



UN LIBRARY

NOV 9 1984

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING  
UN/5 COLLECTION

Chairman: Mr. MADAR (Somalia)

CONTENTS

AGENDA ITEM 85: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE:  
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 89: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 90: QUESTION OF AGING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

AGENDA ITEM 91: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING  
DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued)

\*This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate fascicle for each Committee.

Distr. GENERAL  
A/C.3/39/SR.18  
25 October 1984

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 85: INTERNATIONAL YOUTH YEAR: PARTICIPATION, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/185 and A/39/262; A/C.3/39/L.6)

AGENDA ITEM 89: POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO YOUTH: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/262)

AGENDA ITEM 90: QUESTION OF AGING: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/147)

AGENDA ITEM 91: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONCERNING DISABLED PERSONS: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (continued) (A/39/191)

1. Mr. BRAUN (Federal Republic of Germany) said that the protection of human dignity and the individual's right to the free development of his personality were the supreme tenets of the Federal Republic of Germany's Constitution and a primary task of its Government. Those principles also applied to children and adolescents. The Federal Republic of Germany attached great importance to the active participation of youth in the political, economic and social development of modern society. Many young people, however, believed that their concern about the future was not being taken seriously by society. His Government paid close attention to the concerns of youth stemming from the structural features of its modern industrial society. The active participation of youth in social, political, economic and cultural life was therefore fostered and encouraged by his country. The main thrust of its endeavours was to integrate coming generations into society in such a way as to foster peace and justice.

2. International co-operation and communication among the young were instrumental in overcoming tensions and prejudices and in securing and preserving peace. His Government's commitment in that connection was also reflected in its support of the International Youth Year. The Year should embrace mainly programmes of activities at the national and regional levels, for experience showed that, in general, events at the international level, though often spectacular, achieved little in the way of tangible results. At the international level, however, the Federal Republic of Germany would promote an exchange of ideas and experiences with regard to the settlement of youth problems in societies at a comparable stage of technological, economic and cultural development. The Federal Republic of Germany planned to organize a few carefully selected events for the improvement of co-operation with third world countries in youth policies.

3. His Government accepted the recommendation by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year that an appropriate number of plenary meetings of the General Assembly in 1985 should be devoted to policies and programmes relating to youth and that full consideration should be given to the results achieved during the preparations for the Year. His Government proceeded on the understanding that those activities would be financed from existing funds. It felt that all activities of the Year at the international level should be channeled through the

(Mr. Braun, Federal Republic  
of Germany)

Advisory Committee. It also felt that a declaration of rights and responsibilities of youth would be unnecessary or even detrimental, considering that existing international instruments on human rights already covered the rights of youth.

4. There was no need to establish a global plan of action, because the result would have little or no meaning and even less appeal. The situation of youth differed from country to country, making it difficult to justify global planning.

5. Ms. AL-HAMMAMI (Yemen) said that at a time when the world was in serious economic difficulties more must be done to ensure that young people could participate in the development process, especially in developing countries. In the Yemen Arab Republic, which was a young country, young people participated in activities at all levels of society. The State was committed to expanding educational opportunities so that all citizens could have the benefits of higher education. Currently, 80 per cent of the population were receiving a full education.

6. Yemen had established a centre for disabled persons offering a full range of amenities because it believed that everyone should be integrated into society in accordance with the teachings of Islam. Likewise in accordance with those teachings, the family was fully responsible for the disabled and the elderly.

7. Mr. POC (Democratic Kampuchea) said that his delegation supported the proposals of the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year that the General Assembly should consider devoting, as part of the observance of the Year, an appropriate number of its plenary meetings in 1985 to policies and programmes relating to youth and that those meetings should be designated as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year.

8. His delegation believed that youth everywhere should be able to enjoy peace and freedom and to live in security in their own countries. It was only with genuine peace and security that there could be constructive participation of youth in the process of national development and international co-operation. In the existing world situation, small and weak countries were still experiencing a marked escalation of acts of aggression, expansionism and non-respect for their sovereignty and right to self-determination. The situation of youth in countries under foreign domination should be a source of deep concern to the international community.

9. As a developing country, and currently a victim of a war of aggression, Democratic Kampuchea wished to renew its commitment to the principles of self-determination of peoples, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the non-use of force in international relations. Kampuchean young people were deprived of their most elementary rights, namely, the rights to life, education, work, peace and freedom. Kampuchean youth constituted the primary target of the Vietnamese occupiers in their policy of "Vietnamization" of Kampuchea. As a result of that policy, thousands of Kampuchean children had been orphaned or separated from their

(Mr. POC, Democratic Kampuchea)

parents. Others were enforced to serve in the army of occupation and kill their own compatriots. In the areas controlled by Viet Nam, Kampuchean children were compelled to learn Vietnamese before learning their own language. The occupation forces had systematically sent thousands of Kampuchean youth to Viet Nam to indoctrinate them further and to "Vietnamize" them. Since the invasion of their country by Vietnamese troops in 1979, Kampuchean young people had grown up in deprivation, sorrow and mourning.

10. Kampuchean youth fully understood that its future was vitally linked to an independent, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea with its territorial integrity and national identity intact. It was for that reason that they had fled Vietnamese-controlled areas to join the vast liberated areas under the control of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea. The people of Kampuchea in general and Kampuchean youth in particular stood ready to participate in the reconstruction of their devastated country. That could be achieved only after the total and unconditional withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions. Kampuchea favoured a parliamentary régime with a market economy in a free and democratic society where human rights were fully respected.

11. Mrs. YAMAZAKI (Japan) said that given the difficult international and domestic situation, Japan earnestly hoped that all young people would develop the ability to act independently, fully develop their own potential and a sense of solidarity with other members of society, love their country and work for international co-operation with a profound awareness of global interdependence. Youth must serve with its creative potential the lofty ideals of peace, freedom and independence, understanding and co-operation.

12. Although the observation of the International Youth Year was to be focused on activities at the national level, regional activities too were important. Her delegation therefore noted with satisfaction the successful organization of and preparation for the five regional meetings devoted to the Year which had been held during 1983.

13. Her delegation welcomed the decision of the Advisory Committee to request the General Assembly to approve the convening, within existing resources, of a fourth session of the Advisory Committee in 1985. It understood, however, that the mandate of the Advisory Committee at that session would not include formulation of a long-term global plan of action, because the situation of youth varied from country to country, making it difficult to justify such a plan. It also welcomed the suggestion that an appropriate number of plenary meetings of the General Assembly should be designated as the United Nations World Conference for the International Youth Year, provided that was consistent with General Assembly procedures and practices and provided the observance and follow-up of the Year took place as part of the regular activities of the United Nations.

14. The end of the Year, however, should not bring to an end activities in the interests of youth. Young people would continue to be the concern of the entire

(Mrs. Yamazaki, Japan)

international community, and efforts on their behalf at the local, national and regional levels must be renewed in order to ensure long-term results.

15. The International Plan of Action on Aging that had emerged from the World Assembly on Aging was a valuable document which served both as a means of effecting a broader understanding of the problems of the aging and as a set of basic policy guidelines on that subject. Success in the implementation of the Plan would, however, depend largely on action taken by Governments at the national level. Her delegation felt that the momentum generated by the World Assembly should not be allowed to dissipate and, for that reason, it was important to retain or establish national machinery to ensure that measures for the aged were being fully implemented.

16. The aging of the population had become an important issue in many countries, including her own. The rising proportion of the aged in those populations was imposing a burden on the systems which provided social security and social services. However, Japan was convinced that the aged could make significant contributions to society, as had been noted at the International Conference on Population held at Mexico City in August 1984.

17. Ms. THOMAS (United Kingdom) said that with respect to the International Youth Year everyone should reflect on the ways in which the three chosen themes, participation, development and peace, might best be pursued. There could be no blanket approach to the task, for each country's unique blend of social, economic and cultural factors would require different degrees of emphasis to be placed on each of the three themes.

