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QUESTION OF THE ELDERLY AND THE AGED

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Naoharu FUJII (Japan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 18 September 1981, the General Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged: report of the Secretary-General" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered the item jointly with items 76, 77, 78, 84 and 90 at its 15th to 17th, 19th and 21st to 29th meetings, held from 12 to 26 October 1981. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States, specialized agencies and observers of the item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/SR.15-17, 19 and 21-29).
3. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Question of the elderly and the aged: report of the Secretary-General (A/36/70);
 - (b) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter XIX (A/36/3/Add.19). 1/
4. At the 15th and 16th meetings, on 12 and 13 October, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretary-General of the World Assembly on Aging made introductory statements.

1/ To be incorporated in Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth session, Supplement No. 3 (A/36/3/Rev.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/36/L.28

5. At the 27th meeting, on 22 October, the representative of Malta introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/36/L.28) entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged", sponsored by Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, later joined by Cape Verde, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Romania and Uruguay.

6. At the 29th meeting, on 26 October, the representative of Malta orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In paragraph 5, following the words "Requests the Secretary-General to use the Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging", he replaced the words "to meet, in the field of aging, the rapidly increasing needs of the developing countries and in particular the least developed countries" by the words "to encourage further interest in the field of aging among developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, within the context of the World Assembly on Aging";

(b) In operative paragraph 9, he replaced the words "Calls upon" by the word "Invites".

7. At the same meeting the Third Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Question of the elderly and the aged

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 34/153 of 17 December 1979 on the question of the elderly and the aged,

Recalling also its resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978, in which it decided to convene a World Assembly on Aging in 1982, to launch an international action programme on aging,

Considering that the international programme of action on aging should respond to the socio-economic implications of the aging of populations and to the specific needs of older persons, and should pay due regard to the special situation of developing countries and in particular of the least developed countries,

Convinced that the objectives of an international plan of action on aging must be adapted to the aims of the new international economic order and the

International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 2/

Noting with satisfaction the preparatory work for the World Assembly on Aging, and the leading role being played by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat in the United Nations work in the field of aging,

Aware of the need for the continuing role of the Commission on Social Development and other appropriate United Nations bodies in the monitoring and evaluation of the international plan of action that would result from the World Assembly on Aging,

Appreciating the efforts of the specialized agencies and regional commissions and of the non-governmental organizations concerned in the promotion of awareness of the situation of the aging,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in furthering solutions to the problems of the elderly and the aged,

Noting that a United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging has been established by the Secretary-General in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 35/129 of 11 December 1980,

Taking note with appreciation of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the question of the elderly and the aged, 3/

1. Recommends that Governments should continue to give attention to the question of aging, particularly in the formulation of national development policies and programmes in accordance with their national priorities;
2. Invites Member States to consider designating in their respective countries a "Day for the Aging" devoted to activities by, and on behalf of, the elderly and the aged and to report their views and comments to the Secretary-General;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session the views and comments received from Member States pursuant to the invitation contained in 2 above;
4. Appeals to Member States to make voluntary contribution to the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to use the Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging to encourage further interest in the field of aging among

2/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

3/ A/36/70.

developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, within the context of the World Assembly on Aging;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the status of the Trust Fund for the World Assembly of the Aging, and to include in his report an account of project activities financed by the Fund;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen, within the limits of existing resources and voluntary contributions, activities in the field of aging in co-operation with the organizations concerned, in particular:

(a) To assist Governments, at their request, in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for the elderly;

(b) To continue to monitor and research the implications of aging populations, especially in developing countries;

(c) To promote technical co-operation among developing countries in the exchange of information and technology in this field;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of paragraph 7 above and also to report any views received from Member States on the problems of the elderly and the aged;

9. Invites the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to continue to provide financial support in the field of aging, particularly for the implementation of the plan of action that would result from the World Assembly on Aging;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session an item entitled "Question of the elderly and the aged".
