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### WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS

#### Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Karl BORCHARD (Federal Republic of Germany)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1982, the General Assembly decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered this item jointly with items 77, 81, 82 and 83 at its 14th to 23rd, 25th, 26th, 29th and 42nd meetings, from 18 to 28 October and on 1 and 15 November. An account of the discussion of the Committee is contained in the relevant summary record (A/C.3/37/SR.14-23, 25, 26, 29 and 42).
3. The Committee had before it the following documentation:
  - (a) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General (A/37/351 and Corr.1); report of the Advisory Committee on the International Year of Disabled Persons on its fourth session (A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1) and report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee (A/37/351 and Add.2);
  - (b) Note verbale dated 18 March 1982 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/37/160);
  - (c) Letter dated 18 October 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/37/551).

4. At the 14th and 15th meeting, on 18 and 19 October, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made introductory statements.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

### A. Draft resolutions A/C.3/37/L.19 and Rev.1

5. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Belgium introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/37/L.19) entitled "World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons", sponsored by Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, Federal Republic of, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia as well as Gabon, Malta, Qatar and Zaire.

6. A statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the draft resolution was circulated to the Committee in document A/C.3/37/L.29. Subsequently a revised statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.3/37/L.29/Rev.1) was before the Committee at its 42nd meeting.

7. At the 42nd meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised text of the draft resolution (A/C.3/57/L.19/Rev.1) sponsored by Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Ecuador, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ireland, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Zaire, subsequently joined by the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guinea, Mali, Nepal and Somalia. The revisions called for:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the insertion of the words "recommendation 1 (IV) of" after the words "as set forth in";

(b) the replacement of operative paragraph 2 which read:

"2. Calls upon all Member States, all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, all relevant non-governmental organizations and organizations of disabled persons to ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning disabled persons;"

by the following text:

"2. Calls upon all Member States, all relevant non-governmental organizations and organizations of disabled persons, and through a reallocation of existing resources, calls also upon all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning disabled persons;"

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.3/37/L.22 and Rev.1

9. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of the Philippines introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/37/L.22) entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons", sponsored by Algeria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Egypt, Indonesia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Saudi Arabi, Uruguay and Yugoslavia as well as Argentina, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka, subsequently joined by Oman. The text of the draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976, by which it proclaimed the year 1981 the International Year of Disabled Persons, 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, 34/158 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", 35/133 of 13 December 1980 and 36/77 of 8 December 1981 and resolution 37/\_\_\_ on the adoption of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,

"Recognizing that the International Year of Disabled Persons contributed to the acceptance by the community 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 their fellow citizens,

"Convinced that the International Year of Disabled Persons gave a genuine and meaningful impetus to activities related to equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as prevention and rehabilitation at all levels,

"Expressing its appreciation to the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons for its work and in particular its contribution to the formulation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,

"Expressing its satisfaction for the efforts of Member States during the International Year of Disabled Persons to improve the conditions and well-being of disabled persons and their willingness to involve disabled persons and their organizations in all matters of concern to them,

"Also expressing its satisfaction with the initiatives taken by the specialized agencies and other organs and organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and, in particular, organizations of disabled persons,

"Encouraged by the emergence of organizations of disabled persons in all parts of the world and their positive influence on the image and condition of persons with a disability,

"Having considered with appreciation the Vienna Affirmative Action Plan adopted by the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation, which emphasized that, in developing countries, efforts to prevent disabilities should be intensified and that standards of rehabilitation for disabled persons in developing countries should be as high as possible,

"Noting in particular the results of the meetings organized for the International Year of Disabled Persons by the United Nations regional commissions, which stressed the need for more efficient technical co-operation at the regional and subregional levels in the training of rehabilitation personnel, the production of prosthetic appliances and aids using locally available resources and also stressed the need for an interregional exchange of experience in the elaboration of national programmes for the development of such services,

"Stressing that the primary responsibility for promoting effective measures for prevention of disability, rehabilitation and the realization of the goals of full participation and equality of disabled persons rests with the individual countries and that in this regard international co-operation is highly desirable and should be directed to assist and support national efforts,

"Believing that, in addition to national programmes, an effective implementation of the World Programme of Action would be assisted by activities at the international level by the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the non-governmental organizations and the organizations of disabled persons,

"Recognizing that such activities will be difficult to finance at the present time and that funds for their implementation must come from the reallocation of existing budgets within the United Nations system,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General to assist in the early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons by ensuring its wide distribution and promotion;

"2. Requests Member States to develop plans related to the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as to prevention and rehabilitation and thereby ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"3. Requests all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to formulate and undertake measures within their sphere of competence through a reallocation of existing resources to ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action and requests, in particular, the regional commissions to implement suitable programmes, on the understanding that effective consultation and co-ordination between the various bodies is essential;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to establish interorganizational task forces as recommended by the Advisory Committee at its third and fourth sessions in order to implement support services as embodied in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 36/77, within the existing arrangements for inter-agency co-ordination in order to support national and regional activities in the developing regions in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities;