18. Participation was a worthy aim, but only if it meant full participation in all aspects of the activities and programmes planned for the Year. Young people respected the wisdom of many of their elders, but the latter must in turn appreciate that young people did not want to use their Year to pursue their elders' ideas of what was beneficial to youth. Young people might be lacking in experience, but not in intelligence. Indeed, the human brain was acknowledged to be more acute at the age of 21 than at any time thereafter. There were many other talents, in addition to intelligence, which were abundant among young people and which must be fostered and encouraged if the International Youth Year was to be a success. Young people could make a full contribution only if they were allowed to participate and make decisions and were given responsibility.

19. The second aim of the Year, that of development, was equally important. Development meant allowing each individual to fulfil his or her own potential, and that could not be achieved in States where young people were subjected to intellectual repression. Nor could it be achieved where youth was subjected to extreme economic constraints. It was within the power of individual Governments to remove immediately intellectual repression where it existed, and it was the responsibility of both national Governments and the international community to alleviate the economic constraints faced by many young people in different parts of the world.

(Ms. Thomas, United Kingdom)

20. Education was a basic prerequisite for positive and sound development and should be free and non-discriminatory. It should concentrate not only on academic achievements but also on practical instruction. Indeed, it was practical measures that her delegation hoped the International Youth Year would promote, measures which would be of benefit to young people today and to future generations.

21. The third aim of the International Youth Year, peace, was a matter of deep concern to everyone. However, it was most important for youth because young people were the ones who would have to live with the decisions made now by older politicians and statesmen. Weaponry was being accumulated throughout the world at an awesome rate, and young people were fully aware that it was the older generation that was responsible for that situation. The younger generation, on the other hand, had most to lose from it. Obviously there were no easy solutions, but young people throughout the world should be given the freedom to express their concern in public, and Governments should have the sense to listen to what they had to say. The way towards peace could not, however, be found within national boundaries alone. Young people must be encouraged to communicate with their counterparts in other countries.

22. It must be acknowledged that it would be the height of idealism, and indeed the height of stupidity, to ignore the practical constraints imposed on the achievement of the aims of the Year. She was referring, of course, to money or, more precisely, the lack of it. Almost all Governments were experiencing economic problems. However, none could afford to pump money into an endless number of projects just because they were labeled "youth". There were many other sectors of society in need of funds, and there were many other goals to be pursued. Young people themselves were in the best position to decide which programmes merited the highest priority and which projects would be most appropriate and beneficial in the International Youth Year.

23. Mrs. MIGNOTT (Jamaica) said that the question of youth was among the priorities of her country, where young people comprised more than half the population. A National Co-ordinating Committee, under the direction of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Development, co-ordinated the relevant activities of governmental and non-governmental agencies and provided liaison with the United Nations. The Human Employment Resource Training Programme (HEART), which had proved highly successful, was training school drop-outs in specialized skills relevant to community needs. During 1984 the Ministry had launched a new nation-wide programme, Youth Thrust '84. Under the programme, young people worked at upgrading or creating community facilities, in such fields as agriculture, commerce and building, which they themselves would use, received leadership training and attended lectures on family life, morality, drug abuse, parental responsibilities, family planning, teen-age pregnancy and child care. The success of the ambitious programme would depend primarily on the level of commitment of young people themselves and on the voluntary participation of various national sectors. The ultimate objective of Youth Thrust '84 was to make young people more confident and more sensitive to their role in shaping the future course of the nation.

(Mrs. Mignott, Jamaica)

24. Her country planned to host an international conference of youth in April 1985 which, with the parallel world youth festival of arts, would be inspired by the themes of the International Youth Year, development, participation and peace, and would take into consideration the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities for the Year. Discussions at the conference would promote democratic principles and values. Over 12,000 representatives from youth organizations world-wide were expected to attend, and detailed criteria for the Conference were being elaborated by a 20-member international secretariat.

