



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.3/43/L.15
25 October 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 89

QUESTION OF AGING

Austria, Dominican Republic and Malta; draft resolution

Implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging
and related activities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, by which it endorsed the International Plan of Action on Aging, adopted by consensus by the World Assembly on Aging, held at Vienna in 1982. 1/

Recalling further its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, by which it emphasized that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society, and reaffirming also that developing countries, in particular, need assistance in order to implement the Plan of Action,

Keeping in mind its resolution 41/96 of 4 December 1986, by which it requested the Secretary-General to review the world aging situation every six years,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/96 of 4 December 1985, by which it urged Governments to intensify their efforts, within the context of their own national priorities, cultures and traditions, to implement the recommendations of the Plan of Action,

1/ See Report of the World Assembly on Aging, Vienna, 26 July-6 August 1982 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.16), chap. VI, sect. A.

Reaffirming also its resolution 42/51 of 30 November 1987, by which it considered that the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Aging should be marked in 1992 by appropriate follow-up activities in order to maintain awareness on a global level of issues affecting the aging,

Taking into consideration the preliminary findings from the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, as reported in the Secretary-General's report on the question of aging, 2/ which indicate that co-ordinating mechanisms and national machineries are essential for implementing the Plan of Action,

Noting with concern that the United Nations does not have the necessary resources to deal effectively with requests for assistance and expert advice in the field of aging,

Alarmed by the large reduction in the staff working on the aging programme at the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which makes it impossible for the United Nations Office at Vienna to carry out the mandates given to it by the International Plan of Action on Aging and reaffirmed repeatedly in General Assembly resolutions,

Taking into consideration that there will be a marked increase in the population over the age of 60 years, and that increasingly women will constitute the majority of these elderly populations,

Acknowledging the request of the Government of Yugoslavia for a feasibility study on the establishment of a United Nations-affiliated institute on aging at Belgrade,

Recalling its requests to the Secretary-General to respond favourably to the request of the African Regional Conference on Aging, held at Dakar in December 1984, for assistance in establishing an African gerontological society,

Acknowledging also the guide for future activities in the field of aging in the Asian and Pacific region adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at an Expert Group Seminar held at Bangkok from 14 to 17 December 1987,

Appreciating the invaluable role played by non-governmental organizations in promoting greater awareness of issues that involve the aging and in advocating measures to implement the Plan of Action,

1. Takes note of the Secretary-General's report on the question of aging; 3/

2/ A/43/583, paras. 12-15.

3/ A/43/583.

2. Welcomes the system-wide approach to issues of aging worked out jointly by the concerned agencies and bodies of the United Nations system at the Inter-agency Meeting on system-wide co-ordination of policies and programmes in the field of aging which was held at Vienna in March 1988, and recommends that the next meeting be held to coincide with the second review and appraisal of the International Plan of Action on Aging in 1989;
3. Expresses its satisfaction that the International Institute on Aging has been established in Malta in co-operation with the United Nations and was officially inaugurated by the Secretary-General on 15 April 1988;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly on the activities of the International Institute on Aging;
5. Stresses the imperative need to increase the impetus of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging at national, regional and international levels and appeals for resources to be provided commensurate with the requirements;
6. Urges the Secretary-General, in compliance with the views of Member States as reflected in his report, to maintain and strengthen the existing programmes on aging and to strengthen the United Nations system-wide co-ordination of policies and programmes on aging, with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in the United Nations Office at Vienna continuing in its role as focal point in the United Nations system for activities relating to aging;
7. Supports the request made to the Secretary-General by the Commission for Social Development in its resolution 30/1 that, in preparing the next medium-term plan, he should give priority to the careful elaboration of practical strategies to implement the Plan of Action by providing fuller co-ordination of activities in the field of aging in the United Nations system and maintaining adequate programme budget allocations;
8. Recommends that aging be considered a priority theme in both the proposed medium-term plan for the period starting in 1992 and in the elaboration of an international development strategy for the fourth development decade (1991-2000);
9. Urges that the staff of the Aging Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs be restored to levels which will permit the Centre to carry out its mandates as the focal point in the United Nations for all matters relating to aging;
10. Also urges the bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, working in close co-operation with concerned centres and institutes as well as non-governmental organizations, and utilizing the networking mode of operation, to conduct further research and studies in order to assist Member States in developing demographic and socio-economic profiles of their elderly populations, so that ways and means of ensuring the full and effective participation of the elderly in development can be identified;

11. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to pay particular attention to the specific problems faced by elderly women and to the discrimination suffered by these women due to their gender and age;

12. Decides to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the World Assembly on Aging in the plenary of the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, in 1992, and requests the Commission for Social Development to include in its second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging a draft programme of substantive activities to mark this occasion;

13. Strongly appeals to Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging, bearing in mind that the Fund is particularly positioned to act as a catalyst for resource mobilization;

14. Welcomes the Secretary-General's efforts at finding options for the optimal use of the seminal resources of the Trust Fund for the Promotion of a United Nations Programme on Aging, which include the formulation of a concerted programme of measures to the year 2000, and the proposal to create a world foundation on aging, which would encourage both the private and the public sector to support the work of the United Nations system in the field of aging;

15. Calls upon the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other funding organizations concerned to continue to support activities relating to the question of aging, in particular by providing assistance for projects that fall within their mandate;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "Question of aging".