"5. Requests further the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session a report on ways and means of organizing as soon as possible support services for national, regional and interregional technical co-operation, as well as setting up a clearing house for the exchange of relevant experiences and documentation and, for that purpose, of utilizing the technical co-operation service mentioned in paragraph 17 of resolution 36/77, and described in document A/36/711 as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation, with the co-operation of both the developing and developed countries;

"6. Encourages the Secretary-General to find the means to provide the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs with the necessary resources to enable it to ensure follow-up to the International Year of Disabled Persons and to facilitate the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the consultative services to Member States concerning the design of national programmes for the prevention of disability, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities for disabled persons and to compile and distribute information on available technical and financial resources to assist developing countries in the prevention of disability, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities;

"8. Requests further the Secretary-General to give priority, within the programmes for disabled persons, to activities which will assist the establishment and development of organizations of disabled persons at the national, regional and international level;

"9. Again urges all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to undertake new measures or expedite those 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 sources, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on these measures to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments, to examine the need and possibility of continuing the Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons for the purpose of assisting Governments, at their request, in the formulation of national policies and programmes for disabled persons and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

"11. Requests all Governments in a position to do so, the United Nations Development Programme and all relevant United Nations organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to assist Governments of developing countries, at their request, in the formulation of national policies and programmes for disabled persons;

"12. Proclaims the period 1983-1992 as the 'United Nations Decade for Disabled Persons' as a long-term plan of action, on the understanding that no additional resources from the United Nations system will be needed for this purpose, and encourages Member States to utilize this period as one of the means to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

"13. Urges Governments to proclaim national days for the disabled;

"14. Urges international organizations and funding bodies to give higher priority to human resources development, in particular to training activities in the fields of prevention and rehabilitation and to enhance the equalization of opportunities and the participation of disabled persons;

"15. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system to recognize the needs of disabled persons in their activities relating to the International Youth Year and in international and regional congresses and meetings that they sponsor;

"16. Requests the World Health Organization in the light of the experience of the International Year of Disabled Persons to review its definitions of impairment, disability and handicap in consultation with organizations of disabled persons and other appropriate bodies;

"17. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of convening in 1987 a meeting of experts, consisting largely of disabled persons, to prepare a report that would enable the Secretary-General to help the General Assembly at its forty-second session to evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons as provided for in operative paragraph 3 of resolution 37/\_\_\_;

"18. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

10. At the 42nd meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/37/L.22/Rev.1), sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Indonesia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Uruguay and Yugoslavia, subsequently joined by the Congo, Guinea, Mali and Qatar.

11. A revised statement by the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the revised draft resolution was circulated to the Committee in document A/C.3/37/L.29/Rev.1.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of the sponsors, orally further revised operative paragraph 7 which read:

"7. Requests further the Secretary-General to continue to give appropriate priority to activities within the programmes for disabled persons, which will assist the establishment and development of organizations of disabled persons at the national, regional and international level;"

to read as follows:

"7. Requests further the Secretary-General to continue to give appropriate priority to activities within the programmes for disabled persons with regard to organizations of disabled persons;"

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the revised draft resolution, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION I

##### World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

##### The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/123 of 16 December 1976 by which it proclaimed the year 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, 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", 35/133 of 11 December 1980 and 36/77 of 8 December 1981,

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 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 to share equally in the improvements in living conditions resulting from social and economic development,

Recognizing that the International Year of Disabled Persons contributed to the acceptance by the community 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 their fellow citizens,

Convinced that the International Year of Disabled Persons gave a genuine and meaningful impetus to activities related to equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as prevention and rehabilitation at all levels,

Expressing its satisfaction with the efforts of Member States during the International Year of Disabled Persons to improve the conditions and well-being of disabled persons and their willingness to involve disabled persons and their organizations in all matters of concern to them,

Also expressing its satisfaction with the initiatives taken by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and, in particular, organizations of disabled persons,

Taking note of the emergence of organizations of disabled persons in all parts of the world and their positive influence on the image and condition of persons with a disability,

Having considered the Vienna Affirmative Action Plan adopted by the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation, 1/

Expressing its appreciation to the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons for the work it has done,

Having considered the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons on its fourth session and its proposal for a World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 2/

Desirous of ensuring an effective follow-up to the International Year of Disabled Persons and aware that if this is to be achieved Member States, organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and organizations of disabled persons must therefore be encouraged to continue the activities already undertaken and to initiate new programmes and activities,

Stressing that the primary responsibility for promoting effective measures for prevention of disability, rehabilitation and the realization of the goals of "full participation" of disabled persons in social life and development and of "equality" rests with individual countries and that international action should be directed to assist and support national efforts in this regard,

1. Adopts the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, as set forth in recommendation 1 (IV) of the annex to the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons at its fourth session; 2/

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1/ IYDP/SYMP/L.2/Rev.1.

2/ A/37/351/Add.1. and Corr.1.



