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INTERNATIONAL YEAR FOR DISABLED PERSONS

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Nikolai N. KOMISSAROV (Byelorussian Soviet  
Socialist Republic)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "International Year for Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General" was included in the provisional agenda of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 32/133 of 16 December 1977.
2. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 21 September 1979, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in the agenda of its thirty-fourth session and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
3. The Committee considered this item at its 56th to 59th meetings and at its 61st meeting, from 26 to 28 November. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States and specialized agencies on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/34/SR.56-59 and 61).
4. The Committee had before it the following documents:
  - (a) Report of the Secretary-General on the meeting of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons (A/34/158 and Corr.1 and Add.1);
  - (b) Note by the Secretary-General containing the Declaration on the Rights of Deaf-Blind Persons (A/34/309);
  - (c) Note verbale dated 20 April 1979 from the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General;
  - (d) Document of the Sixth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Havana from 3 to 9 September 1979 (A/34/542).

5. The Director of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs introduced the item at the 56th meeting (see A/C.3/34/SR.56).

## II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.3/34/L.57

6. At the 61st meeting, on 28 November, the representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/34/L.57) entitled "International Year for Disabled Persons: 1981", sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, India, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, the Philippines, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia and Zaire, subsequently joined by Benin, the Comoros, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Italy, the Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Panama, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, the Sudan, the Upper Volta and Viet Nam.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Australia orally proposed the following:

- (a) To add a new preambular paragraph between the ninth and tenth paragraphs, reading as follows:

"Noting that the Secretary-General will appoint an Executive Secretary for the Year, 1/

1/ A/34/158/Add.1";

- (b) To insert the word "also" between the words "Noting" and "relevant" in the tenth preambular paragraph;

8. The sponsors accepted the oral proposal by Australia and revised the text of the draft resolution accordingly.

9. At the same meeting, the Director of the Division for Economic and Social Information of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat made a statement and the Secretary of the Committee drew the Committee's attention to the financial implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/34/158/Add.1.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/34/L.57, as revised, without a vote (see para. 11).

## III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

International Year for Disabled Persons

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling also its resolutions 32/133 of 16 December 1977, by which it established the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons, and 33/170 of 20 December 1978,

Recognizing that the International Year for 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 International Year for Disabled Persons 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 International Year for the Disabled 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 International Year for Disabled Persons 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 International Year for Disabled Persons through a long-term programme of action,

Noting that the Secretary-General will appoint an Executive Secretary for the Year, 1/

Noting also the relevant parts of the report on the World Social Situation, 2/

Taking note of the report of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons on its first session, held from 19 to 23 March 1979,

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1/ A/34/158/Add.1.

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

1. Decides to expand the theme of the International Year for Disabled Persons to "full participation and equality";
2. Approves the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for Disabled Persons at its first session, contained in the report of the Secretary-General, 3/ and adopts them as a Plan of Action for the Year; 4/
3. Stresses the pragmatic orientation of the activities of the International Year for Disabled Persons;
4. Affirms that the major focus of the International Year for Disabled Persons is at the national level, with supporting activities at the regional and international levels;
5. Invites Member States to consider activities at the national level along the lines of the Plan of Action for the International Year for 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 International Year for Disabled Persons;
7. Affirms further that, in the implementation of the Plan of Action for the International Year for 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 technical assistance in the field of disability and technical co-operation among developing countries, as recommended by the Advisory Committee; 5/
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 the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session;
10. Invites the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for 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 functions at Headquarters;

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3/ A/34/158.

4/ The General Assembly adopts as a plan of action for the Year the recommendations of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for 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).

5/ A/34/158, para. 74 B, p. 21.

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

12. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for 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 for 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 for Disabled Persons, to be submitted to the Advisory Committee at its session in 1980;

15. Invites the 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 for 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 International Year for Disabled Persons;

17. Welcomes the voluntary contributions already made by some Governments to the International Year for 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 International Year for Disabled Persons 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 provisional agenda of its thirty-fifth session an item entitled "International Year for Disabled Persons" and requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution.