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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS

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 "International Year of Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General" and to consider it directly in plenary meeting.
2. At its 57th plenary meeting, on 13 November, the General Assembly decided to permit the Third Committee to deal with some of the matters relating to the item, such as the preparation of recommendations and draft resolutions and their submission to the General Assembly for adoption.
3. The Committee considered those matters relating to this item jointly with agenda items 12, 129 and 138 at its 56th, 63rd, 66th and 68th meetings, on 19, 27 and 30 November and on 1 December 1981. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States on those matters are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/36/SR.56, 63, 66 and 68).
4. The Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) International Year of Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General (A/36/471 and Add.1 and 2);
 - (b) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter XIX (A/36/3/Add.19); 1/
 - (c) Note verbale dated 2 June 1981 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/363);

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

(d) Letter dated 9 September 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/491);

(e) Letter dated 12 November 1981 from the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons to the President of the General Assembly (A/36/673);

(f) Note verbale dated 20 November 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/711);

(g) Letter dated 25 November 1981 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/36/726).

5. At the 56th meeting, on 19 November, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/36/L.79

6. At the 63rd meeting, on 27 November, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/36/L.79) sponsored by Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Egypt, India, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Romania, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yugoslavia, later joined by Argentina, Barbados, Botswana, Chad, the Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zaire.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 15, which read as follows:

"15. Also calls upon the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures to strengthen and expand technical co-operation activities in developing countries relating to the disabled, especially in the areas of prevention of disability, rehabilitation and integration of disabled in their societies, with particular emphasis on the need to develop and strengthen indigenous capacities and capabilities;"

the words "and the heads of the specialized agencies" were inserted between the words "the Secretary-General" and "to take all necessary measures";

(b) In operative paragraph 17, which read as follows:

"17. Invites, as a matter of priority, Member States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned and mass media to continue to

undertake public information programmes, including the continuation of the present information activities of the IYDP Secretariat for the national Committees, with a view to making all sections of the population increasingly aware of issues relating to the disabled;"

the words "IYDP Secretariat" were replaced by "Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs".

8. At the 65th meeting, on 30 November, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the statement on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution (A/C.3/36/L.90).

9. At the 68th meeting, on 1 December, the representative of Argentina proposed the insertion of a new operative paragraph 15, which read as follows:

"15. Invites member States to promote close and effective co-operation between developed and developing countries 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;"

and the consequential renumbering of the remaining paragraphs.

10. The proposal of Argentina was accepted by the sponsors and the draft resolution was revised accordingly.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as revised, without a vote (see para. 12).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

International Year of Disabled Persons

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 resolution 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, in which it, inter alia, decided to expand the theme of the International Year of Disabled Persons to "Full participation and equality", and 35/133 of 13 December 1980,

Deeply concerned that no less than five hundred million persons are estimated to suffer from disability of one form or another, of whom four hundred million are estimated to be in the developing countries,

Reiterating the continuing need to 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,

Recognizing that the observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons has contributed to the attainment of these objectives,

Recognizing also that a large number of disabled persons are victims of war and other forms of violence, and that the International Year of Disabled Persons has contributed towards the reaffirmation of the need for continued and reinforced co-operation among nations for world peace,

Believing that the activities undertaken by the international community in observing the International Year of Disabled Persons constitute a first essential step towards the achievement of the objectives of the Year,

Convinced that the timely and significant impetus generated by the activities of the International Year of Disabled Persons should be maintained and reinforced with appropriate follow-up action at all levels,

Taking note of the efforts of Member States during the International Year of Disabled Persons to improve the conditions and well-being of the disabled,

Expresses its satisfaction at the convening of the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation, at Vienna, from 12 to 23 October, as well as of the World Conference on Actions and Strategies for Education, Prevention and Integration, at Torremolinos from 2 to 7 November 1981, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in observance of the Year,

Taking note with appreciation of the progress made in the elaboration of a World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 2/ on the implementation of resolution 35/133,

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons 3/ on its third session,

1. Expresses its satisfaction to all Member States which elaborated national policies and programmes for the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons;

2/ A/36/471.

3/ A/36/471/Add.1.

2. Takes note of the activities undertaken by organizations of the United Nations system and the relevant non-governmental organizations in the observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons;
3. Urges Member States to make every effort to consolidate and build further on the results of the International Year of Disabled Persons in order to secure prevention of disability, rehabilitation and full integration of the disabled in the society and, in this respect, to consider maintaining, where appropriate, the national Committees or similar bodies established for the Year;
4. Again invites Member States to submit national reports to the Secretary-General on their implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons and, in particular, to consider elaborating, on the basis of their experiences, national long-term programmes of action in the field of disability;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to convene in 1982 a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the International Year of Disabled Persons to finalize the draft World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, in the light of comments by Member States, international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, with a view to its adoption by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session;
6. Requests the Advisory Committee to consider at its fourth session the advisability of proclaiming the period 1983-1992 as the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons and to submit its views to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session;
7. Requests the Advisory Committee to study the possibility of creating an optional international identity card for disabled persons with the purpose of facilitating the international travel of disabled persons;
8. Urges the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to assure the successful follow-up of the International Year of Disabled Persons, in particular the finalization of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
9. Also requests the Secretary-General and heads of specialized agencies and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system to ensure necessary co-operation and co-ordination of their activities relating to the disabled;
10. Further requests the regional commissions to give high priority to the formulation and implementation of regional programmes related to equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as prevention and rehabilitation, and urges the specialized agencies and relevant organs of the United Nations system to continue the implementation of such programmes;
11. Invites relevant non-governmental organizations to continue and expand their programmes related to the disabled in order to maintain the momentum given by the International Year of Disabled Persons;

12. Welcomes the contributions made by Governments and private sources to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons and appeals for further voluntary contributions which would facilitate the follow-up of the Year;

13. Calls upon the Secretary-General to use an appropriate portion of those voluntary contributions to support and strengthen activities in the developing countries related to the International Year of Disabled Persons, including the strengthening of organizations of disabled persons;

14. Urges the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and organizations 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 building and facilities and to their information sources;

15. Invites Member States to promote close and effective co-operation between developed and developing countries 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;

16. Also calls upon the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies to take all necessary measures to strengthen and expand technical co-operation activities in developing countries relating to the disabled, especially in the areas of prevention of disability, rehabilitation and integration of disabled in their societies, with particular emphasis on the need to develop and strengthen indigenous capacities and capabilities;

17. Stresses the importance of strengthening support services for the exchange of technical information and transfer of technology and know-how, as well as other activities for the development of technical co-operation in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities in developing countries, and notes with appreciation the offer of the Government of Yugoslavia 4/ to contribute in this direction;

18. Invites, as a matter of priority, Member States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned and mass media, to continue to undertake public information programmes, including the continuation of the present information activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs for the national committees, with a view to making all sections of the population increasingly aware of issues relating to the disabled;

19. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session an item entitled "World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons" and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at that session on the implementation of the present resolution.