## UNITED NATIONS





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#### INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

#### Report of the Secretary-General

#### Addendum

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979, the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation was organized by the United Nations Secretariat in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The participation of disabled persons was facilitated by the generous assistance of the Government of Austria. The Symposium was held at the Vienna International Centre from 12 to 23 October 1981.

2. Fifty-one expert participants from all regions of the world, who were invited in their individual capacity, and 126 observers representing 41 Member States attended the meeting, as well as a number of international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

#### II. ORGANIZATION OF THE SYMPOSIUM

3. Mrs. L. R. Shahani, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the International Year of Disabled Persons opened the meeting. The Symposium elected Mr. Antonio Periquet (Philippines) Chairman of the Symposium; Mr. Abdullah M. Al-Ghanim (Saudi Arabia), Ms. Eloisa de Lorenzo (Uruguay) and Mr. Joshua Malinga (Zimbabwe) Vice-Chairmen; Mr. Henry Enns (Canada), Rapporteur.

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4. The Symposium considered the agenda item entitled "Priorities of the developing countries" in the plenary session and the items concerning strategy for rural areas, equipment and technical aids, technical co-operation and the role of the United Nations in three working groups.

### III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The Secretary-General would propose, subject to the agreement of the General Assembly, to present a report on the work of the Symposium to the Advisory Committee on the International Year of Disabled Persons at its fourth session to be held at Vienna in 1983, including his own proposals, as appropriate, for implementing recommendations of the Symposium.