

REPORT OF THE

Vienna, 26 July to 6 August 1982



REPORT OF THE

Working Group of Experts on the Situation in the Middle East



New York, 1982

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ABBREVIATIONS

~~ECSSA~~ ~~Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs~~

ECA Economic Commission for Africa

EEC European Economic Community

ECE Economic Commission for Europe

~~ECLA~~ ~~Economic Commission for Latin America~~

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

ILO International Labour Organisation

~~UNDP~~ ~~United Nations Development Programme~~

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNFPA United Nations Fund for Population Activities

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

~~UNPWA~~ ~~United Nations Relief and Works Agency~~
Near East

WHO World Health Organization

1. On various occasions before 1977, and even as long ago as 1948 when the rights of the elderly, the subject of the position of the elderly or aged or older United Nations and in the United Nations bodies specially concerned with social

Rights) the General Assembly had referred inter alia to the need to protect the adopted its resolution 3137 (XXVIII) entitled "Questions of the elderly and the it is within the scope of their activities, notably by the International Labour Scientific and Cultural Organization. In addition, the World Population Plan of 1974 adopted by the World Population Conference of 1974 contains a provision urging all Governments to take fully into account in their development policies, the needs of the elderly, and in particular the needs of the aged in the population

2. It was in 1977, however, that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly decided to convene a "world assembly on aging" (para. 2, this being the first occasion on which this expression was used) and decided to consider the matter at its thirtieth (thirty-third) session, in the context of an item entitled Secretary-General and of pertinent observations by Member States.

3. One year later, in the course of its thirty-third session the General Assembly well as opportunities to contribute to national development". By the same resolution the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft programme for the World Assembly and to submit it, with his recommendations

4. Preparations for the World Assembly continued in the meantime at the national and international level and as part of the activities of the Secretariat of the the "Question of the elderly and the aged" branch, after holding talks with the Secretary-General on the increase in the number and proportion of the older section of the population. In view of the implications of this phenomenon, it addressed certain recommendations to the Governments of Member States.

participation in the World Assembly scheduled for 1982. In addition, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that information that might be used by the regional preparatory meetings envisaged in contemplation of

the Economic and Social Council to continue to give attention and support to

5. At its spring session of 1980, the Economic and Social Council considered the topic of the "World Assembly on the Elderly", taking into account earlier resolutions of the General Assembly and a report by the Secretary-General. On 2 May 1980, the Council adopted resolution 1980/26, which invited the Secretary-General to

the Council requested that Member States should be invited to submit proposals to the Assembly through existing mechanisms and/or voluntary contributions. By the Assembly, it recommended inter alia that the General Assembly should:

- (i) decide to establish an advisory committee for the World Assembly composed of not more than 23 Member States designated by the Chairman of the Third Committee of the General Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution;

possible in 1981 at the Vienna International Centre;

the advisory committee;

- (iv) request the World Assembly to submit, if possible, such proposals and recommendations at its first session, which should be held in 1982, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

In addition, the Council recommended that the General Assembly should enlist the

6. The Council's recommendations were endorsed later in the same year by the General Assembly. In its resolution 35/112, the General Assembly invited Member States to send representatives to the World Assembly on the Elderly, and to invite Member States to consider organizing national committees

to the Fund; it also invited the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to

and it invited Member States to consider organizing national committees

meetings it adopted 10 recommendations and decisions concerning notably provisional rules of procedure for the World Assembly, and the date, place and agenda for the Committee's third session. 5/

particular it recommended a revised text of the provisional agenda for adoption by the Assembly, and agreed (subject to certain reservations) on the text of a draft international plan of action. The Committee further recommended to the World

of the General Committee and of the Main Committee, and the status and the participation of non-governmental organizations in the World Assembly. 6/

also technical meetings at various levels at which topics likely to be dealt with by the World Assembly were considered. These meetings had been convened variously

in Bangkok in January 1981; a meeting concerned with the African region was

convened in June 1981 at the invitation of a non-governmental organization of the

relating to aging were convened, under the auspices of the regional commissions

Pacific was held in October 1981, those for Africa and Latin America in March 1982.

United Nations system arranged meetings in September 1980, April 1981, February 1982 and May 1982. Several of these meetings were devoted to the study of the activities and contribution in preparation for the World Assembly. Several of the

the World Assembly.

17. A large number of international non-governmental organizations in consultative preparation for the Assembly.

Notes

1/ For the relevant report of the Secretary-General, A/36/472, para. 4

2/ Ibid., para. 5.

3/ For the list of the invited officials, attendance of members and

of the invited officials.

4/ For a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria dated

17/06/1971.

5/ For particulars of attendance at the session, the list of officials (who

deliberations at that session see the Committee's Report (A/36/472, para. 4).

6/ For the text of the Advisory Committee's recommendations see the report

Chapter II

ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

A. Date and place of the World Assembly

19. Pre-conference consultations open to the participation of all States invited to the World Assembly were held in Vienna on 24 and 25 July 1992 to consider a number of procedural and organizational matters. The consultations were conducted by the Committee for the World Assembly. The report on the consultations (A/CONF.113/L.1) is annexed to the present report. The Committee is responsible for the organization of its work.

C. Attendance

Andorra	Dominican Republic	Kenya
Australia	Egypt	Lebanon
Bahrain	Europe	Liberia
Bangladesh	Finland	Lithuania, Czech Republic
Belgium	France	Luxembourg
Benin	Gabon	Malawi
Botswana	Gambia	Malaysia
Brazil	German Democratic Republic	Maldives
Burundi	Greece	Malta
Cape Verde	Haiti	Mozambique
Central African Republic	Holy See	Netherlands
Chad	Hungary	New Zealand
Chile	Iceland	Nicaragua
China	India	Niger
Congo	Iran	Norway
Cuba	Ireland	Panama
Cyprus	Israel	Peru
Czechoslovakia	Italy	Philippines
Democratic Yemen	Jamaica	Poland
Democratic Yemen		Portugal

San Marino

Togo

Upper Volta

~~Moldavia~~

Venezuela

Sudan

Union of Soviet Socialist

Zaire

~~and Northern Ireland~~

~~General Council for Development and International Economic Cooperation~~

~~of the United Nations was represented at the Assembly~~

~~Economic Commission for Europe~~

~~Economic Commission for Latin America~~

~~Economic Commission for Africa~~

~~of the United Nations had also been represented~~

~~United Nations Development Programme~~

~~United Nations Industrial Development Organization~~

~~United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East~~

~~United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board~~

~~International Labour Organization~~

~~Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations~~

of the following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

League of Arab States.