25. Turning to the question of the aging, she observed that a national survey had shown that in 1980 the aging had constituted over 10.6 per cent of the total population, a fourfold increase over the figure recorded for 1921. In keeping with her Government's integrated approach to the question, a new home for the aging was expected to be ready for occupancy early in 1985 and would provide recreational and occupational therapy facilities for residents. A Food Security Plan provided food stamps to eligible population groups, including the aging, and the Government had also instituted a feeding programme for the elderly. Efforts were under way to adjust pensions and other income to inflation and to secure the participation of the aging in the labour force at higher income levels.

26. Recognizing the importance of co-operation at the international level, her delegation fully supported efforts aimed at strengthening the exchange between the United Nations and national machinery as outlined in document A/39/147. Her country had supported the establishment of the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging, welcomed its dynamic role in the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and hoped that pledges to the Fund would increase. Her delegation also supported the goals outlined for the interregional seminar on aging scheduled for May 1985, which would provide helpful data for use at the national level.

27. Turning to the question of the disabled, she said that her country sought to ensure the full integration of disabled persons into national activities, following the guidelines established in the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 37/52. Her Government gave due priority to disability prevention, intervention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities for the disabled. It had enacted a programme whereby persons certified 25 per cent disabled did not pay income tax and were eligible for National Housing Trust houses at concessionary rates.

28. The Ministry of Social Security was conducting an "early stimulation project" to check children who were slow in developing in an effort to prevent permanent disability where possible. Plans were being studied to establish a Work Centre for the Disabled using funds collected during a telethon, and efforts were under way to establish a Caribbean regional centre in Jamaica to co-ordinate technical co-operation and assistance with a view to facilitating and supporting services for disabled persons. A guidance centre helped them find jobs, and workshops were operated for the sale of their handicrafts.

(Mrs. Mignott, Jamaica)

29. While it was difficult to assess the scope of the success of the programmes she had outlined, they clearly had educated and sensitized the population as a whole to the problems and needs of disabled persons. Lastly, her delegation supported the continuation of the Trust Fund for the International Year of Disabled Persons in accordance with the guidelines recommended by the Secretary-General (A/39/191) and agreed that the new name proposed, the United Nations Fund for Disability, was more appropriate.
30. Mr. CHACON (Venezuela) said that the fact that the International Youth Year was being celebrated constituted progress in the incorporation of young people into national economic and political life. The resolutions and decisions recommended by the Advisory Committee for the International Youth Year (A/39/262) contributed substantially to the preparations for the Year.
31. The fact that 75 per cent of Venezuela's population was under 30 years of age explained why his Government attached high priority to meeting the needs of youth. Education at the primary and secondary levels was free and compulsory, vocational guidance and training programmes were also free, and private education was available as well. Priority was also given to higher education, for institutions of higher learning were the main source of professionals entering the public and private sectors. Sustained economic growth was essential to ensure the access of new generations to training opportunities and to the workplace.
32. In keeping with General Assembly resolution 34/151, a national committee had been established in 1983 to implement activities for youth envisaged in the National Plan in urban and rural sectors, focusing on education, employment opportunities, access to information, recreation and sports and the promotion and dissemination of culture. Those activities would be co-ordinated by the Ministry of Youth.
33. He emphasized the very serious threat to youth posed by drugs, and urged all delegations to give strong support to national and international efforts to eradicate the scourge of drug abuse.
34. Lastly, in a world characterized by increasing polarization, the arms race, wars, violations of human rights, terrorism and vestiges of neo-colonialism, young people should be taught respect for the validity of the principles of law enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the importance of pursuing common objectives through international co-operation.
35. Mrs. FARRA-FROND (Central African Republic) said that her country would spare no efforts to ensure the success of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons. Desiring to promote the rights of the disabled, and pursuant to the relevant United Nations resolutions, her Government had established a National Organization for the Disabled in 1981. The Organization's purpose was to enumerate and organize persons with motor, sensorial or mental disabilities with a view to incorporating them into national life and improving their living conditions. It provided timely assistance to meet their needs and offered vocational training, functional literacy training



(Mrs. Farra-Frond, Central African Republic)

and courses for the blind and deaf-mutes. A shortage of funds and qualified personnel, along with logistical problems, had created difficulties for some projects, but it was hoped that the situation would improve.

