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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons on its third session, convened in accordance with paragraph 11 of Assembly resolution 35/133 of 11 December 1980. 1/

1/ For the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 35/133, see A/36/471.

ANNEX

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

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

12 August 1981

Sir,

On behalf of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, which held its third session at Vienna from 3 to 12 August 1981, I have the honour to submit herewith the report of the Advisory Committee prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/133 of 11 December 1980.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ali Sunni MUNTASSER
Chairman of the Advisory Committee
for the International Year of Disabled Persons

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

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening of the session

1. The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons held its third session at the Vienna International Centre from 3 to 12 August 1981, during which it held eight meetings.
2. Mr. Ali S. Muntasser, Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, made a statement welcoming the members of the Committee, the representatives of the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations and the representatives of the non-governmental organization. He expressed thanks to Mr. Mansur R. Kikhia, the former Chairman of the Advisory Committee, for his work on behalf of the Year. In welcoming the appointment of Mrs. Leticia Shahani, Assistant Secretary-General for Social and Humanitarian Affairs, as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the International Year of Disabled Persons, the Chairman said that her appointment was a sincere indication of the commitment of the United Nations to supporting the goals of the Year. In so far as the international community promoted the full integration of 450 to 500 million disabled persons into society, it would realize the theme of the Year - "full participation and equality". The Advisory Committee, the Chairman stated, had the important task of considering the draft World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled People and the follow-up activities of the Year.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by the following 20 States members of the Advisory Committee:

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

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

Albania	Hungary
Australia	Israel
Austria	Japan
Brazil	Lebanon
Chile	Poland
Czechoslovakia	Spain
Egypt	Tunisia
Finland	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Germany, Federal Republic of	United Arab Emirates
Guinea	

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

5. The following specialized agencies were represented:

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

6. The following United Nations bodies were represented:

Economic Commission for Western Asia
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Development Programme
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

7. The following non-governmental organizations were represented:

Alliance internationale de tourisme
Bahai International Community
Council of World Organizations interested in the Handicapped
Disabled Peoples' International
Fédération internationale de résistance
International Federation of Business and Professional Women
International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis Associations
International Federation of Pedestrians
Jaycees International
Movement for a Better World
Rehabilitation International
Trinidad and Tobago Council for Security and Disabled Persons
Union of Arab Jurists
World Federation of United Nations Associations
Zonta International

C. Election of officers

8. At its 1st meeting, on 3 August 1981, the Advisory Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Mr. Ali Sunni Muntasser (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Vice-Chairmen: Ms. Alicia Amate de Esquivel (Argentina)
Mr. Antonio O. Periquet (Philippines)
Mr. Karlheinz Renker (German Democratic Republic)

Rapporteur: Mr. André LeBlanc (Canada)

D. Agenda and organization of work

9. At the same meeting, the Advisory Committee considered the provisional agenda, which it adopted after adding a new item 5. The agenda, as amended, read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up of the activities of the Year, including the establishment of a long-term world programme of action.
4. Examination of the possibilities of continuing the activities of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries in the light of the experience of the International Year of Disabled Persons.
5. Other business.
6. Adoption of the report of the Advisory Committee.

10. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 August, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended drafting group on agenda item 3, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. O. Periquet and Mr. K. Renker, Vice-Chairmen.

E. Representation of the Committee at the World Congress of Disabled Persons

11. The Committee agreed to designate its Vice-Chairman, Mr. A. O. Periquet (Philippines), and its Rapporteur, Mr. A. LeBlanc (Canada), to represent it at the World Congress of Disabled Persons, organized by Disabled Peoples' International, to be held at Singapore from 30 November to 4 December 1981. The Secretary informed the Committee that the cost of the representation by two members of the Committee could be absorbed within existing resources as appropriated by the General Assembly at its thirty-fourth session for the purpose (see A/34/158/Add.1).

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F. Administrative and financial implications

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

G. Documentation

13. The list of documents before the Advisory Committee at its third session is given in the appendix to the present report.

H. Organization of the fourth session

14. The Committee requested the Secretariat to make every effort to include in a progress report to be submitted to it at its fourth session information on the following subjects:

(a) The consultation process regarding the draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the action undertaken to seek actively the participation of organizations of disabled persons in this process;

(b) Activities undertaken by international agencies, regional commissions and other regional bodies with respect to the International Year of Disabled Persons;

(c) Special Trust Fund;

(d) Technical co-operation in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities in developing countries;

(e) Measures to improve employment opportunities within the United Nations system and to improve access to United Nations buildings, facilities and information;

(f) Activities by the Secretariat of the International Year of Disabled Persons and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to assist disabled persons in their efforts to establish organizations of disabled persons at the national, regional and international levels.

I. Adoption of the report

15. The Advisory Committee considered and adopted its draft report (A/AC.197/L.19 and Add.1-7) at its 8th meeting, on 12 August.

II. FOLLOW-UP OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR, INCLUDING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A LONG-TERM WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

(Item 3)

A. General discussion

1. World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

16. The Advisory Committee discussed this item, at its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 4 and 6 August. In her introductory statement, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the International Year of Disabled Persons reviewed certain issues relating to the item. Commenting on the preliminary draft of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled People (A/AC.197/9), she noted that it was strongly influenced by the ideas contained in the basic outline for a long-term world plan of action that had been approved by the Advisory Committee at its second session (A/35/444, annex, recommendation 11 (II)). She remarked that such concepts as participation and integration, which ran through the basic outline, were reflected in the World Programme of Action. The right of disabled persons, no less than that of the rest of the population, to participate in decisions affecting their own lives must be assured. The requirement involved the participation of disabled persons in their own rehabilitation as well as in broader decision-making concerning rehabilitation policies by Governments, local authorities and non-governmental organizations working in the field.

17. The Special Representative also stated that appropriate rehabilitation and treatment services had to be provided for the many millions of people in developing countries who lived with an impairment or disability. New approaches to rehabilitation had to be developed outside the framework of institutional care, which was expensive and was accessible to small numbers of people in need of such services. There was a growing recognition of the need to introduce community-based services to provide the full range of rehabilitation services. Such an approach facilitated the integration of people with impairments or disabilities into society.

18. Most of the representatives expressed the view that the preliminary draft of the World Programme of Action could serve as the basis for discussion leading to a final draft. A number of representatives stated that specific parts of the draft should be modified with a view to strengthening it. Certain of the comments were general in character, while others dealt with specific points of the draft. Some delegates noted that they had not received the draft in time to allow them to consult their Governments.

19. A few representatives stated that the draft was too idealistic and many of its provisions were not relevant to the conditions prevailing in developing countries, particularly the least developed among them. To remedy that, several representatives stated that the goals and recommendations contained in the draft should be more realistic and should lend themselves more readily to implementation. Along those lines, it was suggested that the goals of the World Programme of Action should be defined within specific time frames of a short-term, medium-term and long-term nature. That would allow individual countries to chart their progress against defined goals over specific intervals of time.

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20. Several representatives expressed the view that certain of the concepts employed in the draft were unclear. While participation by disabled persons in decision-making processes was acknowledged to be important, the draft of the World Programme of Action did not spell out how that could be achieved. It was also suggested that the term "integration" was less far reaching in its impact than the notion of equal opportunity, which more closely reflected the concept of participation and equality. It was proposed by one representative that the term "rehabilitation" could be strengthened if it was defined as a result-oriented rather than a time-oriented process.

21. Several representatives stated that the provisions of the draft concerning public information would have to be modified. Their countries, they explained, did not have public information programmes or a code governing the public media and any attempt to establish such codes would be considered as an infringement on freedom of the media in their countries. Public service announcements could be used to raise public consciousness regarding disabled persons and inform the public of programmes that were available to them.

22. Certain representatives stressed the importance of the national committees as a mechanism to assist in the development and co-ordination of programmes. A few representatives stated that not all countries might need such committees in continuing the work in support of the goals of the Year. It was suggested that the language concerning the national committees should be made flexible so as to cover the needs of different countries in that area.

23. A number of representatives emphasized the importance of developing a system of community-based resources for disability prevention, rehabilitation and integration. In accordance with that approach, it was important to use indigenous materials for the mass-production of technical aids for disabled persons. Several representatives referred to the importance of sharing appropriate technology for the production and distribution of such aids.

24. The representative of the Division for Economic and Social Information of the Department of Public Information made a statement on its role in supporting the activities of the International Year of Disabled Persons. She stated that the Division had stimulated action at the national level by providing "core" material of the activities of the Year, by acting as a clearing-house for an exchange of information from national committees and co-ordinating the work of the agencies in the United Nations system. A task force of the Joint United Nations Information Committee (JUNIC) had been established to carry out the work. The various members of JUNIC were carrying out a wide range of information activities in their own fields, including press kits, posters, slide sets, radio features, education projects, seminars and round-table discussions, promotional events, film and television co-productions and special film programmes stressing prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities. One particularly successful interagency project had been the joint production of the feature film for the International Year of Disabled Persons entitled "It's the same World".

25. Stating his appreciation of the draft, the representative of the World Health Organization said that greater emphasis was needed on the community approach to

providing services to the disabled. The prevention of disability did not receive adequate attention. That could be remedied by strengthening the relevant paragraphs in the text. He also expressed the view that disabilities caused by aging, which were a growing problem throughout the world, had not been adequately dealt with.

26. The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in expressing satisfaction with the draft, stated that greater consideration ought to be given to taking into account the needs of disabled refugees and displaced persons and to finding ways to satisfy those needs.

27. The representative of the Division of Narcotic Drugs stated that drug abuse should be listed among the causes of disability. Drug addicts and people dependent on drugs were disability-prone. He stated that the Division of Narcotic Drugs would attempt to collect information on drug-related disability.

28. The representative of the Economic Commission for Western Asia stressed the importance of carrying out activities at the regional level. That he noted, would be consistent with the trend within the United Nations system to decentralize operations to the regions. In line with that, the commission had undertaken several activities related to disability, including a research study and participation at the Arab regional seminar that had been organized in Kuwait earlier in the year by the Kuwait National Committee for the Celebration of the International Year of Disabled Persons. Action-oriented research, he stated, could demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of particular projects and could facilitate the task of obtaining funds for financing rehabilitation projects. As a result of the International Year of Disabled Persons, requests for advisory services had increased, as had awareness of the need for technical assistance.

29. The observer for Disabled People's International informed the Committee that his organization had been established in June 1980 at a meeting in Canada attended by 300 delegates from 40 countries. It was a world organization whose membership was open to all persons with sensory, mental and physical disabilities. Its philosophy was that disabled persons should have a voice of their own and that they should have the same rights as all citizens, including the right of access to education, employment, housing and transportation. The foundation of Disabled Peoples' International had provided the impetus for the formation of numerous national and regional organizations, particularly in developing countries. Following the world congress in Singapore, his organization would focus on the establishment of regional offices.

2. Follow-up activities of the Year

30. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the International Year of Disabled Persons stated that a number of activities would continue beyond 1981. Certain of them, by their very nature, could only be carried out in 1982. Others, which found their rationale and inspiration in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, were long-term in nature, and would begin to take shape when the World Programme of Action became operational in 1983.

