fund for the World Assembly and appealed to them to make voluntary contributions to this fund, in order to ensure effective preparatory and follow-up activities for the World Assembly.

7. In response to the aide-mémoire concerning suggestions for the International Plan of Action on aging, the Secretary-General has, to date, received replies from the following 17 Member States: Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations also replied to the aide-mémoire. The comments and suggestions of Member States will be taken into account when preparing the draft plan of action on aging for the consideration of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging. The Governments of Finland, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uganda have acknowledged receipt of the aide-mémoire. Ideas and suggestions for the draft international plan of action on aging have also been contributed by the International Labour Office, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as well as by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA).

8. With regard to his request for information on the establishment of national committees for the World Assembly on Aging, the Secretary-General has received information from 14 Member States regarding the creation of national committees or other similar bodies. Those Member States which established specific committees for the World Assembly on Aging are: Brazil, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of San Marino, Sweden, United Republic of Tanzania and United Kingdom. In addition the Secretary-General has been informed by the Government of Japan that although there is not, at this time, a specific national committee for the World Assembly, there is a Headquarters for Co-ordinating Policies on the Elderly in the Prime Minister's Office which will co-ordinate Japan's input to the World Assembly. He was also notified by the Government of Denmark that it has established a planning group within the Ministry of Social Affairs which is to take initiatives that may contribute to information and discussion about the aging and their living conditions in society. This planning group will contribute to the elaboration of the documentation for the World Assembly on Aging. The Government of Burma also responded to the Secretary-General's aide-mémoire and noted that, while there will be no national committee for the World Assembly in Burma the functions relating to the welfare of the aged were carried out as part of the Government's social welfare programmes.

9. Many of the Member States which have established national committees indicated that these committees were comprised of governmental and non-governmental

organizations and in some cases representatives of organizations of older people. As suggested by the Secretary-General in his programme for the World Assembly on Aging, the committees are carrying out activities at the national level which are in conformity with the culture and traditions of their country and which support the objectives of the World Assembly on Aging. In addition, they are collecting information on the conditions and needs of the aging as well as on national policies on aging for the preparation of national reports for the World Assembly on Aging itself and for the international exchange of information.

10. With regard to the Trust Fund for the World Assembly, the Secretary-General has so far received two contributions. One was from the Government of the United States of America in the amount of \$250,000, and one from the Government of Sweden in the amount of \$5,000.

11. In resolutions 35/129 and 1980/26, respectively, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council had recommended that the regional commissions should give the fullest possible co-operation to the Secretary-General in the preparations for the World Assembly and should convene regional intergovernmental meetings in order to promote national and regional activities in the field of aging. To date, the Governments of Costa Rica and the Philippines have offered to host the regional policy-makers meetings for the region of Latin America and Asia and the Pacific, respectively. The Asia and the Pacific regional meeting is scheduled to take place from 19 to 23 October 1981, and the Latin American meeting is tentatively scheduled for 30 November to 4 December 1981. The Government of Nigeria has also indicated its interest in hosting the African regional meeting, and negotiations are under way regarding the convening of a similar meeting for Western Asia. In addition, the Government of Austria has offered to host the regional intergovernmental meeting for Europe which will take place in Vienna in January 1982.

12. Public information activities in 1981, based on the report of the Secretary-General to the thirty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/35/130 and Add.1), have included the holding of a competition to find a suitable logo design for the World Assembly, the printing and distribution of several pertinent features, and the granting of fellowships to journalists from developing countries to cover the two regional preparatory meetings being held in 1981. The production of a film concerning the issues of aging is also under way and is expected to be completed early next year. An Information Officer has been designated to carry out the information programme.

13. In response to General Assembly resolution 34/153, in which the Assembly requested the specialized agencies to co-ordinate their activities in the field of aging with the United Nations, particularly in view of the need for well-co-ordinated activities prior to, during, and after the World Assembly on Aging, a second ad hoc interagency meeting on aging was held, within the framework of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, from 27 to 29 April in Vienna. The major purpose of this meeting was to review and co-ordinate each agency's activities in the field of aging in preparation for the World Assembly, including their contributions to the documentation for the World Assembly.