36. Her Government had succeeded, through an ongoing media campaign, in heightening the general population's awareness of and concern for the problems of the disabled. They were very gradually being integrated into the economic life of the country through the efforts of increasing numbers of their countrymen and with the assistance of the national Red Cross, the Organization of Central African Women and religious organizations. Her delegation expressed its deep gratitude for the assistance it had received from certain friendly countries and from international organizations, in particular the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as from the International Organization for the Disabled, the Rotary Club and the Lions Club.

37. International co-operation was essential, given the fact that the plight of the disabled could not be dissociated from the overall situation in her country, which was among the least developed, was land-locked and was more deeply affected than most by the current world crisis. She therefore appealed to the international community to assist her country in its efforts on behalf of the disabled.

38. Mr. BOUFFANDEAU (France) agreed with the view expressed, in particular in the Advisory Committee at its third session, that, since the rights of youth were the same as those of society as a whole and were therefore covered by existing international human rights instruments, it would be a mistake to endeavour to define rights applicable solely to young people. His delegation hoped that national and international observances of the International Youth Year would preserve and take full advantage of the diversity, curiosity and spontaneity of youth. He also cautioned against the dangers of over-simplification, and stressed that youth should have the predominant role in the preparations for and observance of the Year. International youth exchanges should be encouraged, for they increased understanding among young people and served the cause of peace.

39. Activities for the International Youth Year should be elaborated and implemented primarily at the national level, and there was no need to establish new United Nations machinery. The United Nations and the specialized agencies which were concerned with the preparations for the Year should co-operate with one another and work to ensure its success.

40. In February 1984 his Government had established a National Co-ordinating Committee for the International Youth Year with representatives from the ministries concerned, qualified bodies and, in particular, youth organizations. His country's observance of the International Youth Year would be reflected in activities organized by the Government at the national and regional levels, and in projects of youth movements which, once approved by the National Committee, could benefit from public financing.

(Mr. Bouffandeau, France)

41. Turning to the question of the disabled, he said that his delegation fully endorsed the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, which was reflected in his country's efforts on their behalf. Substantial progress had been registered in France, in particular with respect to prevention, guidance, resources and the integration of seriously handicapped adults. A plan of action had been elaborated in 1981 envisaging the integration of handicapped children in the normal school environment, the development of measures to enable disabled persons to remain and develop in their normal environment, and the integration of the disabled in regular work places.

42. With regard to the question of aging, he stressed the importance and complexity of the phenomenon of aging, which had social, economic and political implications for an increasing number of countries. The World Assembly on Aging had successfully taken into account the multiple aspects of the problem, and the Plan of Action which had emerged from it, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/51, should serve as a source of inspiration for generous and pragmatic national policies. In 1981 his Government had established an Office on the Aging which sought to reduce the inequalities that often affected the elderly and to develop their capabilities. The groundwork had been laid for the establishment of a national centre for the prevention of senility, the establishment of a special fund to finance activities and services of general benefit to the elderly and the incorporation of retired persons in activities of benefit to society, such as helping young people enter the work force, drug and delinquency prevention, preservation of the cultural heritage, and activities on behalf of developing countries.

43. Recognizing the importance of international co-operation in the field, his country had organized an international seminar as a follow-up to the World Assembly on Aging in March 1983, and had assisted the association "AGIR" in developing techniques to utilise the skills of early retirees to benefit developing countries, particularly in the fields of handicrafts and agriculture.

44. Mrs. BROŠŇÁKOVÁ (Czechoslovakia) said that, in the matter of improving the situation of vulnerable population groups, only the national authorities of the States concerned could transform inspiration coming from international and regional structures into deeds because it was they who must incorporate the relevant programmes into their overall development strategies. Social problems affecting vulnerable groups, such as the need to halt the arms race, solve conflict situations in the world and restructure international economic relations on a just and democratic basis, were just as important as exchanging experience on ameliorating the situation of vulnerable groups.

45. Referring to the International Youth Year, she said that her country had established a national co-ordinating committee, one of whose main tasks was to submit proposals aimed at further improving the care of the young generation.