D. Opening of the Assembly and election of its President

28. The Assembly was opened on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations by Mr. Jean Ripert, Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. In his opening statement the Director-General pointed out that never before had nations of the world gathered to focus attention exclusively

to the achievement of the ultimate aim of development, which, as stated in the

distribution of the benefits derived therefrom.

improvements in nutrition, health care and control of infectious diseases in many

and stability. In fact, for industrialized and developing countries alike, the

30. The changes occurring as a result of the increasing ratio of the elderly dependent for their well-being on ever their sustenance on the younger and

elderly dependent on the economically active population increased concurrently with

pressures of modernization, urbanization, and by changing social values and

situation worsened in cases where governments were compelled by severe economic

31. One of the important objectives for many developing countries was to extend life expectancy. That had a bearing on development, if the elderly were to be

international levels.

32. Referring to the draft Plan of Action, he stated that the draft Plan rightly emphasized that the issues of aging should be viewed in the context of the over-all socio-economic conditions prevailing in society. The aging must be considered as an integral part of the population and as an important and necessary element in the

in the fields of health, housing and the environment, family, social welfare, income security and employment and education. The draft Plan identified certain

public about the aging process and the aging themselves.

33. The Director-General stressed that existing data on aging should be enlarged

and international levels, was that of retirement policies and their impact on opportunities for the young, he noted that at the same time it might lead to the withdrawal of the young from the productive process. In addition, in developing countries, the young and more active sectors of the population were

in suite

34. The draft Plan drew attention to the need to reduce the costs of social

that were experimenting with a wide range of social welfare and security schemes

25. The Director is indebted with appreciation the contribution of the Advisory Committee to the formulation of the draft Plan of Action as well as the

of Action.

26. He also recognized the co-operation from, and the contribution by, the

Secretary-General of the United Nations, he

concerned organizations of the United Nations system, would make every effort to

38. In an inaugural address, His Excellency Dr. Rudolf Kirchschläger, Federal

40. Many old people were troubled by the cares of daily life and suffered from loneliness or lack of appreciation. Others needed care because of illness or other

elaborated during the Assembly.

42. In thanking the World Assembly on behalf of the Government and people of

all nations would be affected in the long run. She emphasized that the
the mass media, social planners, influential groups and, most important, the
the developmental and humanitarian aspects of the phenomenon of aging. The

detrimental effect on the United Nations itself. Millions of people throughout the

the Advisory Committee constituted a sound basis and a starting point for a

members of the Advisory Committee and in particular to its Chairman, Mr. de Bono,
for their untiring efforts in drafting the Plan of Action. She hoped that the
International Plan of Action would receive the widest possible consensus. To

task was to deal with the problems of aging. Where other, more general, issues
would not distract the Assembly from this noble task or prevent it from adopting

the institutional, organizational and financial

it would be difficult to meet at a time

could only increase their social cohesion, and asked the hope that the
Assembly would be able to elaborate appropriate mechanisms to that end.

the United States of America, India and Poland (the full text of the messages is
contained in annex I to this report).

"Elections

three vice-presidents for co-ordination, as well as two secretaries and a treasurer, to be elected by the Main Committee, established in accordance with Rule 42.

G. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

47. At the same meeting the World Assembly adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda recommended by the Advisory Committee (A/C.4/1950/27, para. 1).

1. Opening of the World Assembly
2. Election of the President
3. Organizational and procedural matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the rules of procedure
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
 - (c) Election of officers other than the President
 - (d) Credentials of representatives to the World Assembly:
 - (i) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

4. General debate

5. Aging and development: the developmental issues

6. Aging and development: the humanitarian issues

8. Adoption of the report of the World Assembly

Main Committee.

the following officers:

Vice-Presidents of the Assembly:

China

Kuwait

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Chairman of the Main Committee: Mr. J. H. D. de Poo (Malta)

(agenda item 3 (d) (i))

50. The Advisory Committee had recommended that, in conformity with rule 4 of the provisional rules of procedure, the World Assembly should appoint China, Ghana, the

by that group.

I. Implications of decisions of the World Assembly, for the programme budget of

52. At the 15th plenary meeting of the World Assembly on Aging, on 5 August 1982,

when the report of the World Assembly on Aging was considered.

Chapter III

SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL DEBATE

53. The general debate took place in the course of 13 plenary meetings of the

54. The representatives of States, observers and the representatives of specialized agencies and United Nations bodies and of several intergovernmental organizations made statements. Statements were also made by a number of

charged in social, economic and political institutions while at the same time

56. Aging and being an elderly person were essentially social and cultural experience and tradition and differences between developing and developed countries. The Assembly should concentrate on two distinct topics - aging in the developed countries and aging in the developing countries.

57. While in terms of absolute numbers there were more elderly persons in the developing than in the developed countries, and while the balance was shifting rapidly in all countries and on all continents, the Assembly was in understanding into a practical plan of action.

58. It would be a mistake, he thought, to argue that the aging of societies was a risk of economic decline and that the economic and social conditions in specific conditions varied from country to country.

59. In addition, he said, the economic and social welfare of the whole society

recommendations to Governments.

62. The formulation of a strategy would have to be preceded by a reappraisal of

He mentioned the traditions of respect for and deference towards the elderly in Africa and Latin America. This treatment often contrasted sharply with practice

or material dependence. Public institutions and private individuals were becoming aware of the shortcomings of standardized retirement and social security arrangements.

63. At the same time, the traditional three-generation family was being eroded in

64. In conclusion he drew attention to the situation of the numerous least

variations and to be willing to learn from each other.

referred to the old as the fastest growing segment of the world's population. This

that it was expected to lead to fundamentally different societies. Although

economic and social plans of many countries. Policies adopted to deal with the dire situation, such as reductions of social welfare services, were likely to have

67. Member States of the United Nations, in accepting the principle aim of development as declared in the Strategy for the Third Development Decade, had made

with regard to the realization of development. She pointed out that while economic

technologies, organizations and modernization, all touched the lives of the

Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was committed to the question of aging

community to stimulate interest and prompt action leading to the amelioration of the situation of the aging. Over the years, the Centre had been involved in a

of the Centre's efforts in this area. The Centre was unique within the United Nations system in that it was exclusively oriented to the human dimension of development. The main programmes of the Centre, which were concerned with the advancement of women, social development, crime prevention and criminal justice,

Aging,

70. In conclusion, she affirmed that the Centre stood ready to implement the and pledged to do her utmost in this regard.

competent bodies of the United Nations had taken a welcome initiative in deciding

alteration in the "pyramid" of age groups had produced or would produce far-reaching consequences in the economic and social life of countries, that its effect would continue to be felt in the future medium term and long term and that

73. The phenomenon of aging, in the sense of greater average longevity, observable better hygiene and the more generalized spread of welfare services. Other

it was stated, the measures to be recommended in the plan of action would need to be sufficiently varied and flexible to allow for application in these diverse

concerned had adjusted national economic plans, pension schemes, welfare services

utilization of industrial capacity and
and for the international community to meet the demands of economic

between the economic situations of developing and developed countries, they

consonance with the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the

could not be considered in isolation from the brutal realities of the conflicts
of the population were victims no less - and perhaps even more grievously

conflict in various regions. They mentioned in particular the suffering of the
and they urged the Assembly to make a strong plea on behalf of innocent
siege and privation. These conditions, they said, were bound to inflict physical
population - the aged.

resources.

