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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 79

INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS

International Year of Disabled Persons: 1981

Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, India,
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines,
Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Zaire:
draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976, by which it proclaimed the year 1981 International Year of Disabled Persons,

Recalling also its resolution 32/133, establishing an Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons, and its resolution 33/170,

Recognizing that the International Year of Disabled Persons should promote the realization of the right of disabled persons to participate fully in the social life and development of the societies in which they live and their enjoyment of living conditions equal to those of other citizens, as well as an equal share in the improvements in living conditions resulting from social and economic development,

Recognizing also that the Year should enhance the contributions disabled persons can make as full members of the society,

Acknowledging that disability should be viewed as a relationship between an individual and his or her environment,

Convinced that the IYDP should result in societies responding more fully to the special difficulties which disabled persons may encounter in developing their human potential,

Convinced also that, since a large number of disabled persons are victims of war and other forms of violence, the Year could be appropriately used as an occasion to emphasize the need for continued and reinforced co-operation among nations for world peace,

Stressing the importance of following up the activities of the IYDP through a long-term programme of action,

Noting relevant parts of the Report on the World Social Situation, 1/

Taking note of the report of the First Session of the Advisory Committee for the IYDP, held from 19 to 23 March 1979,

1. Decides to expand the theme of the IYDP to "full participation and equality";
2. Approves the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the IYDP 2/ at its first session contained in the Report of the Secretary-General (A/34/158) and adopts them as a plan of action for the Year;
3. Stresses the pragmatic orientation of the activities of the IYDP;
4. Affirms that the major focus of the International Year of Disabled Persons is at the national level, with supporting activities at the regional and international levels;
5. Invites the Member States to consider activities at the national level along the lines of the Plan of Action for the International Year of Disabled Persons and in ways that are in conformity with the culture, customs and traditions of each country;
6. Also invites relevant specialized agencies and the concerned United Nations bodies to devote special attention to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the Year;
7. Affirms further that, in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the International Year of Disabled Persons, special attention should be given to the disabled in developing countries through the provision of technical assistance, both multilateral and bilateral, for the prevention of disabilities and for rehabilitation;
8. Requests, in this regard, that the Secretary-General accord priority to the organization of an action-oriented international symposium of experts on

1/ E/CN.5/557/Add.2.

2/ The General Assembly adopts as a plan of action for the Year the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons in document A/34/158, paras. 56 to 76, with the deletion of: the last sentence of para. 74 (c), para. 74 (u), and the last eight words of para. 75 (b).

technical assistance in the field of disability and technical co-operation among developing countries as recommended by the Advisory Committee; 3/

9. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities of continuing the activities of the International Institute for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons in Developing Countries and to submit a report in this respect to its thirty-fifth session;

10. Invites the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the International Year of Disabled Persons to participate in promoting the observance of the Year and requests the Secretary-General to provide every means to assist him in this regard including liaison function at Headquarters;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the secretariat of the International Year of Disabled Persons with all the necessary resources needed to follow up the implementation of the Plan of Action of the International Year of Disabled Persons including the public information activities;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee for the International Year of Disabled Persons in 1980 to examine the implementation of the Plan of Action of the Year and to begin the consideration of a long-term programme of action;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to take urgent steps to publicize fully the International Year of Disabled Persons and, in this connexion, to choose an emblem for the Year at the end of 1979;

14. Requests specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies concerned to prepare concrete and co-ordinated plans for the International Year of Disabled Persons, to be submitted to the Advisory Committee at its 1980 meeting;

15. Invites regional economic commissions of the United Nations and other regional intergovernmental organizations to formulate, as early as possible, their contributions to the activities of the International Year of Disabled Persons;

16. Stresses the importance of the active participation of non-governmental organizations, especially organizations of disabled persons themselves, at both the national and international levels, in support of the Year;

17. Welcomes the voluntary contributions already made by some Governments to the International Year of Disabled Persons and appeals for further voluntary contributions for the Year;

18. Invites Member States to submit national reports to the Secretary-General on their implementation of the Plan of Action for the year and, in particular, to consider elaborating, on the basis of their experiences, national long-term programmes of action in the field of disability;

19. Decides to include in the agenda of its thirty-fifth session an item entitled "International Year of Disabled Persons"; and requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of this resolution.