14. The International Labour Office is preparing documents on the following topics:
- (a) The difficulties of older workers in the last years of their working life;
 - (b) Access to retirement: flexibility from working life to freedom of activity;
 - (c) Income maintenance and social protection of the older person.
15. FAO will contribute a technical discussion paper on the question of aging populations in rural areas.
16. UNESCO is currently undertaking a survey of educational opportunities offered to old people and the use made in education systems of the knowledge and skills of persons in this age group. The information collected on these topics will be used for a document on education and the elderly for the World Assembly.
17. WHO is convening conferences and seminars to assist in its preparation for the World Assembly. An important development is that World Health Day, 7 April 1982, will be devoted to the theme "Health of the Elderly". WHO is committed to preparing a paper on health for the elderly and is also planning to submit contributions to several of the other sectoral technical papers.
18. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will prepare a document on "The Older Refugee" and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East indicated its interest in this paper and is co-ordinating its input to the World Assembly with UNHCR.
19. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Development Programme have also indicated their interest in the World Assembly. The former has contributed financially to the preparatory work for the World Assembly, including the financing of the regional technical meetings on aging for the developing regions.
20. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on the question of the elderly and the aged (A/36/70), the international non-governmental organizations concerned with the question of aging have co-operated fully in the preparatory work for the World Assembly. In addition to contributing ideas and suggestions for the international plan of action, and conducting activities at the local and national levels in support of the World Assembly on Aging, the non-governmental organizations have decided to hold a World Forum of Non-governmental Organizations for the World Assembly on Aging. The theme of this Forum is "The Social and Economic Integration and Participation of the Aging". It will take place in Vienna from 29 March to 2 April 1982.
21. The goals and objectives of the Forum are to represent the concerns and interests of older persons at the World Assembly on Aging; to assess the humanitarian and developmental issues and concerns arising from the aging of individuals and societies in both developing and developed regions of the world; to assess and recommend the special contributions and roles of older persons to

development and their sharing in the benefits of such development; to bring the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum to Governments and policy makers through the World Assembly on Aging; to determine the role and responsibilities of non-governmental organizations in assisting Governments and international organizations in implementing the plan of action resulting from the World Assembly on Aging.

22. The Secretary-General had proposed to the Advisory Committee that it recommend to the General Assembly for approval the following draft provisional agenda for the World Assembly:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Allocation of items to the main committees and organization of work.
6. Election of officers other than the President.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. Aging and development: the humanitarian issues.
9. Aging and development: the developmental issues.
10. International plan of action on aging.
11. Consideration of a declaration on the rights of the aging.
12. Adoption of the report of the World Assembly.

23. The Advisory Committee, in its report, has recommended to the General Assembly that it should consolidate the provisional agenda. In particular, it suggested that items 1 to 7 should be consolidated into one agenda item, entitled "Organizational matters", and that the remaining items should be renumbered accordingly. The Advisory Committee decided "that further consideration was necessary before it was in a position to consider the draft provisional agenda for the World Assembly on Aging" (see annex, para. 45 (c)). The General Assembly may wish to consider this matter, taking into account the fact that the World Assembly on Aging is scheduled to be held from 26 July to 6 August 1982, prior, therefore, to the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

24. Progress is continuing in the preparation of the documentation to be submitted to the World Assembly. The two basic global documents, on developmental issues and on humanitarian issues, will be submitted to the panel of experts scheduled to meet in November in Vienna. The Advisory Committee considered the documentation to be prepared for the World Assembly and made certain recommendations concerning the documentation for the Assembly. An account of its discussion can be found in its report (see annex, paras. 28-46).

ANNEX

Report of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging

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II. DOCUMENTATION BEFORE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT ITS FIRST SESSION
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

21 August 1981

Sir,

On behalf of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging, which held its first session at Vienna from 17 to 21 August 1981, I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Advisory Committee prepared pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 35/129 of 11 December 1980.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) A. H. B. DE BONO
Chairman
of the Advisory Committee for
the World Assembly on Aging

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

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

1. the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging was convened at the Vienna International Centre from 17 to 21 August 1981, during which it held six meetings.
2. Mrs. Leticia Shahani, Assistant Secretary-General of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, addressed and opened the first session of the Advisory Committee on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Assistant Secretary-General briefly reported to the Committee on the preparations already carried out by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in preparation for the World Assembly on Aging. In explaining the mandate and why it placed great importance on the issues of aging in general and on the World Assembly, she noted that the Centre's programme content, including aging, reflected international concern for human-oriented development as outlined in the International Development Strategy for the third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex).
3. In his opening address to the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging, Mr. William Kerrigan, the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging noted that the most significant discussions on the question of aging had been held by the General Assembly in 1978, when it decided in its resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978 to convene a World Assembly on Aging in 1982. In order to alleviate some of the financial restraints that might prevail in dealing with problems of the aging, he suggested the increased use of voluntary agencies or non-governmental organizations. He also noted that the number of the aging in the developing countries might increase at a much faster rate and sooner than currently anticipated and that, therefore, the question of aging populations should be of as much concern to developing countries as it was to developed countries.