31. One task, she stated, was the work to be done on the World Programme of Action, which, after review by the Advisory Committee, would be circulated to Member States, specialized agencies, the regional commissions, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations for their comments. A revised draft, reflecting those comments, would be submitted to the Advisory Committee at its fourth session and then to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.
32. She noted that the activities of the national committees for the International Year of Disabled Persons would absorb much of the secretariat's attention. They, and similar bodies, in which great hopes had been placed for carrying out the activities of the Year, would be dependent on the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs for moral and possibly some material support in the future. Under the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons Member States had been invited to submit national reports to the Secretary-General by 31 March 1982.
33. It was also expected, the Special Representative noted, that the News from the IYDP Secretariat and other publications would continue to provide the national committees with information about the activities of the Centre in the field of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities. There were also two studies to be completed by consultants, one on full participation and the other on access to United Nations buildings, documents and information for persons with sensorial disabilities.
34. She explained that when the International Year of Disabled Persons came to an end on 31 December 1981, the staff who made up its secretariat would assume their former duties within the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs or elsewhere within the United Nations system. At that point, the secretariat of the International Year of Disabled Persons would cease to exist and the three staff members who would be reassigned to the Rehabilitation Unit would have the task of performing the follow-up activities in addition to their regular assignments. Mindful of the policy of the Secretary-General for zero growth in the programmes of the United Nations for 1982-1983, she brought to the attention of the Committee the need for additional staff resources to enable the Centre to fulfil its responsibilities in the follow-up activities of the Year. They would involve four additional professional staff members and necessary supporting general service personnel.
35. After the introductory statement by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the representatives discussed the issues relating to the follow-up activities of the Year. A number addressed themselves to the proposal contained in the introductory statement requesting four additional professional posts and appropriate supporting general service personnel to carry forward the work related to the Year. Some stated that they could not support such a proposal as it would not be in keeping with the Secretary-General's policy of zero budget growth. The work, it was suggested, could be performed by a reordering of the existing priorities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which would be responsible for carrying on the work generated by the

International Year of Disabled Persons. Many representatives expressed the view that the request for added resources was justified in the light of the added work. It was also suggested that more disabled persons should be recruited to fill staff vacancies.

36. One representative stated his opposition to making the Special Trust Fund of the International Year of Disabled Persons a permanent operation. He expressed the view that support for projects should come from the United Nations Development Programme, which would be consistent with promoting the integration of disabled persons into society as a whole. The representative of Disabled People's International stated that a grant from the Special Trust Fund opened the way to its receiving funding from other sources.

37. One representative suggested that the publication News from the IYDP Secretariat should continue to be published after the Year was over. Its title, he suggested, could be changed and its subject matter devoted to the activities of the national committees. A number of representatives questioned whether the publication should be published beyond 1981. A decision on the matter, they stated, should be made within the context of other priorities and the availability of resources. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General stated that work on the publication could be absorbed within the additional posts requested for the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs.

38. One representative requested information on the current status of the two studies for which the secretariat was responsible. A representative of the secretariat reported that work on the studies was under way and they should be substantially completed by the end of the Year.

39. At the 8th meeting, on 12 August, the observer for Spain drew the attention of the Committee to the World Conference on Actions and Strategies on Education, Prevention and Integration, to be held at Madrid from 2 to 7 November 1981, and expressed the hope that members of the Committee would be represented at the Conference.

B. Discussion of the draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

40. The Committee considered the draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons that had been submitted by the drafting committee (A/AC.197/81/WP.1 and WP.3). In general, the Committee supported the draft proposals but it had reservations concerning certain of the provisions contained therein.

41. In discussing the question of peace and disarmament, differences arose over the formulation of part of the original text. Following consultations, revised text was submitted and accepted.

42. In connexion with the discussion on the rehabilitation process, several representatives suggested that education should be included as one of the services provided to disabled persons. A few representatives expressed the view that education had to be considered a universal right and should not be included in the list. It was agreed to include specialized education services as one of the services that should make up the rehabilitation process.
43. The representative of the Division of Narcotic Drugs proposed an amendment concerning the use of drugs as a contributing factor in disability. After consideration of the matter, a revision of the text was agreed upon.
44. In connexion with the discussion of some special groups of disabled persons, it was proposed by several representatives that persons victimized by crime should be added to the list of special groups. It was agreed to insert a paragraph to that effect.
45. Concern was expressed by a large number of representatives about the need to strengthen the references to technical co-operation among developing countries. A text (A/AC.197/81/WP.2) was submitted by a group of representatives and accepted by the Committee.
46. The Committee, at the suggestion of the representative of Bangladesh, included three additional paragraphs spelling out in greater detail the conditions confronting disabled persons in developing countries.
47. In response to a request by one delegation, the representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) submitted a statement on the assistance provided by his Organization to developing countries in the manufacture of technical aids for disabled persons. UNIDO, he stated, had developed projects in three separate areas. One area was the prevention of disability, for example, the manufacture of vaccines or pharmaceuticals; second was the provision of information to enable developing countries to solve problems relating to the manufacture of aids; and the third was the furnishing of assistance in the manufacture of aids.
48. Several members proposed amendments dealing with the transfer of resources from developed to developing countries (A/AC/197/81/WP.4). After discussion, the Committee agreed to a revised text which would more adequately reflect the need for an increased transfer of resources, as stated in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.
49. The representative of Nigeria reminded the Committee that many developing countries would have difficulty in implementing the recommendations proposed in the World Programme of Action and suggested that the problem should be adequately reflected in the text. The Committee agreed with that suggestion.
50. The representative of the Division of Narcotic Drugs proposed an amendment to the reference to the imprudent use of drugs. The Committee agreed to a revised text on that subject. The Committee adopted the text of the draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons at its 7th meeting, on 10 August (see chap. IV, recommendation 6 (III)).

51. The representative of the United States of America expressed some difficulties in accepting the proposed text relating to human rights and suggested an alternative text. After discussion, it was decided to retain the original text. At the request of the representative of the United States of America, it was agreed that his proposed amendment should be included in the report. His statement is reproduced in extenso below:

"In considering the status of disabled persons with respect to human rights, priority should be placed upon the use of United Nations covenants and other instruments, as well as those of other international and national organizations, that protect the rights of all persons. This principle is consistent with the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons - 'full participation and equality'.

"Specifically, organizations and bodies responsible for the preparation and administration of international agreements, covenants and other instruments that might have a direct or indirect impact on disabled people should ensure that such instruments fully respect the rights and specific needs of disabled persons.

"Particular conditions may exist which inhibit the ability of disabled persons to exercise the human rights and freedoms recognized as universal to all mankind, including all of the grounds listed in article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Consideration should be given by the Commission for Social Development to such situations.

"National committees or similar co-ordinating bodies dealing with problems of disability should be encouraged to pay attention to the question of the rights of disabled persons.

"In those countries where legislation on human rights does not exist, particular attention should be given to conditions which may adversely affect the ability of disabled persons to exercise the rights and freedoms guaranteed to their fellow citizens."

52. Several countries indicated their support for the suggestion that the trust fund established by the General Assembly for the International Year of Disabled Persons should be continued and augmented. A few representatives expressed doubts about the usefulness of a permanent fund and indicated their inability to support the proposal. Following some discussion, agreement was reached on a text.

C. Discussion of draft recommendations

53. A draft resolution (A/AC.197/L.14) for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session, entitled "Draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons", was submitted by the representative of Canada. The draft resolution, which dealt with the follow-up activities of the Year, including measures to facilitate consultation on the Draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, was approved by the Committee as amended (see chap. IV, recommendation 1 (III)).

54. The representative of Bangladesh reserved his delegation's position regarding the draft resolution until such time as it would be considered by the General Assembly, since there had not been time to seek instructions from his Government.

55. The Committee then considered a recommendation (A/AC.197/L.15 entitled "Organizations of disabled persons", submitted by the representatives of Canada and Sweden, favouring the use of resources from the special trust fund to strengthen world organizations of disabled persons and to encourage their establishment in fields where they did not yet exist.

56. The recommendation was introduced by the representative of Sweden, who recalled the earlier discussions of the Advisory Committee in which it had been agreed that every effort should be made at all levels to ensure participation by disabled persons in all activities relating to the Year. She then referred to the importance given by the Committee to the development or establishment of organizations of disabled persons, particularly in developing countries.

57. The recommendation, as amended, as adopted by the Committee (see chap. IV, recommendation 2 (III)).

58. At the 8th meeting, on 12 August, the representative of Morocco introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.197/L.17) on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, the German Democratic Republic, India, Kenya, Morocco, the Philippines and Zaire, entitled "Celebration of a world day of disabled persons at the international level and establishment of co-ordination machinery at the world level for close and effective co-operation between developed and developing countries". A number of proposals were made to revise the first operative paragraph which referred to the celebration of a world day of disabled persons at the international level.

59. Many representatives who supported the draft resolution were of the view that the celebration of a world day on an international level would strengthen the cause of disabled persons and would provide the occasion to review the progress made on the World Programme of Action.

60. A number of representatives and observers expressed concern over the concept of a world day which, in their view, ran counter to the objective of integration which underlay the theme for the Year. It was further suggested that, before a decision was made on that recommendation, there should be further consultations with organizations of disabled persons.

61. The representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya proposed a new text for operative paragraph 1 which was revised by the representative of the German Democratic Republic and subsequently adopted by the Committee. The Committee thus adopted the draft resolution as orally revised (see chap. IV, recommendation 4 (III)).

62. At the same meeting, the representative of Bangladesh introduced a draft resolution (A/AC.197/L.16 entitled "Follow-up of the activities of the Year, including the establishment of a long-term World Programme of Action".

63. The Secretary of the Committee said that a statement of the financial and administrative implications arising from the report of the Advisory Committee would be submitted to the General Assembly before the adoption of a decision. Only then would the Secretary-General review the level of staff support required to implement the over-all programme of work, bearing in mind the existing budgetary policy adopted in the preparation of initial estimates for the biennium 1982-1983; the review would include consideration of the possibilities for redeploying resources.

64. A number of representatives supported the proposal to strengthen and increase the number of staff of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs. Other representatives were of the view that such an increase should be brought about through a redeployment of existing resources.

65. The sponsor proposed the revision of operative paragraph 2 to reflect the concern expressed by those delegations. After a discussion in which the representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland proposed a further revision of the paragraph, the Committee adopted the draft resolution as revised (see chap. IV, recommendation 5 (III)).

66. The representative of Sweden, while fully supporting the ideas expressed in the resolution and recognizing the legitimacy of the Secretariat's request for additional resources to ensure the follow-up of the International Year of Disabled Persons, felt that the question had to be considered in the context of the United Nations budget as a whole and, therefore, wished to reserve her delegation's position until the matter was discussed in the General Assembly.

67. The observer for Disabled Peoples' International, in expressing strong support for the resolution that had been adopted, suggested that, in line with earlier recommendations of the Advisory Committee, those additional staff members should include disabled persons.

68. At the 7th meeting, on 10 August, the representative of Sweden introduced an informal text of a draft resolution, subsequently circulated as document A/AC.197/L.18, entitled "Procedure for the further development of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons". While a number of representatives spoke in favour of the draft resolution, some felt that the time-scale was not sufficiently precise. On the other hand, other representatives were of the view that it would be unrealistic to establish deadlines that were too rigid. The Committee, at its 8th meeting, on 12 August, adopted the draft resolution (see chap. IV, recommendation 7 (III)).

III. EXAMINATION OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF CONTINUING THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE REHABILITATION OF
DISABLED PERSONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE LIGHT OF THE
EXPERIENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

(Item 4)

A. General discussion

69. The Advisory Committee discussed this item at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 6 and 10 August, when it had before it a report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.197/10 and Add.1).

70. In her introductory statement, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the International Year of Disabled Persons drew special attention to the report of the Secretary-General, pointing out that paragraphs 4 to 25 of the report outlined the results of the regional meetings for the Year, at which the need had been expressed for regional technical co-operation in preventing disability and rehabilitating disabled persons, including the establishment of regional institutes, as well as the need for support for such activities by the limited national systems. She mentioned, in particular, a letter received recently from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) asking for support for an African rehabilitation institute.