80. In some countries, it was pointed out, the family or voluntary philanthropic bodies acted as the principal providers of care for the old. The authorities had a

shrunk. the economic functions within the family had been redistributed and very receiving an education that differed fundamentally from that received by earlier

become more important than before to make a conscious and deliberate effort to

enlighten the old about the preoccupations of the young in a troubled world

purposes

82. Many representatives referred to the migratory movements, both within national boundaries and across international frontiers, that had altered the pattern of

urban population often to excessive dimensions and strained the capacity of the

83. The speakers described how their countries were endeavouring to satisfy the

the population by the provision of certain social welfare services in their countries; in some cases dwellings specially designed for older persons were built by voluntary or co-operative effort or with the support of fiscal incentives. Def... the circumstances of the older members of families that had moved abroad in search of employment or for other reasons.

Examples mentioned included some cases controlled by voluntary organizations

the elderly, should be required to be mobile and flexible.

95. A number of delegations stressed the importance of volunteer programmes.

ghettos and considered that dwellings for the elderly should be integrated within family homes and housing projects should also take into account the need for

professional workers who had been trained in the various disciplines of social

rights enjoyed by all citizens. Examples cited were legislative provisions granting special fiscal concessions to persons over a certain age, provisions

funds appropriated in the national budget for the specific benefit of the old. Other delegations referred to the powerful influence of custom - often more binding

for their elders.

90 The representatives of States that follow the Islamic tradition emphasized the with that tradition the aged and the elderly were treated with the utmost respect infirm and the disabled. In many of the countries concerned they said

91 ... in many countries eligible for these benefits in their countries

retirement. The representatives also gave particulars of the amount of pension

that in their countries retirement pensions were exempt from taxation; others countries' fiscal régime.

91 Deference was made to the diversity of pension schemes and to the extent of

~~PENSION schemes were managed by the State or other public authorities (local~~

~~were usually compulsory) by making contributions to a private scheme. It was pointed out that owing to the erosion of monetary values by prolonged inflation, the financial situation of the private pension funds had been impaired in some~~

~~had to intervene to relieve their condition. Several representatives reported that in their countries a system of indexation had been introduced in order to safeguard the standard of living of pensioners. In any case, in many countries a minimum~~

~~the lower... included...~~

retirement for women employees. Some delegations noted that older women were pension benefits during their active life. It was pointed out, however, that in not a disadvantaged group.

93. One delegation mentioned that in 1985... United Nations Conference on Women on the resources taken to...

94. P... make, and in many cases were making, to society. The representatives who spoke on need of support. It should not neglect the possibilities of rehabilitating and

capable, it was necessary for society to provide them with the resources and facilities which helped them to remain physically active and mentally alert.

95. A number of speakers drew attention to the contrast between the earlier view

...of ... being should no longer be regarded as a disease thanks to
... medical science and to social welfare services the point at
... could be postponed for many years. And the longer a person could avoid becoming a
... retain a sense of self-assurance, self-reliance and individuality and avoid the

... progress of aging and for variations in that process as between individuals and as

age. Such persons should, it was felt, be able to remain in productive employment
abolition of the mandatory age limit embodied in the labour legislation. Other

97. Some delegations stated that in their countries the Constitution provided for

... and to transport and to rental of dwellings.

98. One representative expressed the view that, in calling for favourable
treatment of the elderly, one ought not to overlook the interests of the younger
generation.

99. The psychological effects of retirement were mentioned by many delegations.

... number of delegations said that their countries had adopted measures

100. The representative of Malta stated that, as a contribution to regional
co-operation in the matter of research and training in the practical aspects of the
process of aging, his Government was willing to offer a site in Malta for the

101. Several delegations stated that a national "Day for the Aging" had been designated in their countries and that the "Day" would be useful in promoting a better understanding of the problems of the aging. Some of them indicated that it was an anniversary of the opening of the World Assembly.

102. Some delegations observed that in the countries in which the rules of the family were being broken down, the elderly were being neglected and that it was necessary to be looked after and protected by their families. The need for international co-operation for raising the general standard of living of the population, especially the elderly, was stressed.

103. The desirability of international co-operation with a view to improving the conditions of the elderly was stressed. They stressed the importance of the exchange of information and experience in the fields of gerontology and geriatrics, as well as of education and training or professionalization of practitioners to provide services to the aging - both within and outside an institutional setting.

perhaps denied material comforts, were affected by a sense of solitude and abandonment.

United Nations, including the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian

International Plan of Action might become an instrument of truly international action. In this context many delegations stressed the importance of the implementation of the International Plan of Action in ways which the individual countries considered appropriate.

countries the proportion ranged from 4 to 9 per cent. The same trend was observed

United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly, clearly indicating the

organizations already dealt with technical co-operation, there was no need for any special fund for technical co-operation on the subject of aging. The mandate for the existing Trust Fund should not be prolonged or changed to create a

the least developed among them - on behalf of the aged.

109. As regards action to be taken at the international level to give effect to the

considered the Centre should be strengthened. Furthermore, the Centre should

C. Summary of statements by representatives of organizations in the United

110. Mr. Charles Walsh, United Nations Special Representative for International

number of clichés concerning the aging that needed to be dispelled, such as the

have to change at a time when the world was faced with a serious economic crisis.

vulnerable groups at the time their policies were formulated for improving the

oriented approach to development which, in addition to fostering economic growth, sought to give equal consideration to the human and social dimension of change. Recalling that 1975-1985 was the United Nations Decade for Women, he said that special efforts might be required for responding to the particular needs of elderly women in many societies. He assured the Assembly that his Department, which

the General Assembly of the United Nations. In this connection, he expressed his

Let us recall that WCA had co-operated with the Secretariat of the World

governmental experts, an intergovernmental regional preparatory meeting and a

small percentage of the total population. Nevertheless, the development process had

the world program, that comprehensive, that had included the following:

the following: the Government of WCA had adopted a regional

plans;

(iv) the compatibility of the right to employment and the right to a pension;

(v) most importantly, the fundamental importance of the family as the basic

of Action on Aging.

52 per cent of the world's total population in the year 2000 and for 58 per cent of

priorities competed; and accelerating socio-economic changes which tended to

seek to assist its member countries in meeting the challenges of the future.

Assembly, such as the status of older workers, required people's resources and the efforts of active and retired communities. He stressed the subjects that the ILO

International Labour Office, which had been closely involved in the preparation for the Assembly, had submitted three technical papers dealing with problems of

emphasize the importance within the international field of action which he would like to help put into effect of the regional consultation or preparation for

12. The representative of the Rural and Agriculture Organization of the United States

was that most of the aged in developing countries lived in rural areas

rural areas, the rural population appeared to age prematurely. This was

children at close intervals and simultaneously continued productive activities. Assistance to the aging could be channelled through many of the existing rural

disproportionate number of women among the rural aged, special attention should be given in detail in ILO's document contributed to the Assembly. Programmes for the elderly

the generation gap be widened. Accordingly, member States, non-governmental

13. The representative of the Director General of UNESCO stated that in 1970

suggested that life should no longer be viewed as sequential phases of education,

UNESCO's past and current activities relating to the elderly, he indicated that, in

UNESCO's new Medium-Term Plan (1984-1989) increased attention would be given to

of UNESCO's General Conference with the positions they had taken at the world

be striving to implement the International Plan of Action on Aging.

116. The Director-General of the World Health Organization said that only a

world. That effort was popularly known as "Health for All by the Year 2000"

all triumphs it carried with it its own problems. The problems were worldwide.

more than half of the world's 260 million elderly aged 65 and over had been living

400 million elderly would be in developing countries. The elderly were especially

physical, mental and social well-being and not merely as the absence of disease or
infirmity. The health needs of the elderly were broad and, like those of all other
people, had to be provided for by total action in a number of social and economic

and of the nearly 20 million refugees in the world 5 per cent or some 500,000 were
aged 60 and over. They suffered from physical and mental afflictions endemic to
their age. Most of a majority lived with their families; a sizeable number were

in the form of voluntary repatriation where circumstances permitted, integration in
the country of asylum, or resettlement in a third country. The High Commissioner, p

elderly refugees, among others.

118. The representative of the United Nations Development

was ready to make a contribution to the implementation of the

social development. UNDP's financial support to technical co-operation was

UNDP's financial support to technical co-operation was

the light of their development priorities and objectives. Given the complexity of

issuly and

converged among the Member States. ^{States, among} Common action was, therefore, called for, within the wide range of social policies. The Commission had made recommendations

(RESULT OF INCREASED LONGEVITY. THE WORKING POPULATION WAS DECREASING WITH A

in urging reluctant Governments to adopt useful policies for the aging.

121. The representative of the League of Arab States made a statement in which he

referred more specifically to the situation in the Arab States. He stated that the League of Arab States was deeply concerned by the rapid increase in the number of aged persons in the Arab States, which was the result of the increase in life expectancy. He stated that the League of Arab States was committed to the study of the problem and to the adoption of measures to deal with it. He stated that the League of Arab States was committed to the study of the problem and to the adoption of measures to deal with it.

*
* *

122. At the 15th plenary meeting on 5 August 1992 the representative of Malaysia, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Democratic Yemen, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan,

dispersed" after the word "extended". In addition, the representative of Malaysia said that the words "20th session" in operative paragraph 5 should be corrected to

123. A request was made for a roll-call vote on the draft resolution contained in sponsors. Before the draft resolution was put to the vote, statements were made in behalf of the representative of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and

Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - would abstain in the vote on the draft

draft resolution was one of principle, namely that questions of a political nature

delegation, wished to draw attention to the need for all belligerents to

particular mention underlying some of the paragraphs of draft resolution

resolution, for it considered that the draft resolution was not within the scope of

competence.

126 The representative of Israel, announcing that he would vote against draft

to their suffering? Why did they not merit even to be mentioned by the Assembly?

draft resolution, because it was harmful for the cause of the elderly, because

127. The representative of Belgium stated that the Belgian delegation would abstain

draft resolution was unsatisfactory or obscure in many respects, and several of its

128 The representative of the Netherlands stated that the Netherlands Government

indifferent to all those cases elsewhere in the world, except to those in Lebanon?

Netherlands delegation had hoped that the resolution would be drafted to express the aging in all contemptible situations. The hope had remained unanswered. It

Conventions of 1949. It was for these reasons that the Netherlands delegation document A/CONF.113/L.3.

the two delegations were taking was without prejudice to their grave concern over

130. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stated that, while the United Kingdom delegation sympathized with the humanitarian aim of the draft resolution in document A/CONF.113/L.2, it did not consider the

~~Republic of Congo, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Chad, Chile,~~
Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon,

~~Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama,~~

Senegal, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Abstaining: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Luxembourg, Netherlands,

Northern Ireland.

Northern 11766 762 S

133. After the vote, statements in explanation of their votes were made by the

134. The representative of Spain stated that his delegation had voted in favour of

Lebanon field tents and clothing, and food-stuffs for immediate use to a value of

135. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany stated that the world

world Assembly that aimed only at the protection of one population group in an armed conflict seemed to make little sense. His delegation felt that the entire civilian population had to be protected. Furthermore, the preambular paragraphs of

force that had begun not only with the Israeli invasion. In view of these considerations his delegation had abstained in the vote on this resolution.

136. The representative of Chile stated, with reference to the vote on the

General Assembly of the United Nations. That being so, Chile condemned the situation in the Middle East and had immersed themselves in a... including... Even though Chile considered that the World Assembly on

137. The representative of Ireland stated that Ireland had abstained in the vote just taken on the draft resolution on aging people in paragraph 1 of the draft resolution. The Irish delegation had not taken this position because of the substance of the resolution, but because of the manner in which it was adopted. Ireland had considered the draft resolution to be a political statement and not a technical one.

Nevertheless, the delegation of Ireland considered that the World Assembly on Aging

138. The representative of Costa Rica stated that, as was right and proper, his delegation expressed its revulsion with respect to Israel's warlike action in Lebanon. The delegation of Costa Rica was concerned that so many human beings were dying on account of this

consider, and the very discussion of the draft resolution was out of keeping with

aspects. It considered that the World Assembly could not ignore the plight of the about the vulnerability of civilians, in particular the elderly, in situations of

France, whose delegation had spoken explicitly on the subject in the Security

voted for the draft resolution on the "Aging people in Lebanon", contained in political issue.