46. Czechoslovakia, with its highly advanced system of social benefits and amenities, paid much attention to the all-round development of youth, especially

(Mrs. Brošňáková, Czechoslovakia)

through free schooling and compulsory secondary education. With its constitutionally guaranteed right to education and to work, the country's youth participated actively in society; they worked not only in various branches of the national economy but also in local and national representative bodies, through which they participated in elaborating and implementing election programmes. Despite those successes, efforts would continue to be made to realize the full potential of young people by appointing them to responsible posts and involving them increasingly in the solution of important tasks.

47. Most young people in the world were prevented from developing their potential because of the tremendous waste of resources due to the arms race, and cuts in social spending to permit increased military expenditures, and because of inflation, unemployment, poverty and illiteracy. In many countries, there was a growing pattern deficient education resulting in anti-social behaviour.

48. Especially important for the International Youth Year was the organization of activities to safeguard peace and security in the world because they were the basic pre-condition for the enjoyment by youth of any human rights. Young people understood the need for peace and security, and in her country youth organizations co-operated with young people everywhere who were struggling for national liberation and social progress against all forms of foreign domination and racism, and assisted them with voluntary contributions. Czechoslovak youth would also make a significant contribution to the International Youth Year by participating in the XII World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Moscow in 1985, as well as other conferences and activities organized by the United Nations. Her delegation accordingly felt that the General Assembly, at its next session, should review the results achieved in connection with the Year and formulate new objectives to bring it to an appropriate conclusion.

49. Mr. ALBAN-HOLGUIN (Colombia) said that the United Nations had been clear-sighted enough to recognize the crucial importance of promoting youth programmes as an integral part of development. The international community should therefore commit itself unequivocally to giving priority to measures to ensure the better representation of young people at all levels as a corollary to the preservation of peace.

50. Colombia was also contributing to the activities of the Year by proposing that wise strategies should be devised to protect young people from the pernicious influence of drugs. The drug problem was undermining countries' economies and social structure, causing the human species to degenerate, ruining health, altering relations among States and degrading youth. Powerful networks of delinquents had been organized in many countries, with huge amounts of capital which enabled them to elude the law and enrich themselves by impoverishing and ruining others. Moreover, drug traffic led to an increase in the use of arms to attack the legitimate authorities.

51. The widespread consumption of drugs could never be justified as merely the exercise of individual free will. National laws should drastically penalize not

(Mr. Alban-Holguin, Colombia)

only the illicit production and traffic in drugs, but also their consumption. In that regard, his delegation was planning to promote initiatives in the Third Committee in defence of youth. The drug traffic was a crime against humanity because it reduced vital forces which could not then be used to help the international community, and because it mainly affected young people. No time was more appropriate than the International Youth Year to draw the world's attention to the magnitude of that evil.

52. In the face of the enormous financial resources available to international drug traffickers, international organizations must fight with efficient bilateral or multilateral co-ordination in order to win. To that end, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, with the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Argentina, had recently issued another declaration proclaiming the need for a joint approach to the problem of the traffic in drugs. The United Nations should convene a specialized conference to study the legal and institutional problems involved and to adopt an international plan against the drug traffic. The Ministers had also proposed the creation of a United Nations fund to aid developing countries in their efforts to combat the drug traffic. It was his delegation's hope that the General Assembly would pronounce itself on the subject even more emphatically and affirmatively than in previous years.

53. Mrs. SAELZLER (German Democratic Republic) said that the chances that the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons would be successful increased when societies were able to guarantee everyone the right to social security, health care, education, work, leisure and recreation. Her country's Constitution guaranteed the interests of disabled persons, and all the necessary political, economic and social conditions were provided to integrate disabled persons into social life. Her country had also established a central co-ordinating group to ensure the implementation of the measures proposed in conjunction with the International Year of Disabled Persons.

54. Specialized rehabilitation centres, job guarantees, protected work places, trained social workers to care for disabled citizens living with their families and the improvement of leisure facilities illustrated how her country attended to the needs of disabled persons and showed that care for the disabled, rather than being left to the initiative of individuals or groups, was considered the responsibility of a society as a whole.