71. The participants in the discussion commended the Secretary-General on the comprehensiveness of his report. Some representatives pointed out that no host country was ready to secure the continuation of the Institute. However, one representative of a developing country requested that the question of an interregional institute should not be taken off the agenda of the General Assembly until the final draft of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons had been adopted by the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session. Several representatives of developed countries stated that they could not support the continuation of an interregional institute and others expressed doubts about whether its continuation was justified. It was stated, moreover, that the forms of technical co-operation depended primarily on the expressed needs and priorities of the developing countries.

72. A number of representatives, the majority of them from the developing countries, expressed support for the regional technical co-operation activities, including the initiative for the formation of regional institutes in the field of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities, based on the relevant recommendations of the regional meetings held in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and in the region of the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). The representative of the International Labour Organisation circulated the text of a project proposal for such an institute in Africa, prepared in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity.

73. One representative from an Asian country informed the meeting that the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific was also exploring the possibility of organizing a regional institute.

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74. A number of representatives of developing countries pointed to the need to organize, without delay, supporting activities for national and regional technical co-operation efforts resulting from the Year and indicated that a draft resolution was being submitted to that effect by a group of countries.

75. The observer from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who has been appointed special co-ordinator for activities related to the Year, noted that the Governments of developing countries should determine the priorities of all field programmes. UNDP field officers had been instructed to give special consideration to requests related to the Year. He noted, in particular, the support by the Organization of African Unity and the representatives of African countries for an African regional institute, as well as the interest shown in such institutes in other developing regions of the world.

76. The observer from the ECWA secretariat informed the meeting of the Commission's intention to explore the possibility of establishing regional institutions in the field of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities to serve the existing needs of the region. He also made reference to the letter sent by the Organization of African Unity to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Year, asking for support for the African regional project, and proposed that supporting activities for such national and regional projects should be continued at the interregional level.

B. Consideration of a draft recommendation

77. At the Committee's 7th meeting, on 10 August, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya introduced draft resolution A/AC.197/L.13, entitled "Supporting activities for the development of technical co-operation in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities in developing countries", sponsored by Algeria, India, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Oman, the Philippines and Yugoslavia. The Secretary of the Committee made a statement regarding administrative and financial implications.

78. In the course of the discussion, some representatives of developed countries expressed doubts regarding the proposals for setting up a new administrative structure, although they were concerned with the urgent need of the developing countries for technical co-operation in that field. A representative from a socialist country said his country supported interorganizational co-operation within the United Nations system in order to strengthen technical co-operation in the field of rehabilitation and therefore supported the draft resolution.

79. A representative of a developing country said that it would be difficult to support any draft resolution until the necessary consultations had been held.

80. The representative of UNDP said that the intentions of the sponsors of the draft resolution were obviously to ask the United Nations to act without delay in supporting technical co-operation activities for prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities. The Secretary-General should consider the best way of implementing the draft resolution.

81. A few representatives of developing countries stressed the intention of the draft resolution to strengthen the co-ordinating function of the United Nations system regarding technical co-operation in that field and not to create new bodies.

82. The representative of the secretariat of the Year informed the Committee that the existing system of interagency co-operation and of co-operation with non-governmental organizations would be used to carry out the intention of the draft resolution and that the "Summary of information on projects and activities in the field of prevention of disability and rehabilitation of disabled persons", issued yearly by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, would be used for "clearinghouse" purposes. The activities would be organized in the context of the secretariat's activities related to the Year until the whole question of the Institute was solved. The emphasis of these activities would be on support to national and regional efforts to organize technical co-operation in that field.

83. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see chap. IV, recommendation 3 (III)).

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AT ITS THIRD SESSION

84. At its third session, held at Vienna from 3 to 12 August 1981, the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons adopted the following recommendations:

1 (III) Draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

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

"The General Assembly,

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

"Recalling also its resolutions 32/133 of 16 December 1977, by which it established the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, 33/170 of 20 December 1978, 34/154 of 17 December 1979 and 35/133 of 11 December 1980.

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

"Convinced that the full participation of disabled persons themselves in the preparation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons a/ is essential to ensure that it reflects accurately their concerns and needs,

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

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

a/ For the draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, see recommendation 6 (III).

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

"Concerned about the need to provide the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat with the resources necessary for the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons b/ and its follow-up,

"Aware that disabled persons may encounter special difficulties in asserting the rights which are recognized in international human rights instruments as valid for all mankind,

"1. Notes with satisfaction the steps already taken in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons by Member States, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, and encourages them to intensify their action and co-ordination in this respect;

"2. Recommends that, in their efforts to promote the full participation of disabled persons in all aspects of life, Member States and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system should pay particular attention to the participation of disabled persons themselves and of their organizations in the activities undertaken in connexion with the International Year of Disabled Persons and its follow-up,

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek actively the views of organizations of disabled persons themselves on the draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"4. Invites Member States which have not yet done so to establish national committees or similar bodies for the International Year of Disabled Persons;

"5. Urges Member States to give higher priority to development assistance projects in developing countries in the fields of rehabilitation services, technical aids and training of appropriate personnel, including disabled persons themselves;

"6. Welcomes the voluntary contributions made by Governments and private sources to the International Year of Disabled Persons and appeals for further voluntary contributions to the Year;

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

"7. Requests the regional commissions to formulate appropriate programmes for implementing the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons;

"8. Encourages the Secretary-General to find the means within existing budgets to provide additional resources to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to enable it to provide a follow-up to the Year and facilitate the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"9. Requests the continuation of interagency co-ordination for the follow-up of the International Year of Disabled Persons;

"10. Congratulates the Organization of African Unity on its efforts to establish a regional institute for the rehabilitation of disabled persons and encourages the other regional bodies and the regional commissions to undertake similar efforts, in consultation with the appropriate international organizations and organizations of disabled persons;

"11. Encourages the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and bodies to undertake or expedite the measures already under way to improve employment opportunities for disabled persons within these bodies at all levels and to improve access to their buildings and facilities and to their information;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution."

7th meeting
10 August 1981

2 (III) Organizations of disabled persons

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976, proclaiming the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recalling also that it has emphasized the importance of encouraging the development of organizations of disabled persons,

Calls on the Secretary-General to use an appropriate portion of the Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons to support efforts to strengthen national and world organizations of disabled persons, above all in developing countries, and establish them in areas where they do not exist.

7th meeting
10 August 1981

3 (III) Supporting activities for the development of technical co-operation in the fields of prevention rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities in developing countries

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Considering the requests contained in paragraphs 4 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 35/133 of 11 December 1980

Aware of the urgent need of the developing countries, expressed by the national committees for the International Year of Disabled Persons, for assistance in organizing services for the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities of disabled persons, as well as of pending requests for increased technical assistance in this field submitted during the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Noting in particular the results of the regional meetings for the International Year, which stressed the need for more efficient technical co-operation in the training of rehabilitation personnel, the production of prosthetic appliances and aids using locally available resources and also an exchange of experiences in the elaboration of national programmes for the development of such services,

1. Notes the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Possibilities of continuing the activities of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries in the light of the experience of the International Year of Disabled Persons"; c/

2. Recommends to the Secretary-General that immediate action should be taken until the question of the continuation of the international Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries is to be definitely settled, in order to secure the necessary support services for intensified technical co-operation in the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities of disabled persons and to support, in particular, the regional initiatives in this regard;

3. Requests all interested governmental and non-governmental organizations to co-operate in the fulfilment of this urgent task;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to set up an interorganizational task force, within existing resources for the support of national and regional activities in the developing regions in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities with adequate documentation and related services;

(a) To organize without delay the necessary support services for national, regional and interregional technical co-operation in this field, as well as a clearinghouse for the exchange of relevant experiences and documentation;

c/ A/AC.197/10 and Add.1.

(b) To secure the co-ordination of activities undertaken as a follow-up to the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in the Field of Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation;

(c) To ascertain the views of both developing and developed countries regarding the continuation of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries and inform the Secretary-General, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the heads of the specialized agencies and other interested organizations of its findings;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to secure the necessary conditions for the functioning of the task force until the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, when appropriate measures are expected to be taken with regard to technical co-operation and assistance activities in the prevention of disability and in the rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities of disabled persons in the context of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

7th meeting
10 August 1981

4 (III) Celebration of a world day of disabled persons at the international level and establishment of co-ordination machinery at the world level for close and effective co-operation between developed and developing countries

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Noting that the International Year of Disabled Persons is nearing its end and that it has given rise to world interest and a desire on the part of Member States to take action in the years ahead,

Recognizing that the scope of the problem of disabled persons and its various aspects have been perceived in the developing countries,

Considering that the developing countries are often faced with problems of great urgency and that their human and material resources are often insufficient to enable them to devote the necessary means to cope with the problem of the social integration of disabled persons,

Considering that the activities being carried out by the United Nations to provide information and promote awareness have made the rights and needs of disabled persons better known,

1. Recommends to the General Assembly to consider, in consultation with organizations of disabled persons, the possibility of proclaiming a world day of disabled persons to be observed at the international level;

2. Recommends to the Secretary-General that he consider the possibility of setting up a co-ordination machinery at the world level within existing organizations of the United Nations system to promote close and effective co-operation between more developed countries and developing countries, which would pursue the objectives of the International Year through a transfer of technology and of the results of research and exchanges of information on the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled persons.

8th meeting
12 August 1981

5 (III) Follow-up of the activities of the Year, including the establishment of a long-term world programme of action

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Having considered the progress achieved so far in implementing the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons, b/

Noting with satisfaction the initiatives undertaken by Member States, especially the developing countries, during the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recognizing the need of the developing countries to continue the activities initiated during the Year,

Considering that the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons will not be adopted until late in 1982,

Noting that the regular resources of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs are not sufficient to continue the follow-up activities of the Year,

1. Requests Member States to establish or strengthen organizations at the national, regional and local levels to co-ordinate the disability-related activities of Governments and non-governmental organizations;

2. Recommends the General Assembly to make available to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, from within the existing resources of the entire United Nations system, the necessary professional and supporting staff for the follow-up to the International Year of Disabled Persons.

8th meeting
12 August 1981

6 (III). Draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

I. OBJECTIVES AND CONCEPTS

A. Objectives

1. The purpose of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons is to promote the realization of the goals of "full participation" of disabled persons in the social life and development of the societies in which they live, "equality", meaning living conditions equal to those of other citizens in their society, and an equal share in the improvement in living conditions resulting from social and economic development. These concepts should apply with the same scope and with the same urgency in all countries, regardless of their level of development.

B. Background

2. More than 500 million people in the world are disabled as a consequence of physical, mental or sensory impairment. Of these, some 140 million are disabled children. They are entitled to the same rights as all other human beings and to equal opportunities. Too often their lives are handicapped by societies which erect and tolerate physical and social barriers against their full participation. Because of this, millions of children and adults in all parts of the world often face a life that is segregated and debased.

3. In addition to the insult to human dignity, there is a large cost to each community and nation that fails to protect the rights of, and foster opportunities for, its disabled citizens. Not only are many people with impairments allowed to become unnecessarily dependent and incapable of activity that is economically and socially productive, but their dependence is also a drain upon the energies and resources of family members and society as a whole.