B. Attendance

4. The session was attended by the following 16 States members of the Advisory Committee:

Byelorussian Soviet
Socialist Republic
Chile
France
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Japan
Lebanon

Malta
Nigeria
Philippines
Spain
Sweden
Suriname
Union of Soviet Socialist
Republics
United States of America

5. The following Member States which are not members of the Committee were represented by observers:

Australia	Greece
Austria	Oman
Brazil	Peru
Canada	Romania
China	United Arab Emirates
Cuba	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Germany, Federal Republic of	

One observer from a non-member State, Switzerland, also attended.

6. The following specialized agencies were represented:

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization

7. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Latin America
Economic Commission for Western Asia

8. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

Bahá'i International Community
European Insurance Committee
International Alliance of Women
International Association of Schools of Social Work
International Council of Women
International Federation of Children's Communities
International Federation of Margarine Associations
International Federation on Aging
International Organization of Consumers Unions
International Research Institute for Immigration and Emigration Policies
International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technicians
United Towns Organizations
World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

C. Election of officers

9. At its 1st meeting, on 17 August, the Advisory Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. A. H. B. de Bono (Malta)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. R. Akamatsu (Japan)

Mr. M. Lantzev (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

Ms. O. O. Obafemi (Nigeria)

Rapporteur: Mr. L. J. Henar (Suriname)

D. Agenda and other organizational matters

10. At the same meeting, the Advisory Committee considered and adopted the provisional agenda, which read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Preparations for and proposed organization of the World Assembly on Aging.
4. Draft international plan of action on aging.
5. Adoption of the report of the Advisory Committee.

11. At its 4th meeting, on 18 August, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group.

E. Administrative and financial implications

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that a statement of the administrative and financial implications of its recommendations would be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

F. Provisional agenda for the proposed second session

13. The Committee, at its 5th meeting, on 20 August, decided to include in the provisional agenda for its proposed second session, an item on public information activities.

G. Documentation

14. the list of documents before the Advisory Committee is given in appendix II to the present report.

H. Adoption of the report

15. The Advisory Committee considered and adopted its draft report (A/AC.208/L.4 and Add.1-3) at its 6th meeting, on 21 August.

II. PREPARATIONS FOR AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGING

(item 3)

16. The Advisory Committee discussed the preparations for and proposed organization of the World Assembly on Aging (agenda item 3) at its 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 17 and 18 August. In his introductory statement, the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging explained that the report on the subject had been divided into four major sections, dealing with the background and preparatory activities, the preparation of documentation for the World Assembly, the organization of the World Assembly, and the work of the Advisory Committee.

17. In connexion with the preparatory activities, he explained briefly what activities had been carried out in preparation for the World Assembly.

18. Concerning documentation, he explained that there would be two basic global documents, one on the humanitarian issues and one on the developmental issues. In addition, there would be discussion papers on the major subtopics to be dealt with at the World Assembly, several of which would be prepared by the specialized agencies concerned. Furthermore, there would be a report on the regional intergovernmental meetings and a paper on the activities undertaken by the United Nations system in the field of aging. The draft international plan of action on aging and a declaration on the rights of the aging, if it were decided to include such a declaration for the World Assembly, would be of special importance.

19. With respect to the organization of the World Assembly, the Secretary-General briefly covered participation in the Assembly, the proposed provisional agenda, and the desirability of holding pre-conference consultations in order to reach agreement on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with on the opening day of the Conference. He also suggested that the Advisory Committee might wish to convene a second session as early as possible in 1982 to consider and approve a draft international plan of action on aging and the text of a draft declaration on the rights of the aging, if so decided, and to approve the final organizational arrangements for the World Assembly. The need for the establishment of a post in Vienna for a public information officer was also noted.

20. The Secretary-General indicated that regional intergovernmental meetings were also planned in preparation for the World Assembly. The Asia and Pacific regional meeting would take place at Manila, at the invitation of the Government of the Philippines, from 19 to 23 October 1981. The Latin American regional meeting was tentatively scheduled to take place in Costa Rica, at the invitation of the Government of Costa Rica, from 30 November to 4 December 1981. The European regional meeting would take place at Vienna, at the invitation of the Government of Austria, from 25 to 29 January 1982. The African regional intergovernmental meeting was tentatively scheduled to take place in Nigeria, at the invitation of the Government of Nigeria, early in 1982. A date had not yet been set for the meeting for the Western Asia region, but it was tentatively scheduled for early 1982.