55. In addition to efforts to eliminate aggression and colonial and racist domination, which adversely affected the rehabilitation and integration of disabled persons, measures aimed at promoting world peace were the most useful aspect of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons; accordingly, her country would continue to contribute actively to the implementation of the Programme.

56. Mr. DAMM (Chile) said that, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 37/48, Chile had designated its national youth secretariat as the body responsible for organizing activities for the International Youth Year. That body, in turn,

(Mr. Damm, Chile)

had established a national committee which was preparing a report on the needs of Chilean youth. The national committee had also prepared and co-ordinated a programme of activities for 1985 which included cultural, scientific, artistic and sports exchanges with the youth of Argentina.

57. Chile had for several years been carrying out activities designed to rehabilitate the disabled and improve their educational, job and recreational opportunities. In the health sector, educational campaigns were being developed in both private and public sectors for the prevention of birth defects, accidents and diseases resulting in disablement. Special education programmes, specially equipped workshops and recreational opportunities had also been provided for the mentally disabled.

58. His Government had been making a sustained effort to help the aged. In 1975, it had established old-age pensions for those whose pensions had been drastically reduced because of inflation or those who had never had access to a pension plan. Chile's National Council for the Protection of the Aged, a private body made up almost exclusively of volunteers, had established many homes for disabled elderly persons and daily care centres which provided the aged with companionship, food and recreation.

59. He called on the world community to continue on the path indicated in the International Plan of Action on Aging by implementing practical activities to help solve the problems of the aged. Chile supported that Plan and would continue its contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging, a particularly important source of assistance to the developing countries. He noted that Chile's achievements in the field of social development had been a result of its channelling more than 60 per cent of its national budget to the social sector and by making more efficient use of its resources. In view of the limited national resources, however, he called for international measures to facilitate the harmonious economic growth of all countries.

60. Mr. GHANEM (Democratic Yemen) said that the international community's concern for the problems of youth was to be welcomed because of youth's great untapped potential. Youth should be given every access to employment, education and training and should be protected against unemployment. It also had to be guaranteed fundamental freedoms, the right to self-determination and the chance to live in a world without war.

61. In many countries, however, youth lacked both employment and fundamental freedoms and often reacted by resorting to drugs and other forms of anti-social behaviour, particularly in situations in which it felt that it had no future because foreign occupation, apartheid - or, in such cases as Palestine and Namibia, exile - prevented it from participating in society.

62. In his country, the youth movement which had emerged from the struggle for independence received every encouragement because youth could make an important contribution to the building of the country. By law, the country provided free

(Mr. Ghanem, Democratic Yemen)

educational training and leisure facilities. Youth also played a prominent role in public organizations in the drafting of legislation. One of the legacies of colonialism in his country was an 80 per cent illiteracy rate, and illiterates were encouraged to obtain an education. The youth movement was conducting a campaign to eliminate illiteracy, and its success would be the greatest contribution it could make to the International Youth Year.

63. Since the national committee had been established, preparations for the Year had been made at all levels and had been reviewed and approved. As a further expression of its support for the Year, his country would also participate in the XII World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Moscow in 1985.

64. Mrs. KAFAROVA (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) said that the young people of her country recognized that the struggle for peace was the urgent responsibility of youth everywhere. One of the most important contributions to that struggle would be the XII World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Moscow in 1985.

65. In many countries youth also had to struggle against unemployment, apartheid, racial discrimination and the violation of its basic rights resulting from the militarism and indifference of Governments, the reduction of social programmes, and the like, the consequences of which were reflected in statistics for suicide and drug addiction. The solution to those problems, which must remain the constant concern of the United Nations, was action to guarantee the most important rights of youth, especially the right to education.

66. Under socialism, the right to education, like the right to work, was not only guaranteed by law but also exercised through a far-flung network of State educational establishments. A major educational reform was currently in progress to improve youth's preparation for the future through better co-ordination of vocational and general education. Furthermore, young people in her country were guaranteed a job in their specialty after leaving school, occupying an important place in the economy and in public administration. Under the USSR Constitution, youth organizations participated in government affairs and in political, economic, social and cultural decisions. They even made legislative proposals which acquired the force of law. They never knew such scourges as exploitation, unemployment, illiteracy, chauvinism and militarism, which were the daily lot of their contemporaries under capitalism.