4. An analysis of the situation of disabled people has to be carried out within the context of different levels of economic and social development and different cultures. Everywhere, however, the ultimate responsibility for remedying the conditions that lead to impairment and for dealing with the consequences of disability rests with Governments. This does not, however, negate the responsibility of the private sector, including non-governmental organizations. Governments should provide leadership in awakening the consciousness of their populations regarding the benefits to be derived by individuals and their society from the inclusion of disabled people in every facet of social, economic and political life. Governments must also ensure that people who are made dependent by severe disability have an opportunity to achieve a standard of living equal to that of their fellow citizens. Non-governmental organizations can in different ways assist Governments by formulating the problems to which solutions should be sought, by suggesting suitable solutions or by providing services complementary to those provided by Governments. To the extent that financial and material resources are

shared by all sections of the population, especially those in the rural areas of developing countries, this could be of major significance to disabled people by resulting in expanded community services and improved economic opportunities.

5. Important conditions for achieving the purposes of the programme are economic and social development, extended services provided to the whole population in the humanitarian area, the redistribution of resources and income and an increase in the living standards of the population. It is necessary to use every effort at all levels to adopt measures to strengthen international peace and security, to settle all international disputes by peaceful means, to eliminate all forms of racism and racial discrimination in countries where they still exist, as well as to prevent wars leading to devastation, catastrophe and poverty, hunger, suffering, diseases and mass disability of people. It would also be desirable to recommend to all States Members of the United Nations to maximize the use of their resources for peaceful purposes including the needs of disabled persons. All forms of technical assistance that help developing countries to move towards these objectives can support the implementation of the Programme. The realization of these objectives will, however, require extended periods of effort, during which the number of disabled people is likely to increase. Without effective remedial action, the consequences of disability will add additional obstacles to development. Hence, it is essential that all nations should include in their general development plans immediate measures for the prevention of impairment, for the rehabilitation of disabled people and for the integration of disabled people and society.

C. Definitions

6. An understanding of the concept of disability is necessary in order to understand the objectives of the World Programme of Action. The distinction made by the World Health Organization between impairment, disability and handicap does more than clarify definitions. Historically, the main focus has been on the individual. This definition points to the socio-economic and structural obstacles that hinder participation. The acceptance of this perspective means that all of society is responsible for creating equal opportunity. Particularly, it emphasizes that handicaps are the social disadvantages that may arise from either an impairment or a disability; thus handicap is a loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others. The World Health Organization, in its policy for the prevention of disability and rehabilitation, has defined these concepts as follows:

"Impairment: A permanent or transitory psychological, physiological, or anatomical loss or abnormality of structure or function. **Disability:** Any restriction or prevention of the performance of an activity, resulting from an impairment, in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human

being. Handicap: A disability that constitutes a disadvantage for a given individual in that it limits or prevents the fulfilment of a role that is normal depending on age, sex, social and cultural factors, for that individual." d/

7. Disabled people are first and foremost citizens with rights and only secondly clients of social services. The principle of equal rights for the disabled and non-disabled implies that the needs of each and every individual are of equal importance, that these needs must be made the basis for the planning of our societies and that all resources must be employed in such a way as to ensure equal participation for each and every individual or at the very least equal opportunity for participation. Disability policies should ensure access to all community services, including rehabilitation. The following definitions are developed from that perspective. The relevant terms of action proposed in the World Programme are defined as prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities.
8. Prevention means action aimed at preventing the occurrence of physical, mental and sensory impairments (primary prevention) or at preventing impairment, when it has occurred, from causing a permanent functional limitation (secondary prevention).
9. Rehabilitation means a time-limited process aimed at enabling an impaired person to reach an optimum physical, mental and/or social functional level, thus providing her or him with the tools to change her or his own life. It can involve measures intended to compensate for a loss of function or a functional limitation (for example by technical aids) as well as measures intended to facilitate social adjustment or readjustment.
10. Equalization of opportunities means the process through which the general systems of society, such as the physical environment, housing and transportation, social and health services, educational and work opportunities, cultural and social life, including sports and recreational facilities, are made accessible to all. This involves the removal of barriers to the full participation of disabled persons in all these areas, thus enabling them to reach a quality of life equal to that of others.
11. These concepts are developed and explained more fully in the following sections.

D. Prevention

12. A strategy of prevention is essential for reducing the incidence of impairment and disability. The main elements of such a strategy would vary according to a country's state of development.

d/ International Classification of Impairments, Disabilities and Handicaps (Geneva, World Health Organization, 1980).

(a) The most important measures for prevention of impairment are: better nutritional practices, improved health services, early detection and diagnosis, pre-natal and post-natal care, proper health care instruction, including patient and physician education, family planning adolescent health programmes, modification of life styles, education regarding environmental hazards, avoidance of war and the fostering of better informed and strengthened families and communities;

(b) These changing circumstances require a shift in strategy, such as improved medical care for the aging, training and regulations to reduce accidents in industry, on the roads and in the home and the control of environmental pollution and of the use and abuse of drugs;

13. Measures for the earliest possible detection of the symptoms of impairment, to be followed immediately by the necessary curative or remedial action, can lead to significant reductions in the severity of disablement and can often avoid its becoming a lasting condition.

E. Rehabilitation

14. The rehabilitation process usually includes a correlated provision of the following types of services:

(a) Early detection and diagnosis;

(b) Medical care and treatment;

(c) Therapeutic measures such as those provided by therapists, psychologists and others;

(d) Training in self-care activities, including mobility, communication and daily living skills, with special provisions as needed for the hearing-impaired, the visually impaired and the mentally retarded;

(e) Provision of technical and mobility aids and other devices;

(f) Specialized education services, vocational assessment, training and placement;

(g) Social and other types of counselling and assistance;

(h) Follow-up.

15. In all rehabilitation efforts, emphasis should be placed on the abilities of the affected individuals, whose integrity and dignity must be respected, and not on their disabling conditions. The normal development and maturation process of disabled children should be maintained to the maximum degree possible. The capacities of disabled adults to perform work and other activities should be utilized.

16. Important resources for rehabilitation exist in the families of disabled people and in their communities. Every effort should be made to help disabled people to keep their families together, to enable them to live in their own communities and to support family and community groups who are working with this objective. In planning rehabilitation and supportive programmes, it is essential to take into account the customs and structures of the family and community and to promote their abilities to respond to the needs of the disabled individual.

17. Services for disabled people should be provided within the existing social, health, education and labour structures of society. These include all levels of hospital care; primary, secondary and higher education; general programmes of vocational training and placement in employment; and measures of social security and social services. Rehabilitation services are aimed at facilitating the participation of disabled people in regular community services and activities. This approach encourages the independence of disabled people. Rehabilitation should take place as much as possible in the natural environment, supported by community-based services, and not in large institutions. Specialized institutions, where they are necessary, should be organized in such a way as to ensure an early and lasting integration of disabled persons into society.

18. Rehabilitation programme should make it possible for disabled people to assist in designing and organizing the services that they and their families consider necessary. Procedures for the participation of disabled people in the decision-making relating to their rehabilitation should be provided for within the system. When people such as the severely mentally disabled may not be able to represent themselves adequately in decisions affecting their lives, family members or legally-designated agents should take part in planning and decision-making.

19. Rehabilitation techniques should be simplified and made as economical as possible without affecting their essential functional quality. Efforts should be increased to develop rehabilitation services and make these more readily available. These should not rely on costly equipment, raw material and technology. The transfer of technology among nations should be enhanced and should concentrate on methods that are functional and relate to prevailing conditions.

F. Equalization of opportunities

20. People with permanent disabilities which severely limit their independence should be provided with community support services, aids and equipment to enable them to live as normal lives as possible both at home and in the community. Those who live with such disabled people and help them in their daily activities should themselves receive support to enable them to have adequate rest and relaxation and an opportunity to develop their own activities.

21. To achieve the goals of "full participation and equality", rehabilitation measures aimed at the disabled individual are not enough. Experiences show that it is largely the environment which determines the effect of an impairment or a disability on a person's daily life. He or she is handicapped when he or she is

denied the opportunities generally available in the community for the fundamental elements of living including family life, education, employment, housing, financial and personal security, participation in social and political groups, religious activity, intimate and sexual relationships, access to public facilities, freedom of movement and the general style of daily living.

22. Societies by and large cater only to people who are in full possession of all their physical and mental faculties. They have to recognize the fact that, despite preventive efforts, there will always be a number of people with impairments and disabilities, and they have to identify and remove obstacles to full participation. Thus, education should take place in the standard school system, employment in the general labour market and housing as made available to the population in general. It is the duty of every Government to ensure that the benefits of reform of development programmes also reach disabled citizens. Measures to this effect should be incorporated into the general planning process and the administrative structure of every society. Separate arrangements, even though equal or superior in quality, have a segregating effect. They should be avoided, except in the case when a group of disabled, such as the deaf, actually prefers them.

23. The above does not apply merely to Governments. Anyone in charge of any kind of enterprise must also make it accessible to people with disabilities. This applies to public agencies on various levels, to non-governmental organizations, to firms and to private individuals. It also applies on the international level.

24. But as disabled people have equal rights, they also have equal obligations. It is their duty to take part in the building of society. Societies must raise their expectations for disabled people and mobilize their resources for social change.

25. All over the world, disabled people are uniting in organizations as advocates for their own rights. These organizations influence decision-makers in Governments and all sectors of society. The role of the organizations of disabled people includes the following: providing a voice of their own, identifying the needs of disabled people, expressing views on priority, evaluating services and advocating change and public awareness. As a vehicle of self-development, these organizations provide the opportunity to develop skills in the negotiation process, organizational skills, mutual support, information-sharing and often vocational skills and opportunities. In view of their vital importance in the process of participation, it is imperative that their development be encouraged. Society has created an image of disabled people that may be the greatest barrier of all. We see the disability, the white cane, crutches, hearing aid and wheelchair, but not the person. What is required is to focus on the ability, not on the disability, of disabled people. Persons with disabilities should be expected to fulfill their role in society and meet their obligations as adults. The concept of the "sick role" must be abandoned and disabled adults must not be treated as children without responsibilities.

26. An essential component in the efforts to improve the situation of disabled people is the preparation and dissemination of information. The co-operation of all public media should be sought to bring about presentations that will promote an understanding of the needs of disabled people and that will avoid reinforcing traditional stereotypes and prejudices.

G. United Nations system

27. Organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have adopted approaches related to development that are significant in implementing the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled People. These include:

(a) The concept of primary health care as elaborated by the International Conference on Primary Health Care, held at Alma-Ata in 1978, and the application of this concept to the health aspects of disability is described in the World Health Organization policy on this subject, approved by the World Health Assembly in 1976;

(b) The World Health Organization's programme of "Health for All by the Year 2000" and the related primary health care approach, through which the States Members of the World Health Organization have already committed themselves to preventing diseases and impairments leading to disabilities;

(c) The concept of the United Nations Children's Fund of basic services for all children and the strategy adopted by it in 1980 to emphasize strengthening family and community resources to assist disabled children in their natural environments;

(d) The basic needs strategy of the International Labour Organisation and the principles set forth in the Organisation's Recommendation 99 of 1955;

(e) The concept of appropriate education recommended by an expert group of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education for handicapped children;

(f) The mandate contained in "New Dimensions in Technical Co-operation", of UNDP which directs it to take into account the importance of reaching the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society when responding to Governments' request for help in meeting their most urgent and critical needs and which encompasses the concepts of technical co-operation among developing countries;

(g) Other organizations, bodies and offices of the United Nations can also contribute to the World Programme. These include: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, various units of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, the Division of Human Rights, the Division of Narcotic Drugs and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

28. The various organizations of the United Nations which are involved in promoting, supporting and carrying out field activities have a long record of work for the disabled. The work in programmes of disease prevention, special education, vocational training, job placement and others - represent a store of experience and know-how which opens up opportunities for further accomplishments and at the same time makes it possible to share these experiences with national and other organizations serving disabled people.