21. The Secretary-General then proceeded to describe the proposed structure of the World Assembly, as well as the future work of the Advisory Committee.

22. Following the statement of the Secretary-General, the representative of the Division of Economic and Social Information of the Department of Public Information made a statement on the Division's role in supporting the preparatory activities for the World Assembly on Aging. It was stated that the Division's first priority, as mandated by the General Assembly, was to find a suitable logo which captured the aims and themes of the World Assembly. To date, in response to informal announcements and publicizing of the logo question through United Nations information centres throughout the world, numerous contributions had been made to the logo contest and a final decision on the matter would be made in due course.

23. Additionally, the Division was producing "core" material on the World Assembly on Aging, which would be distributed in the official languages of the United Nations throughout the world. The "core" material included fact sheets, newsletters, background information notes, brochures, press kits, posters, radio features, and film and television productions. An international photographic competition would also be organized by the Department of Public Information, in conjunction with the International Photographic Council, and the Division would, in conjunction with other divisions of the Department of Public Information, cover the World Assembly on Aging itself.

24. One fund-generating activity planned by the Division for 1982 was the staging of a benefit concert in New York at Radio City Music Hall with famous and popular performers who are themselves members of the aging population. The concert should promote public awareness of the issues of aging, as well as publicize the cultural, artistic and musical contributions of the aging. All proceeds from the concert would be donated to the Trust Fund of the World Assembly.

25. Finally, the representative of the Department of Public Information suggested that while the General Assembly had approved a budget for 1981 information activities, additional funds would be needed for 1982 and follow-up activities of the World Assembly on Aging. Furthermore, it had been suggested that the Advisory Committee might wish to recommend that an information post should be established at Vienna where the secretariat of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs/World Assembly on Aging was located.

26. During the ensuing discussions, several delegations, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations, expressed their appreciation to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs for all the work thus far carried out in preparation for the World Assembly. It was then suggested that the reports of the regional technical meetings on aging, as well as the reports of the interagency meetings on aging, should be made available in their original languages to interested delegations in the Advisory Committee.

27. With regard to the documentation for the World Assembly, it was emphasized that steps should be taken to ensure that the two introductory papers (see A/35/130, para. 46) were truly representative of the situation of the aging in both the developed and the developing countries. It was also the opinion of the Committee that the introductory papers should be brought to the attention of the Advisory Committee for its review and appraisal.

28. Within the context of documentation, some delegations expressed their support of the concept of a declaration on the rights of the aging. There was, however, considerable discussion on the desirability of separating the rights of the aging from the rights of others. Furthermore, it was emphasized by some representatives that there were considerable cultural, traditional and value differences in various societies and that a specific declaration, in addition to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, might not be necessary or desirable. One representative suggested incorporating the objectives in a preamble to the international plan of action.

29. In conclusion, it was the opinion of the Committee that a decision on the question should be deferred until the next session of the Advisory Committee; in the meantime, it requested the Secretariat to prepare a brief paper on the question. After reviewing that document, the Committee would then decide on the desirability of presenting such a possible declaration to the World Assembly on Aging.

30. In the context of the organization of the World Assembly on Aging itself, one representative stressed the view that the delegations at the World Assembly should consist not only of national experts at the policy-making level but also of older persons themselves. Member States should be encouraged to include in their delegations to the World Assembly representatives of national organizations of the elderly.

31. With regard to the proposed agenda for the World Assembly, there were two suggestions. One representative suggested that agenda items 8 and 9, namely "Aging and development: the humanitarian issues", and "Aging and development: the developmental issues", should be expanded to include the subtopics indicated in the Secretary-General's programme for the World Assembly (A/35/130). It was also suggested that an additional subtopic on employment should be included under the humanitarian issues.