143. The representative of the United States of America, explaining his

was the firm view of the United States delegation that politically-motivated World Assembly on Aging. These issues were being dealt with elsewhere in the taking a wholly one-sided view of the tragic conflict in Lebanon.

Dominican Republic would have preferred a broader resolution, tending to protect all the elderly in all armed conflicts at all times. In addition, the delegation had suggested that the resolution should make a recommendation regarding the humanitarian reasons.

145. The representative of Greece stated that Greece shared the opinion, expressed political problems must be dealt with within the appropriate United Nations fora, delegation believed that the World Assembly was competent to consider issues had stated earlier, the Greek delegation wished that all delegations should

concerned only the situation in Lebanon. His delegation had accepted this for the sake of the greatest understanding for the plight of the Lebanese and Palestinian civilian population, particularly of the elderly, as well as for the

146. The representatives of the Republic of Korea and of Zaïre stated subsequently favour of draft resolution A/CONF.113/L.3.

A. Report of the Main Committee

Aging and development: the developmental issues [5]

Aging and development: the humanitarian issues [6]

~~Proposed plan of action on aging [11]~~

149. The Committee had before it the following documents:

Introductory document: demographic considerations

Introductory document: developmental issues

Migration and aging

Aging population and rural development

Introductory document: humanitarian issues

Aging in the context of the family

Aging and social welfare

Social development and aging

Health policy aspects of aging

Education and aging

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Draft international plan of action on aging

Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.113/22)

Activities of the United Nations system on aging

Human settlements and the aging

(A/CONF.113/23)

Regional plans of action on aging

(A/CONF.113/26)

Mr. A. H. B. de BONO (Malta), who was elected by acclamation at the World Assembly's 1st meeting on 26 July 1982.

15] The Committee decided to concentrate its work on the preparation of an international plan of action on aging, including the International Plan of Action on Aging contained in the report of the

large number of delegations (A/CONF.113/MC/L.1, 2, 3/Rev.1, L.4-19, L.20 and Add.1

Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Tanzania, Upper Volta, Yugoslavia;

(b) Credentials in the form of a telegram from the Head of State or

representatives of 12 States, namely: Brazil, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico,

Uruguay;

Foreign Minister, or from a Permanent Mission, Embassy or Ministry of the

namely: Argentina, Belgium, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, India, Israel, Ivory Coast, Japan,

(d) As at 20 July 1982, representatives of 119 States had registered as

was amended the memorandum to reflect the status of the case of the Assembly.

the text of the memorandum, especially with the words "and to

referred to in rule 27, while the States mentioned in paragraph (b) had been

and the practice was to approve the credentials issued in the form required by
and to recommend to the Assembly and the delegations concerned that their
credentials should be permitted to continue to participate in the Assembly on the
understanding that proper credentials would be submitted as soon as possible.

162. In response to a question from the representative of the United States, the
the Assembly on their credentials. It was not, therefore, in contravention of the
rules of procedure and delegations were invited to

delegations listed in paragraph 160, subparagraphs (b), (c) and (d), had already
rule 3 of the rules of procedure.

Socialist Republic, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Democratic Yemen, Ethiopia,

Nations World Assembly on Aging adamantly protest against the presence at the

the Kampuchean people is the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

of free general elections with the participation of 97 per cent of the Kampuchean

request of the representative this statement was, with the consent of the

164. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics also reaffirmed
United Nations and in other international bodies.

165. The representative of the Netherlands recalled that rule 3 of the rules of
the Head of the State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Pursuant to rule 4 the task of the Credentials Committee was to examine the

present no authority could claim to represent Kampuchea. Therefore the Government
the Government of Democratic Kampuchea and his delegation wished to obtain on this

Kampuchea is a Member State of the United Nations. Since the World Assembly on

is a deliberate move to interrupt the orderly progress of the Assembly. The Chinese delegation resolutely opposes this kind of manoeuvre by the Soviet representative." At the request of the representative this statement was, with the consent of the Committee, included verbatim in its report.

169. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"The Credentials Committee,

having examined the credentials of the representatives to the World Assembly

during the debate,

Rules of procedure:

3. Recommends that the representatives of the 14 States referred to in

reject any further registrations, credentials and communications received by the

At the request of the Chairman, the Committee decided to submit its report to

Action by the World Assembly

172. At the 15th plenary meeting on 5 August 1982 the World Assembly considered the report of the Credentials Committee (A/CONF.113/29), which was introduced by Mr. Djibo Doufray (Niger), Chairman of the Committee.

information and has been commended since
representatives of Belgium, Costa Rica, Finland, Greece, Japan, Nicaragua, San

the State concerned had been received in respect of the representatives of
Burundi, Guinea, Togo, United Republic of Cameroon and Zambia. He added that the

supplementary information, approved the report of the Credentials Committee (for

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO THE WORLD ASSEMBLY

175 The Department General introduced the draft resolution of the World Assembly

A/CONF.113/L.5 entitled "Practical training centres", sponsored by Jamaica

A/CONF.113/L.6 entitled "Establishment of an international clearing house on

Activities (UNFPA) for matters in the field of aging",
sponsored by Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico,
Panama and Peru

Philippines and Senegal*

A/CONF.113/L.10 entitled "United Nations Trust Fund for the World Assembly on

America and Zaire

Chile, Indonesia, Lebanon, Malta, Philippines and Tunisia.

delegations of Indonesia, Malaysia, Malta, Pakistan, Peru and Senegal. After

* As a consequence, the Netherlands amendments (A/CONF.113/L.12) to this draft resolution were likewise withdrawn.

as adopted see chapter VI below, resolution 4.

179. At the same meeting, the World Assembly adopted the draft report as a whole

Secretary-General of the United Nations. He stated that of all the major

for the few. In the twentieth century it had become the destiny of the young. Thus, for the first time in history, the entire world was confronted by a phenomenon of diverse implications. The world of the aging represented a world of positive approach could lift up the hearts of many who must confront the challenge for the old.

existence for exactly the same people when, in only a few decades, they reached old age. To instil into the minds of individuals and societies, young, middle-aged and

World Assembly

182. He had been particularly impressed by the broad participation of governments. There could be no better sign of the world-wide recognition that the subject of the. Indeed, by the year 2025, the developing countries would reach levels of aging

difficulties for sustained development, if they were out of balance with society. properly planned, these trends could enhance development.