II. CURRENT SITUATION

A. General description

29. There is a large and growing number of people with disabilities in the world today. The estimated figure of 500 million is confirmed by the results of surveys of segments of population, coupled with the observations of experienced investigators. A survey by experts has produced the companion estimate of at least 350 million disabled people living in areas where the services needed to assist them in overcoming their limitations are not available. With few exceptions, disabled people everywhere are exposed to physical and social barriers which handicap their lives even if rehabilitation assistance is available. In every country at least one person in 10 is disabled by physical, mental or sensory impairment, and at least 25 per cent of any population are adversely affected by the presence of disability.

30. The causes of impairment vary throughout the world, as do the prevalence and consequences of disability. These variations are the result of different socio-economic circumstances and of the different provisions that each society makes for the well-being of its members.

31. Investigations have shown that the incidence of disability among disadvantaged groups is higher than in the population at large. It is estimated that the proportion of disabled people is significantly larger in countries in the early stages of economic and social development. It is believed that from 15 to 20 per cent of the least advantaged population groups, usually those residing in rural areas, shanty towns and urban slums, are likely to be affected by impairment. Because of the larger population in developing countries, the attendant higher rates of population growth and the interaction of disability and poverty, the number of disabled people is increasing in proportional and absolute terms. Many factors are responsible for the rising incidence of disability and the relegation of disabled people to the margin of society. These include:

- (a) A high proportion of overburdened and impoverished families;
- (b) Populations with a high proportion of illiteracy and little awareness of basic social service, health and education measures;
- (c) An absence of accurate knowledge about disability, its causes, prevention and treatment;
- (d) Inadequate programmes of primary health care and services;
- (e) Constraints, including a lack of resources, geographical distance and social barriers, that make it impossible for many people to take advantage of available services;
- (f) The channelling of resources to highly specialized services that are not relevant to the needs of the majority of people who need help;

(g) The absence or weakness of an infrastructure of related services for health, education, welfare and vocational training and placement;

(h) Low priority in social and economic development for activities related to integration, disability prevention and rehabilitation;

(i) Industrial, agricultural and transportation-related accidents;

(j) Pollution of the physical environment;

(k) Stresses and resulting psycho-social problems associated with the transition from a traditional to a modern society;

(l) The imprudent use of medications, the misuse of therapeutic substances and the illicit use of drugs and stimulants.

32. Existing knowledge and skills could prevent much of the impairment that occurs, could assist affected people in overcoming or minimizing their disabilities, and could enable nations to remove barriers which exclude disabled people from everyday life.

1. Disabilities in the developing countries

33. The problem of disabilities in the developing countries where about 400 million, i.e., 80 per cent, of the currently disabled people live needs to be specially highlighted. In some of these countries, the percentage of the disabled population is estimated to be as high as 20 and, thus, the percentage of the population adversely affected by the presence of disabilities in such countries is as high as half of the total population. While most of the 350 million of existing disabled people are living in countries where services for assisting them practically do not exist, even the relatively fortunate 50 million do not enjoy the minimum facilities for a number of reasons inherent in the level of socio-economic development, primarily a lack of necessary awareness, an inadequacy of trained personnel and institutions and, above all, resource constraints. Even in these cases, there is an urgent need to improve the existing facilities, besides removing the physical and social barriers. But the task will be difficult because of the backwardness of the societies and the large-scale unemployment and under-employment prevalent in them.

34. Obviously, it is the lot of the 350 million disabled people spread over most of the developing countries across the continents that should cause the most serious concern and rouse the international conscience. They live in societies steeped in abysmal poverty, suffering from a multiplicity of diseases, most of them preventable. There is severe malnutrition, mostly among mothers and children, where opportunities for even basic education do not exist for the vast majority and unemployment and under-employment even among the able-bodied are widespread and massive. In a number of these countries, the population living below the poverty line is as high as 50 to 80 per cent and there is thus an overwhelming predominance of the disadvantaged in them. The situation was quite aptly described in the report of the regional technical meeting, held at Bangkok in September 1980, which read:

"The problem is made more complex by the fact that, for the most part, disabled persons are also usually extremely poor; they often live in areas where medical and other related services are scarce, or even totally absent, and where disabilities are not and cannot be detected in time, so that when they do receive medical attention, if they receive it at all, the impairment has become irreversible. In several countries of the region, resources are not sufficient to meet the need for the prevention and detection of disability and the rehabilitation of the disabled population. Trained personnel, research into newer and more effective strategies and approaches for rehabilitation and the development of aids and equipment for disabled persons are quite inadequate."

35. In such countries, disabled people are indeed doubly handicapped for the problem is further compounded by the population explosion which inexorably pushes up the number of disabled both in proportional and absolute terms. There is thus an urgent need to help such countries to undertake massive efforts to prevent an increase in the disabled population as the first priority, in addition to efforts to rehabilitate the already disabled.

2. Special groups

36. The consequences of impairment and disability are especially hazardous for women. The already disadvantaged role of women in many countries can, when combined with a physical or mental disability, result in more restricted life opportunities. Access to needed facilities for health care, education and vocational training is frequently limited for girls and women, thus reducing their chance of overcoming disability. The burden of caring for disabled family members often falls upon the female members of the family, thus curtailing their freedom and opportunities for creative activity.

37. With the emergence of "victimology" as a branch of criminology, the true extent of injuries inflicted upon the victims of crime, causing permanent or temporary disablement, is only now becoming generally known.

38. For many children, the presence of an impairment leads to rejection or isolation from normal development. This situation may be exacerbated by faulty family and community attitudes and behaviour during the critical years when children's personalities and self-images are developing.

39. There are over 10 million refugees and displaced persons in the world today as a result of man-made disasters. Many of them are disabled physically and psychologically as a result of their sufferings from the persecution, violence and hazards resulting from their flight. Most are in third world countries, where services and facilities are extremely limited. Being a refugee is in itself a handicap and the disabled among them are doubly handicapped.

B. Disability and the new international economic order

40. The transfer of resources and technology from developed to developing countries as envisaged within the framework of the new international economic order, as well as other provisions for strengthening the economies of developing nations, would, if implemented, be of positive benefit to the people of these countries, including the disabled. Improvement of economic conditions in the developing countries, particularly their rural areas, would provide new employment opportunities for disabled persons and needed resources to support measures for prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities. The transfer of appropriate technology, if properly managed, could lead to the development of industries specializing in the mass production of devices and aids for dealing with the effects of physical, mental or sensory impairments.

41. The International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade (General Assembly resolution 35/56) states that particular efforts should be made to integrate the disabled in the development process and that effective measures for prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities are therefore essential. Positive action to this end would be part of the more general effort to mobilize all human resources for development. Changes in the international economic order will have to go hand in hand with domestic changes aimed at achieving full participation by disadvantaged population groups.

C. Prevention

42. There is a steady growth of activities to prevent impairment, such as those for nutrition, education, and food and vitamin supplements; those for counselling parents on genetic and pre-natal care factors; those for immunization and the

control of diseases and infections; those for accident prevention; and those for improving the quality of the environment. In some parts of the world, such measures are having a significant impact on the incidence of physical and mental impairment. For a majority of the world's population, especially those living in countries in the early stages of economic and social development, these preventive measures effectively reach only a small proportion of the people in need. Most developing countries have yet to establish a system for the early detection and prevention of impairment through periodic health examinations, particularly for pregnant women, infants and young children.

D. Rehabilitation

43. Rehabilitation and other services are often provided through specialized institutions. However, there is now a growing trend towards placing greater emphasis on the integration of services into general public facilities.

44. As a result of trends in these areas, there has been an evolution in both the content and the spirit of the activities described as rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is now being viewed as a process whereby the individual with an impairment is enabled to overcome its disabling effects. This is in contrast to traditional practice, which has viewed rehabilitation as a pattern of therapies and services provided to disabled people by professionals in an institutional setting. The predominance of institutionalized treatment and care is being gradually replaced by programmes to enable families and communities to support the efforts of their disabled members in order that they may deal with their problems in a normal social environment. Although specialized institutions, housing services and supportive living conditions continue to be required by severely disabled people, important strides have been made towards understanding that these people, fewer in number than has generally been assumed, may to a large extent live a life that is independent in its essential elements.

45. Many disabled people require technical aids and the technology needed to produce such items is highly developed. Highly sophisticated devices are manufactured to assist the mobility, communication and daily living of even the most severely disabled individuals. The costs of such items are high, however, and only a few countries are able to provide such equipment to individuals whose prospects for independent living would benefit from them.

46. Many people need simple equipment to facilitate mobility (simple, durable wheelchairs), communication (tape recorders for visually-impaired people, hearing aids for the hearing-impaired) and daily living (special chairs for children with cerebral palsy, equipment for bathing paralysed people). Such items are produced and available for many disabled people. Many others, however, cannot obtain them because of a lack of information about their availability, source and cost, and difficulties of importing them from other countries. Increasing attention is being given to the design of simpler, less expensive devices, with methods of production which are more easily adapted to the country concerned, more appropriate to the needs of most disabled people and more readily available to them.

E. Equalization of opportunities

47. The rights of people with disability to participate in their societies can be achieved primarily through political and social actions.

48. Some countries have taken important steps to eliminate or reduce barriers to full participation. Legislation has in many cases been enacted to guarantee to disabled people the rights to and opportunities for schooling, employment and access to community facilities, to remove physical barriers that limit the mobility of disabled people and to proscribe discrimination against them. There has been a movement away from institutions to community-based living. In both developed and developing countries, the emphasis in schooling is increasingly on "open education", with a corresponding decrease in institutions and special schools. Methods of making public transport systems accessible have been devised, as well as methods of making information accessible. The awareness of the need for such measures has increased. In many cases, public education and awareness campaigns have been launched to educate the public to alter its attitudes and actions towards disabled people.

49. Disabled people have taken the lead in some countries in bringing about an improved understanding of the processes of integration and promoting political and organizational action that leads to positive changes in the structure and systems of their communities.

50. Despite such efforts, the degree of integration of disabled people and their communities is far from satisfactory in most countries, and nowhere have all obstacles been overcome. The International Year of Disabled Persons has provided the motivation and the occasion for increased efforts to deal with the obstacles that hinder the integration of disabled people into their societies.

1. Education

51. Education is a very important measure for the integration of disabled persons. Disabled children and adults are often excluded from schools because of limitations in mobility or communication, or because the adults responsible for them are misinformed about the functional implications of their impairments. Those with learning disorders, developmental delays and behavioural problems are frequently denied the training and socialization needed for their integration into society. Those with severe physical or mental disabilities are too often confined in institutions which are more custodial than educational. Although progress has been made in providing accessible schooling for disabled children and young people, it is rarely extended to higher education. Only a small proportion of teachers have been trained or given minimal orientation to deal with the special problems of children with functional impairments. Growing recognition is now given to the importance of making it possible for disabled children to take part in normal education experiences and of providing comparable facilities for those who require special care and attention. The benefits resulting from these progressive attitudes are not as yet extensively available.

2. Economic and vocational questions

52. The relationship between disability and poverty has been clearly established. While the risk of impairment is much greater for the poverty-stricken, the converse is also true. The birth of an impaired child, or the occurrence of disability in the family, often places heavy demands on the limited resources of the family and strains on its morale, thus thrusting it deeper into poverty. The combined effect of these factors results in higher proportions of disabled people among the poorest strata of society. For this reason, the number of affected families living at the poverty level steadily increases in absolute terms. The negative impact of these trends seriously hinders the development process.