67. Her country supported the implementation of all three aspects of the International Youth Year - participation, development and peace - especially by Governments, local authorities and public and youth organizations. A good starting point was the Specific Programme of Measures and Activities in preparation for the International Youth Year, but unfortunately, not all items of that Programme had been implemented. Her delegation therefore felt that the attention of the secretariat of the International Youth Year, United Nations bodies and governmental and non-governmental organizations should be focused on the implementation of the basic elements of that Programme, as well as on the regional plans of action for the Year. That task was complicated by the conditions under which young people

(Mrs. Kafarova, USSR)

lived in different countries: how Governments dealt with the problems of youth depended largely on the specific social and economic structure of each State.

68. Of course, observance of the International Youth Year must follow the pattern of similar "years" and not result in any further expansion of the United Nations Secretariat and of other international organizations, or an increase in their regular budget. The implementation of measures adopted in connection with the Year must be financed through voluntary contributions or the redeployment of budgetary resources. An entire system of bodies existed within the United Nations to deal with the problems of youth and they must examine those problems comprehensively and take the necessary decisions. A number of democratic international non-governmental organizations were also making a valuable contribution to the Year and it was important to ensure close co-ordination between them and the corresponding United Nations bodies.

69. In the USSR, the intense preparations for the Year by State and public organizations were receiving broad coverage in the mass media in order to make Soviet youth aware of United Nations youth-related activities. The XII World Festival of Youth and Students to be held in Moscow in 1985 would make an important contribution to the success of the Year.

70. Mrs. KOLAROVA (Bulgaria) said that Bulgaria's experience had demonstrated that social progress and development required, first and foremost, profound socio-economic transformations. In conditions of justice, equality and awareness of the needs of young people, the disabled and the aged, such groups could be integrated more easily into society and solutions could be found to their problems.

71. On the eve of the International Youth Year, there was a strong awareness within the international community of the enormous potential of young people as a powerful driving force for progress. Peace was an essential prerequisite for young people to be able to put their energy and knowledge into the service of their country and to contribute to the advancement of mankind. The attainment of those objectives involved providing an opportunity for the young to exercise their human rights without any discrimination. The absence in such conditions, which could be seen even in highly developed countries, generally had a crippling effect on the lives of the young people of those countries.

72. Her Government had always considered the establishment of proper socio-economic and political conditions for the self-realization of young people as one of its major tasks. Young people in Bulgaria were an important factor in all spheres of public life. They took an active part in international activities aimed at preventing nuclear war, strengthening international peace and security and eliminating colonialism, racism and apartheid. In the past year, Bulgaria had hosted 10 major multilateral international events organized by the Dimitrov Young Communist League. A national preparatory committee for the International Youth Year had been set up, and Bulgaria was organizing an international assembly for children and young people to be held in 1985 in Sofia and other Bulgarian cities.

(Mrs. Kolarova, Bulgaria)

73. With regard to disabled persons, she noted that there was in Bulgaria a major, expanded framework of socio-economic, pedagogical, psychological and other measures for the prevention of disability and for the rehabilitation of disabled persons and their reintegration into society. In the years following the International Year of Disabled Persons, her Government had also made a number of changes in the social legislation of Bulgaria, such as an increase in pensions for disabled persons.

74. No less attention had been devoted by her country to the problems of aging. The most remarkable merit of Bulgaria's pension system was its comprehensiveness; for example, pensions of agricultural workers were the same as those of industrial labourers and white-collar workers. Bulgaria's objectives in relation to the aged and aging were to preserve people's health and vitality, to enable them to engage in personally and socially satisfying activities and to unite all generations in concerted efforts for social progress.

75. The CHAIRMAN announced that the Comoros, Dominica, Malta, Saint Lucia and Uruguay had become co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.6.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.