183. When the United Nations had been established, it had not been apparent that the world's population structure would change so dramatically and that the aging in

occasions on which an issue of global impact and importance had been considered by the international community at a relatively early stage, before it was too late. The whole purpose and thrust of this forward-looking Assembly were most encouraging

of economic growth or development must always promote human dignity; that the composition of the labour force, patterns of consumption and needs for goods and services; that the aging were a valuable national resource; and that essential and proper medical care should be the key to the attainment and preservation by all productive life.

Assembly, as well as to the Plan of Action, and to co-operate fully in their fulfilment. In particular, the Offices of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and of the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs would ensure the implementation of the Plan of Action in accordance with their specific mandates and competences.

187. In conclusion, he said that efforts towards international co-operation and

extending life span all over the world would be accompanied by determined efforts

188. After statements by the representatives of Senegal (on behalf of the group of African States), Uruguay (on behalf of the Latin American countries), Canada (on

189. The Director-General of the United Nations Development Programme made a closing statement and declared the Assembly closed.

INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGING AND OTHER
RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY

On 15 and 16 August 1982 the World Assembly adopted the Plan of Action 1981-90, a Declaration and the accompanying resolutions.

A. VIENNA INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGING

Preamble

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PREAMBLE

Aware that an increasing number of their populations is aging,

fully realized and to mitigating, by appropriate measures, the impact, resulting from this impact,

FOREWORD

besetting a growing portion of the populations of the world, the General Assembly of the United Nations decided in resolution 33/52 of 14 December 1978, to convene

economic and social security to older persons, as well as opportunities to

conceived.

2. The Plan of Action should therefore be considered an integral component of the

establishment of the new international economic order and increased international

3. In pursuance of these aims, specific objectives are set:

(a) To encourage the development of appropriate education, training and

international strategies and plans. In particular, it reaffirms the Principles and
Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)) of the International Covenant on

International Women's Year; 2/

Settlements (HABITAT); 5/

(g) The Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for

(h) The Programme of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination 8/ and

(k) ILO convention No. 128 and Recommendation 131 on invalidity, old-age and survivors' benefits;

(l) ILO Recommendation No. 162 concerning older workers;

Rural Development; 11/.

(m) The World Programme resulting from International Year of Disabled

(o) The Caracas Declaration adopted by the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; 13/

(p) The Recommendation on the development of adult education, adopted by the

(q) ILO Convention No. 157 concerning maintenance of social security rights.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Demographic background

questions raised by the phenomenon of aging on a massive scale. Previously, while proportion in the total population were not high. The twentieth century, however, mortality, a decline in birth rates, improvements in nutrition, basic health care resulted in an increasing number and proportion of persons surviving into the advanced stages of life.

8. It should be noted, furthermore, that in 1975 slightly over half (52 per cent) year 2000. Owing to the differential rates of increase over 60 per cent of all

change in the population's age structure. A declining proportion of children in a

6 per cent in 1975 to 7 per cent in 2000 and to 12 per cent in 2025, thus reaching

over is expected to increase as a proportion of the total population, from

10. According to model life tables, increasing life expectancy at birth could imply an increase in life expectancy at age 60 in the developed regions of

and of over 16 years in the developing regions. Women could expect about an additional 21 and 18 years, respectively.

against 96 for the 60-69 age group, and 73 against 78 for the over-80 age group,

other support systems.

influenced by migration.

B. Humanitarian and developmental aspects of aging

13. The demographic trends outlined above will have significant effects on

governments and the international institutions concerned. Actually however, the

16. The present International Plan of Action on Aging deals both with issues affecting the aging as individuals and also covering the aging population.

social welfare, income security and employment, and education.

19. These humanitarian and developmental issues are examined with a view to the formulation of action programmes at the national, regional and international levels.

20. In some developing countries, the trend towards a gradual aging of the society

(a) A marked increase in the population over the age of 60 years is expected in the future, particularly in the segment of those aged 80 years and over:

(b) In many countries, the increase in the population is expected to become apparent over the next few decades, and especially during the first quarter of the twenty-first century; and

populations.

individuals, is therefore one which will concern all countries in the relatively

22. The measures for the optimum utilization of the wisdom and expertise of elderly individuals will be considered.

23. The human race is characterized by a long childhood and by a long old age

on values to them; this role has ensured man's survival and progress. The presence of the elderly in the family home, the neighbourhood and in all forms of social

behind them, and the memory of their words and deeds. This may encourage us to regard our own death with greater serenity and to grow more fully aware of the responsibilities toward future generations.

24. A longer life provides humans with an opportunity to examine their lives in

community, especially at this time, after the unprecedented changes that have

aged should help us all to achieve the urgently needed reorientation of history.

economic order in both the developed and the developing parts of the world

The International Plan of Action on Aging is based on the principles set out below:

societal resources, rights and responsibilities. Individuals, regardless of age,

(a) Various problems of older people can find their real solution under

their solution under conditions where tyranny and oppression, colonialism, racism,

(d) In the context of its own traditions, structures and cultural values, each country should respond to demographic trends and the resulting changes. People of all ages should engage in creating a balance between traditional and innovative elements in the pursuit of harmonious development;

on the aging should be considered as a lasting investment;

(e) The family, in its diverse forms and structures, is a fundamental unit of protection, in accordance with the traditions and customs of each country;

(g) Governments and, in particular, local authorities, non-governmental

Governments should sustain and encourage voluntary activity of this kind.

(h) The fundamental objective of social economic development is an age-integrated

(i) Aging is a life-long process and should be recognized as such.

(j) The Plan of Action should be considered within the broader context of the world's social, economic, cultural and spiritual trends, in order to achieve a just and prosperous life for the aging, materially as well as spiritually.

implementation of policies, including those especially affecting them:

(m) Governments, non-governmental organizations and all concerned have a

(n) Further study on all aspects of aging is necessary.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

A. Goals and policy recommendations

of societies and the needs of the elderly all over the world. More specific
capacities of each country or community.

and progress of the human race.

26. The pattern by which people are judged to have reached old age at a point set
employment needs may ensure that aging people are

international development during the past decades is the fact that advances in

1. General policy recommendations

31. The following summarized considerations, based on the above remarks, may

(a) The progressive aging of societies, the continuing increase of the unexpected, unforeseeable events not a random result of national and international development efforts. It is the first and most visible outcome of a population

elderly;

(b) To this end policies and actions should be inspired by the determination to make sure that the generally expanding life-span of individuals the world over and accomplishment, and that people will not be relegated to a marginal and passive

(c) As the transition into old age is a gradual and individual process, natural phase of an individual's life cycle, career and experience, and that the

(d) As most people can expect to survive their own retirement age by a substantial number of years, the concept of "preparation for retirement" should not life-long consideration from adulthood onwards - as much to the individual for his

be utilized automatically benefit the individuals aging people, especially the elderly, and to meet their diverse social and economic needs.

workers. The elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the

(i) This consideration should be accompanied by recognition of the fact that response to their specific needs and constraints. Sectoral interventions in such

(j) Policies and action aimed at benefiting the aging must afford opportunities for older persons to satisfy the need for personal fulfilment, which achievement of personal goals and aspirations, and the realization of

growth through formal and informal learning, self-expression in arts and crafts, religious activities, recreation and travel, part-time work, and participation in

today is not just one of providing protection and care, but of the involvement and

positive, active and developmentally oriented view of aging may well result from action by elderly people themselves through the sheer force of their growing numbers and influence. The collective consciousness of being elderly, as a socially unifying concept, can in that way become a positive factor. Since spiritual well-being is as important as material well-being, all policies,

33. The trend towards the successive aging of population structures is bound to be

34. In the first instance, it is evident that aging, both in terms of absolute

deteriorating ratios between the economically active and employed sectors of

by these sectors. Countries with established social security systems will depend

and deferred retirement benefits for a growing elderly population and the costs of maintaining dependent children and of ensuring training and education for young people.

35. Changing dependency ratios - In terms of the number of old people depending

are bound to influence the development of any country in the world, irrespective of its social structure, traditions or formal social security arrangements. Problems

traditional care providing structures, such as the extended family, are undergoing radical change in many regions of the world.

As a result, the total dependency ratio in many countries may

problem related to the perceptions of the relative urgency of covering the material

more easily acceptable in view of their value as a form of investment in the

budgets.

16. The problem of deteriorating dependency ratios, and hence of guaranteeing even

public investment in agriculture and services which would benefit the remaining

29. On some extent this phenomenon could be considered as partially offset or at

cases, the size of the remittances indicates an effort not only to help sustain the

nevertheless, it can hardly be such as a long-term feasible compensation for the

countries. Concentrated efforts aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions

return to their country of origin.

39. Rural development should be seen as a key to the over-all problem of the aging

national progress in countries with an essentially agricultural economy. To some

extent, policies to improve production and productivity in rural areas to

stimulate investment, create the necessary infrastructure, improve available

40. The slowly expanding life span of the population even in developing areas

and utilized, might help to compensate for the losses of younger people, thereby

participants in national life and production, rather than as passive and vulnerable

41. A feasible recommendation for the continuation of

would be an improvement in the continuity of social benefits in terms of

contributive rights to a pension, including favourable provisions for financial

transfers in whatever form the benefits are granted to migrant workers. This would

labour

42. In countries with fully developed social security systems linked to compulsory retirement age levels, over-all aging is, and will continue to be, one of the most important structural factors affecting the functioning of the labour force.

43. Much has already been said about that relationship, and various governmental

44. On the other hand, the wide varieties in personal interests and preferences among people approaching retirement age could, without too many administrative or plans catering to the individual. Where retirement is preferred, different age

Other arrangements, such as part-time or occasional work or consultancy, are and could be extended to a greater part of the labour force. In order to implement this measure, provision should be made for training and retraining and the development of new skills.

expectancy may mean an old age aggravated by economic need, isolation and with

lower of the pensioners' data should as far as possible be maintained.

47. Similarly, most pension payments from retirement funds represent derived

immediate material needs rather than for long-term and insecure investments may

and consumption for their economic health.

... such initiatives could be taken jointly in an
... about to dissolve

... as its interaction with the social and
... Although the recommendations in

detrimental effects of premature aging. From birth onwards, the detrimental

An educational effort designed specifically to make young people aware of

- A healthy general life-style;
- Appropriate adjustments to working hours and conditions;

- Constant adaptation of the man to his work and, more important, the work to
development. In this sphere, occupational medicine and permanent education
should play an essential role.

51. In resolution 1981/62, the Economic and Social Council called upon the
Secretary-General to elaborate a set of general guidelines for consumer

... on international trade in food and the World
Health Organization an International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes

52. While the rapidly increasing number of old people throughout the world

well-being is the result of international cooperation.

53. Epidemiological studies suggest that people who have survived the war and are arriving at the same age have better levels of health, and it is expected that, as

Care designed to alleviate the handicaps, re-educate remaining functions, them to re-orient their hopes and plans, particularly in the case of the elderly.

Recommendation 2

doubt

Care as a strategy, should be directed at enabling the elderly to lead independent excluded and cut off from all activities of society.

Recommendation 3

Recommendation 4

and to avoid the use of institutions, such as training and not require placement of the affected in institutions, such as training and

social isolation.

is particularly in need of primary care from facilities located close to them.

mental illness in older people. Special efforts need to be taken to assist older persons who have mental health problems or who are at high risk in this respect.

57. Where hospital care is needed, application of the skills of geriatric medicine enables a patient's total condition to be assessed and, through the work of

Recommendation 5

Attentive care for the terminally ill, dialogue with them and support for

those providing medical care and by the families of the terminally ill and by the

providing health care for the elderly - based on recognition of the family and the

Recommendation 6

The trend towards increased costs of social services and health care systems

services and to provide high level care, especially in the home, where necessary.

should remain the interrelated key elements in a well-balanced system of social care of the elderly.

60. Those who give most direct care to the elderly are often the least trained and least prepared to meet the needs of the elderly through self-care, health promotion, prevention of illness, and their families. s5 T2 T2oc6tation rao827e Tr 5

Recommendation 7

(b) Those who work with the elderly at home, or in institutions, should be trained to meet the needs of the elderly and their families and communities. Health care decisions are frequently made without the participation of the citizens themselves.

Recommendation 8

The control of the lives of the aged should not be left solely to health care professionals.

Recommendation 9

Participation of the aged in the development of health care and the management of their communities should be encouraged.

Recommendation 10

Health and health-allied services should be developed to the fullest extent possible in the community. These services should include a broad range of medical and nursing care and domestic services. Emergency services should be available to the aged. Health care should be accessible to the aged in their own homes. Health screening and counseling should be available through general practitioners, health centers, and other health care facilities. Health care should be available to the aged in their own homes.

approach.

purpose, an assessment of the physical, psychological and social needs of the group
could enhance the prevention of

appropriate to their needs at the least cost.

standards to meet the need for hospitalization.

may have their most pronounced effects during old age when the reserve capacity usually is lower.

be continued.

Recommendation 16

Recommendation 17

social profiles of aging individuals in various social and cultural contexts, including attention to the special problems of access to services in rural and remote areas in order to provide a sound basis for future actions.

(g) Protection of elderly consumers.