53. In some countries social security, social services and public and private welfare systems provide financial benefits or other material assistance to disabled people and their families to alleviate economic difficulties. On a global scale, only a small proportion of disabled people benefit from such support systems.

54. It is becoming increasingly recognized that programmes to prevent impairment or to ensure that impairments do not escalate into more limiting disabilities are far less costly to society in the long run than a policy that makes no provision for such programmes. Rehabilitation programmes have also demonstrated their economic feasibility. If the productivity and income of disabled individuals and their families could be increased, they would be more likely to become contributors to development than consumers of public support.

55. Many people with disabilities are denied employment or given only menial and poorly remunerated jobs. This is true even though it can be demonstrated that with proper assessment, training and placement, the great majority of disabled people can perform a large range of tasks in accordance with prevailing work norms. In times of unemployment and economic distress, disabled people are usually the first to be discharged and the last to be hired. In some industrialized countries experiencing the effects of economic recession, the rate of unemployment among disabled job-seekers is double that of able-bodied applicants for jobs. In many countries, a variety of special work programmes have been created to meet the vocational needs of disabled people. These include sheltered workshops, designated positions, quotas for the disabled, subsidies for employers of disabled workers and a few specially planned enterprises. The number of disabled workers employed in either regular or special establishments is far below the number of such employable workers.

56. Many disabled people, particularly in the developing countries, live in rural areas. When the family economy is based on agriculture or other rural occupations and when the traditional extended family exists, it may be possible for all but the most severely disabled people to be given some useful tasks to perform. As more families move from rural areas to urban centres, as agriculture becomes more mechanized and commercialized, as money transactions replace barter systems and as the institution of the extended family disintegrates, the vocational plight of

disabled people becomes more severe. For those living in urban slums, competition for employment is heavy, and other economically productive activity is scarce. Many disabled people in such areas suffer from enforced idleness and become dependent; others must resort to begging.

3. Social questions

57. Full participation in the basic units of society - family, social groups and community - is the essence of human experience. The right to equality of opportunity for such participation is set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and should apply to all people, including those with disabilities. In reality, however, disabled people are often denied the opportunities of full participation in the activities of the socio-cultural system of which they are a part. This deprivation comes about through physical and social barriers that have evolved from ignorance, indifference and fear.

58. Attitudes and behaviour often lead to the exclusion of disabled people from social and cultural life. People tend to avoid contact and personal relationships with those who are disabled. The pervasiveness of the prejudice and discrimination affecting disabled people and the degree to which they are excluded from normal social intercourse produce psychological and social problems for many of them.

59. Too often, the professional and other service personnel with whom disabled people come into contact fail to appreciate the potential for participation by disabled people in normal social experiences and thus do not contribute to the integration of disabled individuals and other social groups.

60. Because of these barriers, it is often difficult or impossible for disabled people to have close and intimate relationships with others. Marriage and parenthood are often unattainable for people who are identified as "disabled", even when there is no functional limitation to preclude them.

61. Many people with disabilities are not only excluded from the normal social life of their communities but are in fact confined in institutions that are as bad or worse than prisons. While the leper colonies of the past have been largely done away with and large institutions are not as numerous as they once were, far too many people are today institutionalized when there is nothing in their condition to justify it.

62. Many disabled people are excluded from active participation in society because of physical barriers, such as doorways that are too narrow for wheelchairs; steps that cannot be mounted leading to buildings, buses, trains and aircraft; telephones and light switches that cannot be reached; sanitary facilities that cannot be used; conversations that cannot be heard by the hearing-impaired; and books that cannot be read by the visually impaired. Such barriers are rarely erected with the intent to exclude disabled people; they are the result of ignorance, unawareness and lack of concern. Although some countries have enacted legislation and launched campaigns of public education to eliminate such obstacles, the problem remains a crucial one.

63. Generally, existing services, facilities and social actions for the prevention of impairment, rehabilitation of disabled people and their integration in society are closely linked to the society's willingness and ability to allocate resources, income and services to disadvantaged population groups. To the extent that an equitable distribution of resources and income exists, the level of services provided to disabled people is better than those prevailing in societies not having such distributive measures.

F. Consequences of economic and social development

64. To the extent that development efforts are successful in bringing about better nutrition, education, housing, improved sanitary conditions and adequate primary health care, the prospects of preventing impairment and treating disability greatly improve. Progress along these lines may also be especially facilitated in such areas as:

(a) The training of personnel in general fields such as social assistance, public health, medicine, education and vocational rehabilitation;

(b) Enhanced capacities for the local production of the appliances and equipment needed by disabled persons;

(c) The establishment of social services, social security systems, co-operatives and programmes for mutual assistance at the national and community levels;

(d) Increased employment opportunities for disabled people.

65. However, since economic development leads to alterations in the size and distribution of the population, to modifications in life style and to changes in social structures and relationships, the necessary services needed to deal with human problems are generally not being improved and expanded rapidly enough. Such imbalances between economic and social development add to the difficulties of integrating disabled people into their communities.

III. PROPOSALS TO IMPLEMENT THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION
CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS

A. Introduction

66. The objectives of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons are to encourage and assist each nation to develop and strengthen activities that will ensure the integration of disabled persons and their societies. In implementing the World Programme of Action, due regard has to be paid to the special situation of developing countries and, in particular, of the least developed countries. The immensity of the task of improving living conditions for the whole population and the general scarcity of resources makes the attainment of the objectives of the World Programme of Action very much more difficult in these countries. At the same time, it should be recognized that the implementation of the World Programme of Action in itself will make a contribution to the development process through the mobilization of all human resources and the full participation of the entire population.

67. Since the solution to the problems of the disabled is closely connected with over-all development at the national level, the solution of these problems depends to a very large extent on the creation of adequate international conditions for the faster social and economic development of these countries. Accordingly, the establishment of the new international economic order is of direct relevance to the implementation of the objectives of the Year. It is particularly essential that the flow of resources to developing countries be substantially increased as agreed upon in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. e/

68. In countries where recommended actions may already have been initiated, new measures may not be required. It would, however, be useful to review the existing measures and their implementation in the context of these proposals.

69. The realization of these objectives will require a multisectoral and multidisciplinary global strategy for combined and co-ordinated policies and actions relevant to the equalization of opportunities of disabled persons, effective rehabilitation services and measures for prevention (hereinafter to be referred to as "the global strategy").

70. The World Programme of Action is designed for all nations. The time-span for its implementation and the choice of items to be implemented as a priority will, however, vary from nation to nation depending on their development priorities, resource constraints, levels of socio-economic development and cultural traditions, the kinds of assistance received by them and their ability to formulate and implement the projects envisaged in the Programme.

e/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

71. To implement the global strategy, it is necessary for Member States:

- (a) To plan, organize and finance activities at each level;
- (b) To create, through legislation, the necessary legal bases and authority for measures to achieve the objectives;
- (c) To ensure opportunities by eliminating barriers to full participation;
- (d) To provide rehabilitation services by giving social, nutritional, medical, educational and vocational assistance to disabled persons who need it;
- (e) To mobilize relevant public and private organizations to support the implementation of the global strategy;
- (f) To support the establishment and growth of organizations of disabled persons;
- (g) To prepare and disseminate information relevant to the issues of the global strategy among all elements of the population, including persons with disabilities and their families;
- (h) To promote public education to ensure a broad understanding of the key issues of the global strategy and its implementation;
- (i) To facilitate research into the social integration of disabled people, prevention and rehabilitation;
- (j) To promote technical assistance and co-operation in the field of disability.

72. National Governments bear the ultimate responsibility for implementing the measures recommended in the present section. Owing, however, to constitutional differences between countries, local authorities and other bodies within the public and private sector will also be called upon to implement the national measures contained in the World Programme of Action.

B. National level

73. Member States should undertake the necessary measures to eliminate discriminatory practices with respect to disability.

74. Member States should increase their assistance to organizations of disabled persons to help them to organize and co-ordinate their representation of the interests and concerns of disabled persons.

75. Member States should assume responsibility for ensuring that disabled persons are granted equal opportunities with other citizens.

76. Member States should urgently initiate action programmes to achieve the objectives of the global strategy and such programmes should be an integral component of the nation's general policy for socio-economic development.

77. Matters concerning disabled persons should be treated within the appropriate general context and not separately. Each ministry or other body within the public or private sector responsible for or working within a specific sector should be responsible for those matters related to disabled persons which fall within its area of competence. Governments should establish a focal point (for example, a national commission, committee or other body) to plan and implement action and to co-ordinate the activities of various ministries or other government agencies and of non-governmental organizations. Any mechanism set up should involve all parties concerned, including organizations of disabled persons. Some countries may wish to use national commissions or committees created for the International Year of Disabled Persons as the focal point. The body should have access to decision-makers at the highest level.

C. Prevention

78. Member States should take appropriate measures for the prevention of impairment and disability.

79. The elimination or reduction of the casual conditions of impairment requires a co-ordinated programme of prevention at all levels of society. This should include:

(a) Community-based primary health care systems that reach all segments of the population, particularly in rural areas and urban slums;

(b) Effective maternal and child health care and counselling;

(c) Education in nutrition and assistance in obtaining a proper diet, especially for mothers and children;

(d) Immunization against communicable diseases, in line with the objectives of the Expanded Programme of Immunization of the World Health Organization;

(e) A system for the early detection of impairments and for early intervention;

(f) Safety regulations and training programmes for the prevention of accidents in the home, in the work place, on the road and in leisure-related activities;

(g) Adaptation of jobs and the working environment and the provision of occupational health programmes to prevent the generation of occupational disabilities or diseases and their exacerbation;

(h) Measures to control the imprudent use of medications, drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other stimulants or depressants in order to prevent drug-related disability, particularly among school children;

(i) Educational and public health activities that will assist people in attaining life styles that will provide the maximum defence against the causes of impairment.

80. The training of community-based workers in the early detection of impairment, the provision of primary assistance and referral to appropriate facilities and follow-up are vital. Whenever possible, these should be integrated into such related services as primary health care, schools and community development programmes. Appropriate programmes should be developed for the use of medical doctors in industrialized and developing countries to reduce the overprescription of drugs whose unsupervised use over the long term poses personal and public health hazards.

D. Rehabilitation

81. Member States should develop and ensure the provision of rehabilitation services necessary for achieving the objectives of the global strategy.

82. Member States are encouraged to provide for all people the medical care and related services needed to eliminate or reduce the disabling effects of impairment.

83. This includes the provision of nutritional, medical and vocational services needed to enable disabled individuals to reach optimum levels of functioning. Depending on such factors as population distribution, geography and stages of development, services can be delivered through the following channels:

(a) Community-based workers;

(b) General facilities providing health, education, welfare and vocational services;

(c) Other specialized services where the general facilities are unable to provide the necessary services.

84. Health and social services for the mentally ill and mentally retarded have been particularly neglected in many countries. The psychiatric care of patients in and outside hospitals should be supplemented by the provision of social support and guidance to patients and their families, who are often under particular strain. Where such services are available, the length of stay and the probability of renewed referral to institutions are lessened.

85. Member States should ensure the availability of aids and other devices to all those for whose functioning and independence they are essential.

86. It is necessary to make certain that disabled people who need such equipment have, as far as possible, the financial resources as well as the practical opportunities for obtaining them and learning to use them. Customs or other import procedures that block the ready availability of aids and materials obtained from other countries should be eliminated, when possible.

87. Member States are encouraged to include within the general system of social services personnel competent to provide counselling and other assistance needed to deal with the problems of disabled people and their families.