32. Another representative stressed the view that the draft provisional agenda should be consolidated so as to diminish the importance of organizational matters and highlight the substantive items. Consequently, it was suggested that items 1 to 7 should be combined into one item entitled "Organizational matters" and that the remaining items should be renumbered.
33. The Committee then discussed the organization of the World Assembly on Aging itself. They noted that in paragraph 47 of the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for and proposed organization of the World Assembly (A/AC.208/2), the Secretary-General had proposed that the World Assembly should be organized so as to allow the plenary and two committees to meet simultaneously.
34. Several representatives expressed reservations on the division of work of the two main committees. It was suggested that the actual division of work should be examined in detail at a later meeting of the Advisory Committee.
35. In that respect, it was suggested that the Secretariat might wish to consider developing three or four options regarding the division of tasks of the main committees for consideration at the next session of the Advisory Committee.
36. It was also the opinion of the Advisory Committee that there was a pressing need for two more meetings of the Advisory Committee; one to examine the basic documents for the World Assembly on Aging and the other to make the final comments on the draft plan of action, as well as the final organizational arrangements for the World Assembly.
37. In that connexion, the Secretary of the Committee drew to the attention of the Advisory Committee the financial implications of the above-mentioned suggestions. She indicated that, should the Advisory Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the World Assembly be organized with a plenary and two committees, all meeting simultaneously, additional conference service requirements would arise. She recalled that in the statement on administrative and financial implications of proposals and arrangements for the World Assembly (A/35/130/Add.1), conference servicing requirements for the convening of the World Assembly had been estimated at \$US 651,800. The estimate had been based upon the assumption that the Assembly would not hold more than two simultaneous meetings. The proposal for three simultaneous meetings would give rise to additional financial implications of \$US 134,600. Consequently, the total conference servicing costs for convening the World Assembly in three simultaneous meetings would be \$US 786,400. The Secretary emphasized that, at that stage, the estimate was necessarily of a preliminary nature and was subject to refinement on the basis of detailed estimates of documentation requirements, which would be submitted to the General Assembly in the context of the financial implications arising from any decision of the Assembly in respect of the report and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee.
38. The Secretary further indicated that, with respect to the proposal to convene a second and third session of the Advisory Committee in 1982, the Committee should be informed that each of the proposed sessions would give rise to additional requirements of approximately \$US 90,000 on a full cost basis. While provision was

indeed included in 1981 for two sessions of the Advisory Committee, there could be no question of the direct transfer of resources from that biennium (1980-1981) to the following biennium.

39. In accordance with established United Nations financial procedures, any savings arising would be surrendered at the close of the biennium. Additional requirements arising in respect of 1982 could only be provided for by a new appropriation of funds within the context of the programme budget for the biennium 1982-1983. The proposed scheduling of meetings in January and May of 1982 would be subject to the availability of conference services and of meeting rooms at that time and would require approval within the context of the General Assembly's consideration of the calendar of conferences for 1982.

40. Finally, the Secretary indicated that although, as indicated above, two sessions of the Advisory Committee had been scheduled for 1981, one of the sessions scheduled for March 1981 had been cancelled at a late stage owing to the absence of the full membership. The late cancellation of the meeting had had financial implications due to the irreversible contractual arrangements made prior to the cancellation of the meeting.

41. A further matter discussed by the Committee was the role of non-governmental organizations. Many representatives indicated the excellent contributions the non-governmental organizations had made on behalf of the elderly. Several delegations noted with appreciation the initiative of the non-governmental organization community to have a World Forum on Aging in March 1982 in preparation for the World Assembly. A few representatives indicated their support of an additional parallel meeting of non-governmental organizations, which could be held concurrently with the World Assembly on Aging itself, while others were of the opinion that a meeting of non-governmental organizations held concurrently with the World Assembly was undesirable and might lead to situations such as those encountered in the recent past. Some representatives suggested that one solution could be to encourage Governments to include non-governmental organizations in their delegations to the World Assembly.

42. Finally, the Committee discussed the desirability of having national reports at the World Assembly. It was noted that such reports could provide a wealth of information on the conditions and needs of the aging around the world and that Member States, therefore, should be strongly encouraged to submit national reports. It was also the opinion of the Committee that a uniform outline prepared by the secretariat for the reports could facilitate cross-national comparisons and exchanges. It was noted that the national reports should be submitted in one of the official languages of the United Nations and in a sufficient number of copies for distribution by the secretariat at the World Assembly itself. No financial allocation had been made by the United Nations for the translation or reproduction of such reports.

43. At its 5th meeting, on 20 August, the Committee discussed guidelines for the preparation of national reports, prepared by the secretariat in document A/EO.208/L.2, and approved them after the following changes: (a) under

"Humanitarian issues", two new points were added, one on employment and the other on participation in community activities and (b) in the section on policies and programmes for the aging, it was agreed that an additional area should be covered. This area would include information on the percentage of national budgetary allocations for programmes on aging, government administrative structures dealing with aging, co-operation between Governments and non-governmental organizations, and the establishment of national committees on aging.

