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QUESTION OF AGING

Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Israel, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Sudan and Yugoslavia: draft resolution

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/93 of 8 December 1988,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, conducted by the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-first session, 1/

Taking note with interest of the priorities identified and recommendations made in the second review and appraisal of the Plan of Action,

Noting with appreciation the renewed momentum of the United Nations programme on aging but deeply regretting the proposed cut in the resources of subprogramme 7 (Aging) of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991,

Aware of the need of the developing countries for technical assistance and expert advice in the field of aging,

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 13 (E/1989/13).

Reiterating the urgent appeal made to the Secretary-General in its resolution 43/93 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 continuing in its role as focal point in the United Nations system for activities relating to aging,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the question of aging; 2/
2. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/50 of 24 May 1989;
3. Also endorses the outline of a programme of United Nations activities in the field of aging for 1992 and beyond contained in annex II to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/50;
4. Notes with interest that aging will be considered a priority theme of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations Development Decade and the United Nations medium-term plan for 1992-1997;
5. Calls upon Member States, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to assist the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in elaborating for the consideration of the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a detailed global programme of activities for 1992 on the basis of the outline endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1989/50 which would simultaneously provide a guide for parallel national and regional level programmes;
6. Also calls upon Member States which have special expertise or an interest in aging to consider giving direct staff or extrabudgetary support to the Centre in its preparatory activities for 1992;
7. Decides that the priorities identified and recommendations made in the second review and appraisal of the International Plan of Action on Aging should be included as an annex in future publications of the Plan;
8. Requests the Secretary-General to consider the feasibility of preparing a system-wide medium-term plan on aging in order to ensure that all concerned organizations of the system address the question of aging in a coherent and effective manner, taking into account that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs is the duly mandated focal point in all matters related to aging;
9. Invites the United Nations Statistical Office to increase the availability and use of national statistics on aging for the formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes and to consider the possibility of dedicating the 1992 Demographic Yearbook to the question of aging;

10. Invites the major international non-governmental organizations and donor countries to join the United Nations system in establishing a technical co-operation network which would design and support the implementation of a series of straightforward self-help projects by the elderly in order to bridge the gap between major funding entities and local self-help initiatives as well as the gap between globally espoused standards and the real living conditions of the elderly;

11. Urges the concerned specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations system together with donor organizations and countries to support with available expertise, advisory services and funds the emerging alternative support structures for aging;

12. Urges the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to pay special attention to the plight of elderly refugees;

13. Urges the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to co-operate with the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in the preparation of a status report on the highlights of the global aging of populations for distribution to the media and the general public in 1992;

14. Calls upon the United Nations Population Fund to consider seconding a demographer to the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to assist in producing demographic profiles of the global, regional and selected national populations;

15. Also calls upon the United Nations Postal Administration to produce in 1992 commemorative United Nations stamps to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action;

16. Recommends that, in view of the rapid expansion of activities and infrastructure for aging, the participants in the United Nations programme on aging give careful attention to its mandate with a view to avoiding duplication of the activities of other programmes and continuing in the 1990s the unified approach to implementing the Plan of Action that has been a strengthened and distinguishing mark of the programme to date;

17. Acknowledges with appreciation the progress report submitted by the Secretary-General on the training programmes and activities of the International Institute on Aging in Malta, 3/ welcomes its unique contribution to the implementation of the Plan of Action and requests the Secretary-General, in reporting on the question of aging to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, to inform the Assembly as to the activities, plans and programmes of the Institute;

18. Also acknowledges with appreciation the establishment, with the assistance of the United Nations Office at Vienna, of an African Society of Gerontology at Dakar;

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3/ A/44/420, chap. V, sect. D.

19. Notes with satisfaction the offer of the Governments of Yugoslavia and Argentina to establish institutes on aging at Belgrade and Buenos Aires, respectively;

20. Also notes with satisfaction the convening of the meeting of eminent persons to develop an international fund-raising strategy for policies and programmes on population aging, held at United Nations Headquarters on 18 and 19 September 1989, 4/ which agreed on the desirability and urgency of establishing an independent international foundation on aging under the patronage of the United Nations which would encourage the public and private sectors as well as non-governmental organizations to support the work of the United Nations system in the field of aging, and in this regard invites Member States, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support this initiative;

21. Further notes with satisfaction the goals achieved at the fourteenth International Congress of Gerontology, held at Acapulco, Mexico, from 18 to 23 June 1989;

22. 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 well placed to act as a catalyst for resource mobilization;

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

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

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4/ See A/44/420/Add.1.