88. When the resources of the general social service system are inadequate to meet these needs, special services may be offered until the quality of the general system has been improved.

89. Within the context of available resources, Member States are encouraged to initiate whatever special measures may be necessary to ensure the provision and full use of services needed by disabled persons living in rural areas, urban slums and shanty towns.

90. It is important that disabled persons should not be separated from their families and communities. To ensure this, the system of services must take into account problems of transportation and communication; the need for supporting social, health and education services; the existence of primitive and often hazardous living conditions; and, especially in some urban slums, social barriers that may inhibit people's readiness to seek or accept services. Member States should ensure an equitable distribution of these services to all population groups and geographical areas, according to need.

91. All authorities responsible for the development and provision of services for disabled people should give attention to personnel matters, particularly to recruitment and training.

92. If work related to mental and physical disabilities is to reach the growing number of disabled persons who receive no services, it is necessary to base the work on the various types of health and social welfare workers in the local communities. Many of their activities are already related to prevention and to services for the disabled. They will need special guidance and instruction, namely, on simple rehabilitation measures and techniques to be used by the disabled and their families which might be given by rehabilitation counsellors at the community or district level, according to the area covered. Special training will be necessary for the rehabilitation counsellors who would be responsible for the co-ordination of local programmes for the disabled and for contact with rehabilitation and other services for the disabled available in the region.

93. Professional workers should receive, in addition to specialized knowledge and skills, comprehensive information concerning the social, nutritional, medical, educational and vocational needs of disabled persons. Community workers, with adequate training and supervision, can provide most services needed by disabled people and can be a valuable asset in overcoming personnel shortages. Greater

emphasis should be placed on expanding the knowledge, capabilities and responsibilities of providers of services who are already at work in the community in related fields, such as teachers, social workers, professional auxiliary health service personnel, administrators, government planners, community leaders, clergy and family counsellors. Individuals working in service programmes for disabled people should be trained to understand the reasons for and importance of seeking, stimulating and assisting the full participation of disabled people and their families in decisions concerning care, treatment, rehabilitation and subsequent living and employment arrangements.

E. Equalization of opportunities

1. Human rights f/

94. The States parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights g/ should pay due attention in their reports on the implementation of their provisions to the application of the provisions to disabled persons. The working group of the Economic and Social Council entrusted with the examination of reports under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights g/ and the Human Rights Committee which has the function of examining reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights g/ should pay due attention to this aspect of the reports of States parties to the Covenants.

95. Particular conditions may exist which inhibit the ability of disabled persons to exercise the human rights and freedoms recognized as universal to all mankind in the international human rights instruments. Consideration should be given by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to the possibility of studying this question.

96. The practice of torture and other violations of human rights are among the causes of mental and physical disability. The Commission on Human Rights should give consideration to the possibility of establishing a mechanism to investigate the extent to which this is the case with a view to discouraging these practices.

97. In drafting national human rights legislation, particular attention should be given to conditions which may adversely affect the ability of disabled persons to exercise the rights and freedoms guaranteed to their fellow citizens.

f/ The position of the United States with respect to the section entitled "Human rights" is set out in chap. II, para. 51, above.

g/ General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

98. Consideration should be given to examination by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to measures for encouraging international co-operation for the implementation of the rights set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons h/ and other resolutions and declarations.

99. National committees or similar co-ordinating national bodies dealing with the problems of disability should be called upon to pay attention to the questions of the rights of disabled persons.

100. There is a need to consider methods of achieving international co-operation for the implementation of internationally recognized standards on the rights of disabled persons. This task could be entrusted to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Human Rights.

101. The specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organs should be requested to examine the rights of disabled persons within their programmes.

102. There is a need to give more attention to specific rights, such as the rights to education, work, social security and protection from inhuman or degrading treatment, and to examine these rights from the perspective of disabled persons.

2. Education

103. Member States should adopt a policy and a supporting structure of services to ensure that each child with a disability has access to education in the general school system.

104. If the facilities of the general school system are inadequate for disabled children, remedial action should be taken. Where it is necessary to provide schooling in special facilities, the quality of the schooling should be equal to that of the general school system and closely linked to it.

105. Member States should provide for the participation of disabled persons in adult education programmes.

106. If the facilities of regular adult education courses are inadequate to meet the needs of some disabled persons, special courses or training centres may be needed until the regular programmes have been modified.

h/ General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX).

3. Employment

107. Member States should adopt a policy and supporting structure of services to ensure that disabled persons in both urban and rural areas have equal opportunities for productive and gainful employment in the open labour market. Rural employment and the development of appropriate tools and equipment should be given particular attention.

108. Member States can support the integration of disabled persons into the open labour market through a variety of measures, such as incentive-oriented quota schemes, reserved or designated employment, loans or grants for small businesses and co-operatives, exclusive contracts or priority production rights, tax concessions or other technical or financial assistance to enterprises employing disabled workers.

109. There should be mutual co-operation between Governments and employers' and workers' organizations in order to develop a joint strategy and joint actions with a view to ensuring more and better employment opportunities for disabled persons.

110. These services should include vocational assessment and guidance, vocational training, placement and follow-up. Sheltered workshops should be made available for those who, because of their special needs or particularly severe handicaps, may not be able to cope with the demands of competitive employment. Special enterprises for the disabled, such as production workshops, home-worker and self-employment schemes, could be created for those who are employable but who cannot find work in the general labour market.

4. Participation of disabled persons in decision-making

111. Member States should encourage in every possible way the development of organizations composed of or representing disabled persons. Organizations of disabled persons exist in many countries. Many of them have not the means to assert themselves and fight for their rights. Member States should actively seek out and encourage whatever organizations of disabled persons exist in their countries.

112. Member States should establish direct contacts with such organizations and provide channels for them to influence government policies and decisions in all areas that concern them. Member States should give the necessary financial support to organizations of disabled persons for this purpose.

113. Governments should give high priority to the provision of information, training and financial assistance to local communities for the development of programmes that achieve the objectives of the global strategy.

5. Social Security

114. Every Member State should work towards the inclusion, within its system of laws and regulations, of provisions covering the general and supporting objectives of the global strategy. Where social security, social insurance and other such systems exist, they should be reviewed to make certain that adequate benefits are provided for disabled persons and their families and that they do not exclude or discriminate against such persons. Easily accessible arrangements should be made by which disabled persons and their families can appeal, through impartial hearing, against decisions concerning their rights and benefits.

6. Access to physical environment

115. Member States are encouraged to adopt a policy ensuring access to all new public buildings and facilities, public housing and public transport systems. Furthermore, measures should be adopted that would encourage access to existing public buildings and facilities, housing and transport wherever feasible, especially those that are undergoing renovation.

7. Community action

116. Organizations or other bodies at all levels should ensure that disabled persons can participate in their activities to the fullest extent possible.

117. Appropriate measures should be taken to ensure that disabled persons take part in public events, such as cultural, sports and social activities.

118. Member States, in their efforts to achieve the objectives of the global strategy, should seek to involve all relevant public and private bodies in the national effort.

119. Arrangements should be made to encourage and facilitate co-operation among local communities and the exchange of information and experience. A nation, benefiting from international technical assistance or technical co-operation in disability-related matters, should ensure that the benefits and results of the assistance reach the communities in greatest need.

120. It is important to enlist the active participation of local government bodies, agencies and community organizations such as citizen's groups, trade unions, religious bodies, political parties and consumer organizations. Each community could designate an appropriate body, where organizations of disabled persons could have an influence, to serve as a focal point of communication and co-ordination to mobilize resources and initiate action.

F. International action

121. The World Programme of Action, when adopted by the General Assembly, will constitute an international plan based on extensive consultations with Governments, organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including those representing disabled persons. Progress in reaching the goals of the Programme could be achieved more quickly, efficiently and economically if close co-operation were maintained at every level.

122. In view of the role that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs has been playing within the United Nations in the field of disability prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, the Centre should be designated as the focal point for co-ordinating and monitoring the implementation of the World Programme of Action, including its review and appraisal.

123. The Trust Fund established by the General Assembly for the International Year of Disabled Persons should be used to meet rapidly multiplying requests for assistance from developing countries and to further the implementation of the global strategy. Voluntary contributions from Governments and from private sources should be encouraged. The Secretary-General may explore new ways and means of raising funds and take the necessary follow-up measures for mobilizing resources.

124. The Administrative Committee on Co-ordination should consider the implications of the World Programme of Action for the organizations within the United Nations system and should use the existing mechanisms for continuing liaison and co-ordination of policy and action.

125. International non-governmental organizations should join in the co-operative effort to accomplish the objectives of the global strategy. Existing relationships between such organizations and the United Nations system should be used for this purpose.

126. All international organizations and bodies are urged to co-operate with and assist organizations composed of or representing disabled persons and to ensure that they have opportunities to make their views known when subjects related to the global strategy are discussed.

127. Organizations and bodies responsible for the preparation and administration of international agreements, conventions and other instruments that might have a direct or indirect impact on disabled people should ensure that such instruments fully respect the rights of disabled people.

G. Information and public education

128. Member States should encourage a comprehensive public information programme about their rights that would reach all disabled persons and ensure that information about the situation of disabled persons reaches the general public.

129. The programme should be designed to ensure that the most pertinent information reaches all appropriate segments of the population. In addition to the regular media and other normal channels of communication, attention should be given to:

(a) The preparation of special materials to inform disabled persons and their families of the rights, benefits and services available to them and of the steps to be taken to correct failures and abuses in the system: such materials should be available in forms that can be used and understood by people with visual, hearing or other communication limitations;

(b) The preparation of special materials for groups within the population who are not easily reached by the normal channels of communication: such groups may be separated by language, culture, levels of literacy, geographical distance and other factors;

(c) The preparation of pictorial material, audio-visual presentations and guidelines for use by community workers in remote areas and in other situations where normal forms of communication may be less effective.

130. Member States should ensure that current information is available to disabled persons, their families and professionals regarding programmes and services, legislation, institutions, expertise, aids and devices etc.

131. Member States are encouraged to establish a close co-operative relationship with representatives of the public media to ensure that the form and content of media presentations related to disabled persons are appropriate. This co-operation with the press, radio and television should be maintained to develop and provide materials consistent with the concepts of the global strategy. Emphasis should be given to depicting disabled persons as having abilities and a potential for socially useful and economically productive work. National authorities are encouraged to establish or strengthen existing communication to provide information on the availability of services and equipment for disabled people, their families and those working with them. In some countries, the establishment of a national information centre for disabled persons has proved effective for these purposes.

132. The authorities responsible for public education should ensure the presentation of systematic information about the realities of disability and its consequences and about prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities for disabled people.

133. The United Nations should carry out and continue activities to increase public awareness of the objectives of the global strategy.

134. All agencies involved in projects and programmes that are connected with the World Plan of Action will continue in their endeavours to inform the public. Research will be undertaken by those agencies whose fields of specialization require involvement in such activity.

135. The United Nations, in collaboration with the specialized agencies concerned, should develop innovative approaches using a variety of media for conveying information, including the principles and objectives of the global strategy, to audiences not regularly reached by conventional media or which are unaccustomed to using such media.

136. International organizations should assist national and community bodies in the preparation of public education programmes by suggesting curricula and providing teaching materials and background information about the objectives of the global strategy.