44. It was agreed by the Committee that these guidelines should be brought to the attention of Governments.

45. After concluding the discussion on item 3, the Advisory Committee adopted the following recommendations:

(a) The Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging notes with appreciation the offer of the Government of Austria to act as host to the World Assembly on Aging and recommends that the General Assembly should accept this generous offer.

(b) The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should schedule two days of pre-conference meetings before the World Assembly on Aging, in order to reach agreement on all procedural and organizational matters to be dealt with on the opening day of the Assembly.

(c) The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should consolidate the prepared provisional agenda of the World Assembly, as set out in paragraph 40 of document A/AC.208/2. In particular, it is suggested that items 1 to 7 should be consolidated into one agenda item, entitled "Organizational matters" and that the remaining items should be renumbered accordingly. The Committee decided that further consideration was necessary before it was in a position to consider the draft provisional agenda for the World Assembly on Aging.

(d) The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should approve the holding of three simultaneous meetings (one plenary and two main committees) throughout the duration of the World Assembly on Aging.

(e) The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to convene two additional sessions of the Advisory Committee, one, if possible, from 1 to 5 February 1982 and the other, if possible, from 3 to 7 May 1982, in order to finalize the preparation arrangements and documentation of the World Assembly and the international plan of action.

46. In addition to the above recommendations, the Advisory Committee also decided to defer its consideration of the desirability of a draft declaration on the rights of the aging to a later session, when it would have before it a preliminary draft of such a declaration, prepared by the secretariat for its consideration. It also decided to discuss at a later session the division of work of the two main committees of the World Assembly.

47. The Committee decided to postpone the discussion of the rules of procedure for the World Assembly on Aging pending the results of the consideration of the standard rules of procedure for all United Nations conferences by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

III. DRAFT INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGING

48. The Advisory Committee discussed the draft international plan of action on aging (item 4) at its 2nd, 4th and 5th meetings on 17, 18 and 20 August. In his introductory statement, the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging stated that the conceptual framework before the Committee (A/AC.208/4) had been discussed, revised and approved at the ad hoc interagency meeting on aging, held in April 1981.

49. He pointed out that the document was limited to the conceptual framework of the international plan of action on aging, since inputs had not yet been received from all Member States and regional commissions and the secretariat was waiting for the advice and suggestions of the Advisory Committee before it actually drafted the plan.

50. He then explained that the conceptual framework for the plan envisaged, first of all, a foreword which would refer to other relevant international plans in order to avoid duplication and to complement and relate to them, and an introduction, which would present the factual background of the issues, as well as the current situation in the world. The following section, on principles and objectives, would delineate the guiding principles and objectives of the plan. It would be followed by a section on recommendations for action, which would elaborate what should be done at both the humanitarian and developmental levels. The emphasis would be placed on national policies and programmes, with training, data collection, and research serving as supplementary activities for policies and programmes and not as goals in themselves. Finally, the section on recommendations for implementation would elaborate the mechanisms for implementing the recommended action, at the national, regional and international levels.

51. Several representatives expressed the view that the international plan of action would be a crucial document if the World Assembly on Aging were truly to launch an international programme of action on aging. They indicated that the plan should provide guidelines for action at the international, regional and national levels. It was stressed by several representatives, however, that action at the national level was particularly crucial if the objectives of the World Assembly on Aging were to be met.

52. The necessity of recognizing the wide variations in the situation of the aging in various parts of the world was continually stressed. The importance of various cultural, religious and traditional values should not be ignored. It was also noted by many representatives that the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes on aging was the sovereign right of each State and should take into

account national objectives and needs. In that respect, because of the wide divergences in the situation of the aging in various societies, it was stressed that each country should decide upon its own strategy and identify its own targets and priorities within the plan.

53. Several representatives indicated that in order to implement successfully the international plan and better the conditions of all in society, including the aging, efforts should be made to strengthen peace and détente and to stop the arms race. In addition, one representative referring to the resolution of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on the economic and social consequences of disarmament adopted by the General Conference of ILO in 1981, indicated that, to implement the recommendations of the Plan, additional resources could be sought through disarmament.

54. Several representatives indicated their desire to see that the plan recognized the aging as a valuable and valued national resource and that it stressed the participation of the aging in the national development of their societies. One representative also stressed the view that the position and role of the aged in society, particularly as transmitters of cultural values, traditions and skills, should be highlighted.

55. In that connexion, the representative from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization expressed his Organization's opinion that the international plan of action should adequately reflect the role of the elderly as educators. Education should not be seen only as education for the elderly but also as education by the elderly.