2. Calls upon all Member States, all relevant non-governmental organizations and organizations of disabled persons and, through a reallocation of existing resources, calls also upon all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning disabled persons;

3. Decides to evaluate at its forty-second session, with the help of the Secretary-General, the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION II

##### Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 31/123 of 16 December 1976, by which it proclaimed the year 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons, 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, 34/158 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", 35/133 of 13 December 1980, 36/77 of 8 December 1981 and 37/\_\_\_, in which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 3/

Recognizing that the International Year of Disabled Persons contributed to the acceptance by the community 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 their fellow citizens,

Convinced that the International Year of Disabled Persons gave a genuine and meaningful impetus to activities related to equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as prevention and rehabilitation at all levels,

Expressing its appreciation to the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons for its work, in particular for its contribution to the formulation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,

Expressing its satisfaction with the efforts of Member States during the International Year of Disabled Persons to improve the conditions and well-being of disabled persons and their willingness to involve disabled persons and their organizations in all matters of concern to them,

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3/ See draft resolution I.

Also expressing its satisfaction with the initiatives taken by the specialized agencies and other organs and organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and, in particular, organizations of disabled persons,

Encouraged by the emergence of organizations of disabled persons in all parts of the world and their positive influence on the image and condition of persons with a disability,

Having considered with appreciation the Vienna Affirmative Action Plan adopted by the World Symposium of Experts on Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries and Technical Assistance in Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation, 4/ which emphasized that, in developing countries, efforts to prevent disabilities should be intensified and standards of rehabilitation for disabled persons should be as high as possible,

Noting in particular the results of the meetings organized for the International Year of Disabled Persons by the regional commissions, which stressed the need for more efficient technical co-operation at the regional and subregional levels in the training of rehabilitation personnel, the production of prosthetic appliances and aids using locally available resources and also stressed the need for an interregional exchange of experience in the elaboration of national programmes for the development of such services,

Stressing that the primary responsibility for promoting effective measures for prevention of disability, rehabilitation and the realization of the goals of full participation and equality of disabled persons rests with the individual countries and that in this regard international co-operation is highly desirable and should be directed to assisting and supporting national efforts,

Believing that, in addition to national programmes, an effective implementation of the World Programme of Action would be assisted by activities at the international level by the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the non-governmental organizations and the organizations of disabled persons,

Recognizing that such activities will be difficult to finance at the present time and that every effort must be made to reallocate existing budgets within the United Nations system,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to assist in the early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons by ensuring its wide distribution and promotion;

2. Requests Member States to develop plans related to the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, as well as to prevention and rehabilitation, and thereby ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

3. Requests all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to formulate and undertake measures within their sphere of competence, through a reallocation of existing resources, to ensure early implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and requests, in particular, the regional commissions to implement suitable programmes, on the understanding that effective consultation and co-ordination between the various bodies is essential;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to establish interorganizational task forces as recommended by the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons at its third and fourth sessions in order to implement support services, as embodied in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 36/77, within the existing arrangements for interagency co-ordination in order to support national and regional activities in the developing regions in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities;

5. Encourages the Secretary-General to find the means to provide the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat with the necessary resources to enable it to ensure follow-up to the International Year of Disabled Persons and to facilitate the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue the consultative services to Member States concerning the design of national programmes for the prevention of disability, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities for disabled persons and to develop a practical check list dealing with the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons which could be used by consultants in discussion with Governments of Member States, and to compile and distribute information on available technical and financial resources to assist developing countries in the prevention of disability, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to give appropriate priority to activities within the programmes for disabled persons with regard to organizations of disabled persons;

8. Again urges all organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to undertake new measures or expedite those 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 sources, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on these measures to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments, to examine the need and possibility of continuing the Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons for the purpose of assisting Governments, at their

request, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session;

10. Requests all Governments in a position to do so, the United Nations Development Programme and all relevant United Nations organs, organizations and agencies to assist Governments of developing countries, at their request, in the formulation of national policies and programmes for disabled persons;

11. Proclaims the period 1983-1992 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons as a long-term plan of action, on the understanding that no additional resources from the United Nations system will be needed for this purpose, and encourages Member States to utilize this period as one of the means to implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

12. Encourages Governments to proclaim national days for the disabled;

13. Urges international organizations and funding bodies to give higher priority to human resources development, in particular to training activities in the fields of prevention and rehabilitation and to enhance the equalization of opportunities and the participation of disabled persons;

14. Requests the organizations of the United Nations system to recognize the needs of disabled persons in their activities relating to the International Youth Year and in international and regional congresses and meetings that they sponsor;

15. Requests the World Health Organization, in the light of the experience of the International Year of Disabled Persons, to review its definitions of impairment, disability and handicap in consultation with organizations of disabled persons and other appropriate bodies;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of convening in 1987 a meeting of experts, consisting largely of disabled persons, to prepare a report that would enable the Secretary-General to help the General Assembly at its forty-second session to evaluate the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons as provided for in paragraph 3 of resolution 37/\_\_\_; 3/

17. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons.

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