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QUESTION OF AGING

Report of the Third Committee

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1984, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "Question of aging: report of the Secretary-General" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Third Committee considered this item jointly with items 85, 89 and 91 at its 16th to 23rd, 27th and 37th meetings, on 19, 22 to 26 October and 1 and 13 November 1984. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/39/SR.16-23, 27 and 37).
3. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the question of aging (A/39/147).
4. At the 16th meeting, on 19 October, the Assistant Secretary-General for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement.
5. At the 19th meeting, on 24 October, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement.

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/39/L.13

6. At the 27th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/39/L.13) entitled "Question of aging", sponsored by Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Jordan, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, Samoa, Spain, Suriname, Thailand, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as China, Samoa and the Sudan, subsequently joined by Senegal and Somalia.

7. At its 37th meeting, on 13 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/39/L.13 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

Question of aging

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 38/27 of 22 November 1983, in which it called upon Governments to make efforts to implement the principles and recommendations contained in the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging 1/ in accordance with their economic, social and cultural systems and social values and changes, taking into account the circumstances of each country,

Reaffirming its resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, in which it requested the Secretary-General to continue to use the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging so as to assist countries, in particular developing countries and least developed countries, in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for aging in order to meet the rapidly increasing needs of older persons,

Recognizing the role played by the United Nations and the specialized agencies through their efforts in the field of aging and the need to strengthen this role, especially at the regional level, in order to ensure the implementation of the Plan of Action and the systematic and efficient functioning of the technical advisory and co-ordination services of the United Nations,

Recalling recommendation 58 of the recommendations for the further implementation of the World Population Plan of Action, 2/ adopted at the

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

2/ See Report of the International Conference on Population, 1984 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.XIII.8), chap. I, sect. B.

International Conference on Population held at Mexico City from 6 to 14 August 1984, which urged Governments to make further efforts to analyse the issue of aging, particularly its implications for overall development, social services, medical care and other related fields,

Reconfirming that aging is a population issue which affects development and is affected by it,

Recognizing the increasing awareness of aging issues in many countries and of the need to provide national authorities, at their request, with technical and financial assistance in their efforts to implement policies and programmes,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging towards the realization of the goals and objectives of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging,

Acknowledging that aging is an interdisciplinary issue and that the United Nations and the specialized agencies must ensure a well co-ordinated international response to this question,

Confident that the first review of the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging, to be undertaken by the Commission for Social Development at its twenty-ninth session in 1985, will be of considerable value in view of further measures with regard to the question of aging,

Noting with satisfaction that the question of older women will be considered at the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women to be held in 1985,

Noting that the Vienna Plan of Action recognizes the relationship between aging and youth, particularly as it relates to intergenerational matters,

Appreciating the role of non-governmental organizations in promoting international awareness of and action on the issues of aging,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of aging; 3/
2. Calls upon Governments to consider the changing age structure of the population in their plans for economic and social development;
3. Invites Governments to retain or establish appropriate mechanisms at the national level to promote an effective and co-ordinated response to the implementation of the principles and the recommendations contained in the Vienna International Plan of Action on Aging;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts for the implementation of the Plan of Action at the national, regional and international levels and to continue to promote the United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on Aging so as to assist countries in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for aging;

5. Invites Governments to continue, and increase when possible, their contributions to the Trust Fund and calls upon Governments that have not yet done so to consider contributing to the Fund;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote the exchange of information and experience in order to stimulate progress in the field of aging, to encourage the adoption of measures to respond to the economic and social implications of aging and to meet the needs of older persons;

7. Urges the Secretary-General to include advisory services to developing countries that request them in technical co-operation programmes, to the extent feasible under the funding of those programmes;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue to promote, in co-operation with the national committees concerned, joint activities in the field of aging and youth, particularly as they relate to intergenerational matters, especially during the International Youth Year, to be observed in 1985;

9. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure a well co-ordinated system-wide response in implementing the provisions of the Plan of Action;

10. Urges the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, in co-operation with all organizations responsible for international population assistance, to continue its assistance, within its mandate, in the field of aging, particularly in developing countries;

11. Invites the regional commissions and specialized agencies to continue contributing to the realization of the objectives of the Plan of Action;

12. Invites the non-governmental organizations concerned to join in the co-operative effort to implement the Plan of Action and accomplish its objectives;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fortieth session on the measures taken to implement the present resolution, taking into consideration the first review of the Plan of Action to be undertaken by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-ninth session in 1985;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fortieth session the item entitled "Question of aging".