56. It was also stressed that the question of aging, in many parts of the world, was largely of importance to women, as often the life expectancy of women was longer than that of men. In that respect, it was the opinion of the Committee that the question of older women should be adequately covered in the international plan of action.

57. The Executive Secretary of the World Assembly then indicated to the participants that, in addition to international and national inputs to the plan, regional inputs were also important. The implementation of the international plan of action, as well as the success of the World Assembly, would be greatly enhanced by regional activities. In that connexion, he indicated that the Secretary-General's programme for the World Assembly included in the preparatory work the convening of regional intergovernmental meetings prior to the World Assembly. The purpose of those meetings was inter alia, to prepare a regional plan of action on aging, which would serve as a guideline for action by Member States in the region as well as an input to the international plan of action. In that connexion, the Executive Secretary indicated that several of the regional commissions were currently having difficulty in convening the proposed meetings, and he suggested that the Advisory Committee might wish to know of those difficulties and advise the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the regional commissions on possible action.

58. The representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Economic Commission for Africa each made statements endorsing the importance of having regional plans of action and of including regional perspectives in the global plan of action. They indicated that difficulties, particularly of a financial nature, were seriously hampering the convening of regional intergovernmental meetings. In fact, only the regional meetings for Asia and the Pacific and Europe were firmly scheduled to take place, respectively, in October 1981 at Manila and January 1982 at Vienna. One particular problem common to the regional commissions in the developing world was the need to finance the participation of representatives from the least developed countries.

59. In that connexion, the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America expressed the view that their delegations would not endorse the appropriation of additional funds for the preparatory activities for the World Assembly from the regular programme budget of the United Nations. It was suggested that the necessary allocations might be sought from voluntary contributions by Member States.

60. The representative of the United States indicated his delegation's intention of making an additional voluntary contribution for the preparatory activities for the World Assembly.

61. One representative suggested the possibility of investigating the feasibility of redeploying funds from the regular budget of the United Nations to assist the regional commissions in convening their meetings.

62. In that connexion, the Secretary of the Committee said that the General Assembly had decided in resolution 1798 (XVII) that travel and subsistence expenses would be paid in respect of members of organs and subsidiary organs serving in their individual, personal capacities and not as representatives of Governments. Special exceptions to that rule were made by the General Assembly in the same resolution. If extrabudgetary funds were available for the World Assembly, such funds could possibly be used for that purpose should the Committee so recommend.

63. With regard to the question of holding a regional preparatory meeting for the World Assembly away from the established headquarters of a regional commission without extra expenses being incurred by the host Government, the Secretary of the Committee said that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976, only regular sessions of the regional commissions and their standing subsidiary bodies could be held elsewhere in the region, subject to the approval of the Economic and Social Council and of the General Assembly. The representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) had stated that the Government of Costa Rica had offered to host the Latin American intergovernmental meeting but was unable to absorb all the additional costs incurred in holding a meeting away from the headquarters of ECLA.

64. After some general discussion on the proposed conceptual framework for the international plan of action (A/AC.208/4), it was proposed that a working group of the Advisory Committee should be established to expand section II entitled "Principles and objectives". The working group was established as an open-ended one, which would report to the Advisory Committee on its deliberations.
65. At its 5th meeting, the Advisory Committee had had before it the results of the deliberations of the working group, which were contained in document A/AC.208/L.3 (see appendix I below).
66. Several representatives expressed the view that, while the ideas outlined in the working group's report were valid and appropriate to the issues of aging, the establishment of peace was of the utmost importance and a vital prerequisite for the solution of the problems related to aging. Several representatives agreed that the list of ideas from the working group should be separated into principles and objectives, the former serving as a basis for a preamble to the draft plan of action on aging. Furthermore, those representatives recommended that the greater portion of the plan of action should address itself to action at the national level, while lesser portions would relate to regional action and global action, respectively.
67. One delegation suggested that the possible methods for achieving the objectives in the plan of action should be delineated and that Governments should be urged to avoid discrimination against the aging through legislative and other appropriate means. Another delegation expressed the view that the current world economic crisis, compounded by the numbers of the aging of the world's population, had and may continue to have serious socio-economic implications and could be aggravated in the future.
68. One delegation stressed the view that references to the family should be made in such a way as to cover the broad range and varieties of family units that existed in various regions of the world. In the same vein, one representative voiced the opinion that some reference should be made to the natural support systems, other than the family, that existed in society, such as the neighbourhood, community, etc.
69. Finally, a number of representatives expressed the view that the working group's list of ideas was an appropriate indication of what should be included in the section of the plan of action on principles and objectives but that the final responsibility for the drafting of that document should be left to the secretariat and should include as much input as possible, particularly from Member States, regional commissions, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Committee agreed that the draft plan of action should be submitted in good time for Member States to consider it before the next session of the Advisory Committee.
70. In that connexion, several representatives once again expressed their appreciation to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs for the excellent preparatory work carried out thus far and indicated their support and confidence in their continuing co-operation. The Advisory Committee recommended to

the General Assembly that all necessary measures should be taken to ensure the full participation of all Member States in the World Assembly on Aging and to organize necessary public information activities for the World Assembly on Aging. Information was given by the Executive Secretary on the status of the Trust Fund.