H. Technical and economic co-operation

137. The developing countries are experiencing increasing difficulties in mobilizing adequate resources for meeting the pressing needs of disabled persons and the millions of disadvantaged persons in these countries in the face of the pressing demands from the high priority sectors such as agriculture, rural development, population control, etc. concerned with basic needs. Their efforts should therefore be supported by the international community, in line with paragraphs 66 and 67 above, and the flow of resources to developing countries should be substantially increased, as stated in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

138. Inasmuch as most international technical co-operation and donor agencies can undertake to collaborate with national endeavours only on the basis of official requests from Governments, increased efforts should be made by all parties concerned with the establishment of programmes related to disabled persons to apprise Governments of the exact nature of the support that can be sought from these agencies.

139. Those organizations within the United Nations system that have a mandate, resources and experience in areas related to the World Programme should explore, with the Governments to which they are accredited, ways of adding to existing or planned projects in different sectors components that would respond to the specific needs of disabled persons.

140. All international organizations whose activities have a bearing on financial and technical co-operation should be encouraged to ensure that priority is accorded to requests from Member States for assistance in the prevention of disability, rehabilitation and integration which are in accordance with their national priorities. Such measures will ensure the allocation of increased resources for both capital investment and recurrent expenditure for services related to prevention and rehabilitation. This action should be reflected in the programmes for economic and social development of all multilateral and bilateral aid agencies, including technical co-operation among developing countries.

141. In seeking to collaborate with Governments to serve better the needs of disabled persons, the different United Nations organizations, as well as bilateral and private institutions, should closely co-ordinate their inputs in order to contribute more efficiently to the attainment of established goals.

142. As most of the United Nations organizations involved already have the specific responsibility of promoting the establishment of projects or the addition of project components directed towards disabled persons, a clearer division of responsibilities, as set out below, should be established among them in order to improve the response of the United Nations system to the challenge of the International Year of Disabled Persons and the World Programme of Action:

(a) The United Nations and, in particular, the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development should, together with the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, carry out technical co-operation activities in support of the implementation of the global strategy; in this connexion, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs should continue to give substantive support to the implementation of the World Programme of Action, including technical co-operation and technical assistance activities, as well as to monitor the progress of the World Programme of Action;

(b) The United Nations Development Programme should continue to use its field establishment to give considerable attention, within its normal programmes and procedures, to project requests from Governments that specially respond to the needs of disabled persons and should particularly encourage technical co-operation in the field of disability prevention and rehabilitation by using its various programmes and services, such as technical co-operation among developing countries, global and interregional projects and the Interim Fund for Science and Technology;

(c) The main efforts of UNICEF would continue to be directed towards better preventive measures involving greater support for maternal and child health services, health education, disease control and the improvement of nutrition; for those who are already disabled, UNICEF encourages the development of integrated education projects and supports rehabilitation activities at the community level, using inexpensive, local resources;

(d) The specialized agencies, within their mandate and sectoral responsibilities, should give, on the basis of requests from Governments, still greater emphasis to efforts to help meet the needs of disabled people by using the chances offered to them through the programming processes of individual countries and the establishment of regional, interregional and global projects, as well as through the use of their own resources, when feasible; this would represent integrated support to work in such areas as public administration, legislation, protective health measures, disease and accident prevention, vocational education, job placement, building design, personnel training and other areas of technical co-operation that will emerge as Governments progress in their response to the challenge of the proposals contained in the World Programme of Action;

(e) The regional commissions of the United Nations and other regional bodies should encourage regional and subregional co-operation in efforts to prevent disability and rehabilitate disabled persons; they should monitor progress in their regions, identify needs, collect and analyse information, sponsor action-oriented research, supply advisory services and engage in technical co-operation activities. They should include in their action plans research and development, preparation of information materials and the training of personnel and should, as an interim measure, facilitate activities in the field of technical co-operation among developing countries which are related to the objectives of the global strategy. These functions, except research, should be transferred to the regional institutes as soon as they are organized enough to take over these responsibilities.

(f) In their lending activities, multilateral financial institutions should take into serious consideration the objectives and proposals of the World Programme of Action.

143. Donor countries should attempt to find the means within their bilateral and multilateral technical assistance programmes to respond to requests for assistance from Member States relating to national or regional measures in the area of prevention, rehabilitation and the equalization of opportunities. These measures should include assistance to appropriate agencies and/or organizations to expand co-operative arrangements within and between regions. Technical co-operation agencies should actively recruit disabled persons at all levels and functions, including field positions.

I. Research

144. Member States should develop a programme of research on the causes, types and incidence of impairment and disability, the economic and social conditions of disabled people and the availability and efficacy of existing resources to deal with these matters.

145. Research into the social, economic and participation issues that affect the lives of disabled people and their families, and the ways these matters are dealt with by society, is of particular importance. Research data may be obtained through national statistical offices and census bureaus but, it should be noted, the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat has pointed out that a household survey programme designed to collect information about disability issues is more likely to produce useful results than a general census of the population.

146. The United Nations and its specialized agencies should follow the trends of international research into disability and related research issues to identify existing needs and priorities, while emphasizing innovative approaches to all forms of action recommended in the global strategy.

147. The United Nations should encourage and assist in research projects designed to increase knowledge about the issues covered in the global strategy. It is necessary for the United Nations to be familiar with research findings from various

countries and to be aware of research proposals now pending approval. The United Nations also needs to give increased attention to research results and to stress the use of research and the dissemination of all research information. A more formal link with bibliographical retrieval method using an on-line computerized system, such as the National Rehabilitation Information Centre, is highly recommended.

148. The regional commissions of the United Nations and other regional bodies should include in their action plans research activities to assist Governments in implementing the proposals contained in the global strategy. The key to maximizing the effectiveness of research expenditure for the disabled is the dissemination and sharing of information on the results of research. International governmental and non-governmental agencies should play an active role in establishing collaborative mechanisms between regional and local institutions for joint studies and for the exchange of information.

149. Research at the medical, psychological and social levels offers the promise of reducing physical, mental and social disability. There is a need to develop programmes which include the identification of areas where the probability of progress through research is high. The difference between industrialized countries and developing countries should not prevent the development of fruitful collaboration since many problems are of universal concern.

150. Studies in the following fields are of value to both developing and developed countries:

(a) Clinical research into the containment of those events which cause disability;

(b) Epidemiological studies into the prevalence of disability, the functional limitations of the disabled, the conditions under which they live and the problems they face;

(c) Health and social service research, including research into the gains and costs of different rehabilitation and care policies, ways of making programmes as effective as possible and a search for alternative approaches. Studies on community care would be particularly relevant to developing countries and the study and evaluation of experiments, as well as comprehensive demonstration programmes, would be of value to all. Much information is available which could be productive for secondary analysis.

151. Health and social science research institutions should be encouraged to undertake research and to collect information on disabled persons.

152. Applied research activities are of particular value in the development of new techniques for the delivery of services, the preparation of information materials appropriate for language and culture groups and the training of personnel under conditions relevant to the region.

J. Monitoring and evaluation

153. It is essential that assessment of the situation relating to disabled people should be carried out periodically and that a base-line should be established to measure developments. The most important criteria for evaluating the World Programme of Action are suggested by the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons - "full participation and equality". Monitoring and evaluation should be carried out at periodic intervals at the international and regional levels, as well as at the national level. Evaluation indicators in the following areas could provide a suitable guide: a new legislation with provisions for implementation, new assistance programmes, additional people served by programme facilities, increase in relevant budgetary provisions, additional disabled children attending ordinary schools and additional disabled people employed in special or regular occupations.

154. The United Nations system should carry out a critical periodic evaluation of progress made in implementing the World Programme of Action and to that end should select one or two of the above-mentioned indicators for evaluation. The Commission for Social Development should play an important role in this respect. The United Nations, together with the specialized agencies, should develop, on a continuing basis, suitable systems for the collection and dissemination of information so as to ensure the improvement of programmes at all levels on the basis of evaluation results. In this connexion, the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should have an important role to play.

155. The regional commissions should be requested to carry out monitoring and evaluation functions that would contribute to the global assessments carried out at the international level. Other regional and intergovernmental bodies should be encouraged to take part in this process.

156. At the national level, an evaluation of programmes relating to disabled people should be carried out periodically by the bodies responsible for implementing them.

157. The Secretary-General should report periodically on efforts by the United Nations and the specialized agencies to hire more disabled persons and to make their facilities and information more accessible to disabled persons.

158. The General Assembly and other relevant bodies should periodically consider the progress achieved in the promotion of full participation and equality of disabled persons in all spheres of life, in accordance with international standards.

159. On the basis of the results of the periodic evaluation and on developments in the financial and other aspects of the situation, it may be necessary periodically to revise the World Programme of Action and the sequence and priority of stages of development. These revisions should take place every five years, the first being in 1987, based upon a report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-second session. The review should also constitute an input to the process of review and appraisal of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade.

K. Consultation on the World Programme of Action

160. Disabled persons and their organizations should be consulted in the further development of the World Programme of Action and in its implementation and, to this end, every effort should be made to encourage the formation of organizations of disabled persons at the local, national, regional and international levels.

7th meeting
10 August 1981

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7 (III) Procedure for the further development of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

The Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recognizing the time-scale for the development of a long-term world plan of action concerning disabled persons already approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/133 of 11 December 1980,

1. Adopts the procedure set out below for the further development of the draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons up to the fourth session of the Advisory Committee;
2. Requests the Secretary-General to distribute without delay the draft World Programme of Action, as adopted by the Advisory Committee at its third session, for comments by Member States and international organizations, including organizations of disabled persons;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to allow Member States and international organizations at least three months for consultations and the preparation of comments on the draft World Programme of Action;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, on the basis of the comments received, a proposal for a revised text to be distributed to the Advisory Committee, together with the text adopted by the Committee at its third session, and to distribute the texts at least six weeks before the fourth session of the Committee;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of holding a fourth session of the Advisory Committee in June or July 1982.

8th meeting
12 August 1981

APPENDIX

Documentation before the Advisory Committee
at its third session

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/AC.197/8	2	Provisional agenda
A/AC.197/9	3	World Programme of Action concerning Disabled People
A/AC.197/10 and Add.1	4	Possibilities of continuing the activities of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries in the light of the experience of the International Year of Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General
A/AC.197/L.12	2	Organization of work
A/AC.197/L.13	4	Algeria, India, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Oman, Philippines and Yugoslavia: draft resolution entitled "Supporting activities for the development of technical co-operation in the fields of prevention of disability and rehabilitation in developing countries"
A/AC.197/L.14	3	Canada: draft resolution entitled "Draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons"
A/AC.197/L.15	5	Canada and Sweden: draft resolution entitled "Organizations of disabled persons"

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/AC.197/L.16	3	Bangladesh: draft resolution entitled "Follow-up of the activities of the Year, including the establishment of a long-term World Programme of Action"
A/AC.197/L.17	3	Algeria, Bangladesh, German Democratic Republic, India, Kenya, Morocco, Philippines and Zaire: Célébration d'une journée mondiale des personnes handicapées à l'échelon international et mise en place d'un mécanisme de coordination à l'échelon mondial pour une coopération étroite et efficace entre pays développés et pays en développement
A/AC.197/L.18	3	Sweden: draft resolution entitled "Procedure for the further development of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons"
A/AC.197/L.19 and Add.1-7	6	Adoption of the report of the Advisory Committee: draft report
A/AC.197/81/CRP.1	3	Preliminary draft of chapter III of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons for consideration by the Drafting Group
A/AC.197/81/WP.1	3	Preliminary draft of chapters I and II of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons
A/AC.197/81/WP.2	3	Proposals by several members of the Advisory Committee on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title</u>
A/AC.197/81/WP.3	3	Preliminary draft of chapter III of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons
A/AC.197/81/WP.4	3	Proposals by several members of the Advisory Committee on the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons
A/AC.197/INF.4	-	Information for participants