71. Finally, the Committee urged that all members of the Advisory Committee should be encouraged to attend future sessions. An appeal was made to Governments for a greater awareness of the objectives of the World Assembly on Aging.

72. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging, the Head of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Conference Services and all related offices concerned should take all steps necessary, on an emergency basis, to ensure that authority for the production and distribution of documents for the Advisory Committee meetings and for the World Assembly should be entrusted in that particular instance to the secretariat at Vienna in order to ensure the timely production and distribution of those documents to Member States.

APPENDIX I

Notes submitted by the Chairman on section II of the draft conceptual framework of an international plan of action on aging on the basis of informal discussions of the working group of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging

The following points arise out of an informal discussion and it is recognized that a considerable amount of further consultation and collation of input, inter alia, from regional commissions and individual Governments, will have to be carried out before the secretariat, which has the responsibility for formulating a further draft of the proposed international plan of action, can complete its task in time to submit the draft to the next session of the Advisory Committee. They are not intended to indicate any specific priority.

- (a) It was suggested that, although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights incorporated the basic elements, it was necessary for the sake of emphasis to add to it, highlighting the specific problems of the aging, not that the aging had any fewer or more rights, but rather that their position of weakness in reality required special consideration;
- (b) The aging should be encouraged and enabled to live and function as normally as possible within their own environment;
- (c) There should be an integrated view of the problems of the aging as a whole;
- (d) The aging should be allowed and encouraged to determine their own mode of living;
- (e) The aging should be encouraged and enabled to influence and participate in decisions concerning their own lives and welfare;
- (f) The aging should, by suitable motivation and meaningful activity, play a creative and satisfying role in the community;
- (g) Appropriate and suitable housing and environmental conditions should be provided and made available to the aging;
- (h) The elderly should be considered a valuable and valued human resource;
- (i) The importance of maintaining the family structure and recognizing the family as the fundamental social unit should be encouraged;
- (j) It is understood that the formulation and implementation of national policies with regard to the aging remain within the sovereign rights of each nation;

(k) Continuing international co-operation in the sharing of knowledge in respect of the problems concerned with aging is important;

(l) The right of people to retire from active work is fundamental;

(m) It is desirable within the constraints of the economy and in conformity with cultural patterns that the aging should have the opportunity to continue in appropriate and satisfying roles;

(n) The availability of resources to ameliorate the life of the aging would be significantly affected by even the smallest reduction in the expenditure on armaments;

(o) It is recognized that the physical, cultural and health preparation for aging is a life-long process;

(p) Social and economic security must be assured;

(q) Access should be provided to appropriate physical and mental health services;

(r) Personal security should be assured;

(s) The relationship between the aging of populations and economic development in respect of the raising of standards of living, the raising of gross national incomes and the creation of employment opportunities as outlined in the new international economic order should be recognized;

(t) Future multidisciplinary research is needed in all areas of aging, including environmental engineering, the design of appropriate utensils and appliances, safe transportation mechanisms, diet, audio-visual aids (both educational and recreational), clothing, etc.

APPENDIX II

Documentation before the Advisory Committee at its first session

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/AC.208/1	2	Provisional agenda
A/AC.208/2	3	Preparation for and proposed organization of the World Assembly on Aging - Report of the Secretary-General
A/AC.208/3	3	Organization of the World Assembly - Draft rules of procedure for the World Assembly
A/AC.208/4	4	International Plan of Action on Aging - Proposed conceptual framework
A/AC.208/L.1	2	Organization of work
A/AC.208/L.2	3	Guidelines for the preparation of national reports
A/AC.208/L.3	4	Section II of the draft conceptual framework of an international plan of action on aging - Notes submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal discussions of the working group of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging
A/AC.208/L.4 and Add.1-3	5	Adoption of the report of the Advisory Committee - Draft report
A/AC.208/INF.I	-	Information for participants.