Governments should:

(a) Ensure that food and household products, installations and equipment

(b) Encourage the safe use of medications, household chemicals and other

glasses and other prosthetics to the elderly so that they can prolong their activities and independence;

aimed at exploiting the meagre resources of the elderly.

The international organizations concerned are urged to promote collective efforts by their member states to protect elderly consumers.

National Governments should be encouraged to adopt housing policies that take

living environment that would take into account the functional capacity of the means of transport.

people to continue to live, if they so wish, in locations that are familiar to

The growing incidence of crime in some countries against the elderly
crime against older persons.

Recommendation 24

Whenever possible, the aging should be involved in housing policies and

(d) Family

The family, regardless of its form or organization, is recognized as a fundamental unit of society. With increasing longevity, four- and five-generation women, however, have reduced their traditional role as caretakers of older family members, to take over and share the burden of help in and by the family. Women are grandparenthood.

Recommendation 25

As the family structure evolves, family units should be encouraged to maintain solidarity among generations, with all members of the family participating in

Recommendation 30

Social welfare services should have as their goal the creation, promotion and and for the community.

Recommendation 31

the participation of elderly people as full members or consultants. A partnership ensure a comprehensive, integrated, co-ordinated and multi-purpose approach to

Recommendation 32

The involvement of young people - in providing services and care and in participating in activities for and with the elderly - should be encouraged with a

Recommendation 33

institutions for the elderly.

Recommendation 34

Whenever institutionalization is necessary or inevitable for elderly persons,

Recommendation 35

72. Major differences exist between the developed and the developing countries - and particularly between urban, industrialized and rural, agrarian economies.

Many developed countries have achieved high unemployment

security programmes launched tend to offer limited coverage; in the rural areas,

particular attention should be paid in social security and social

providing social insurance for women in their own right.

Recommendation 36

Governments should take appropriate action to ensure to all older persons of

population. To this end, they should:

- (a) Create or develop social security schemes based on the principle of

needs of the elderly and guarantee their independence. Whether or not social

determining the age at which pensions are payable, due account should be taken of

unemployed or those who are incapable of working;

making available supplementary retirement income

explored.

Recommendation 37

economic life of the society. For that purpose:

(a) Appropriate measures should be taken in collaboration with employers'

(b) Governments should eliminate discrimination in the labour market and

(c) Measures should be taken to assist older persons to find or return to

Recommendation 38

Recommendation 39

occupational disease upon the individual to the detected and appropriate steps to be planned.

Recommendation 40

Governments should take or encourage measures that will ensure a smooth and working life, for example by modifying the conditions of work and the working environment of the work organization and by promoting a gradual reduction of work time.

Recommendation 41

Governments should pay particular attention to the special needs of older workers, particularly those embodied in Recommendation 162 of the International guidelines concerning the special needs of these workers should continue to be developed.

security rights, measures should be taken, particularly through bilateral or coverage in the receiving country as well as maintenance of social security rights housing.

As far as possible, groups of refugees accepted by a country should include

to a knowledge and information "handover" the continuing and expanding nature of world population, the elderly still serve as the transmitters of information lost.

Recommendation 42

Educational programmes featuring the elderly as the teachers and transmitters

obsolescence, with, in turn, implications of social obsolescence. These changes suggest that the educational structures of society must be expanded to respond to

and the creative use of time. In addition, it is important that the aging along with the other age groups, have access to basic literacy education, as well as to

Consideration should be given to the idea of university education for the elderly.

Recommendation 46

positive aspects of the aging process and of the aging themselves. This effort should cover, among other things:

(a) The present situation of the aged, in particular in rural areas of developed and developing countries, with a view to identifying and responding to their real needs;

(b) The effects of migration (both internal and international) on the relative aging of populations of rural areas, and its effects on agricultural

(c) surveys of the role of education and aging in various cultures and societies.

Recommendation 47

In accordance with the concept of life-long education promulgated by the

Recommendation 48

elderly can play an active role both as audience and participants

Recommendation 49

and involvement of ministries of education in this respect should be strengthened in order to ensure and facilitate the inclusion of older people in educational activities and programmes designed to meet the needs of present generations,

formulating and designing these activities.

Recommendation 50

Comprehensive information on all aspects of their lives should be made

B. Promotion policies and programmes

Action. the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the United

the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development and the regional commissions as well as the specialized agencies, institutions and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to give maximum

1. Data collection and analysis

ensuring their integration in the development process.

79. Governments and organizations that are in a position to do so should develop information that is more specific than the "broad and overall" one now available. This information should be used in the development of and solving economic classifications, among others.

Recommendation 52

others. Such data could be collected through the census, micro or pilot census or purpose.

2. Training and education

of student increases in training. A dual approach is needed: an international that are particularly relevant to conditions in the countries and regions generation.

Recommendation 54

or comparable structures and composition, or having historical, cultural,

Recommendation 55

Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should take the necessary

Recommendation 56

bridge between and among developed and developing regions; they would be linked with appropriate United Nations agencies and facilities.

Recommendation 58

given to research and study undertaken in support of integrating the problems of aging in planning and policy formulation and management.

Recommendation 59

Training in all aspects of gerontology and geriatrics should be encouraged and given due prominence at all levels in all educational programmes. Governments and

84. The Plan of Action gives high priority to research related to developmental implications of the aging of the population for development and (b) as to the needs should be encouraged to achieve efficient uses of resources, improvement in social

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

A. Role of Governments

86. The success of this Plan of Action will depend largely on action undertaken by Governments, particularly in the areas of health care, housing, and social services, involving retirees' and elderly people's organizations.

87. Governments should identify and solve the social and economic problems - each country should decide upon its own national strategy and identify

88. Governments can play an important role with regard to the Plan of Action by evaluating and assessing the needs of the elderly in the light of the prevailing political, social, cultural, religious and

89. The Plan of Action should recognize that the aging are not a homogeneous group and be sensitive to the wide differences and needs of the aging at various stages of their lives. Governments should give attention to the

90. The needs of the elderly are given the attention they merit, and that the elderly are

91. These actions will gain in effectiveness if their preparation, implementation and follow-up are well co-ordinated at various geopolitical levels. The co-ordination must flow from co-operation between those in positions of

92. If these actions have already been achieved in others, they may only be accomplished progressively in others. Governments are urged, therefore, to establish short-term

93. Governments should, if necessary, retain in a suitable form (or encourage the

implementation and evaluation of the activities recommended by the World Assembly;

94. International co-operation in the implementation of the programme of action on the establishment inter alia of a new international economic order and of the based on the peaceful co-existence of states having different social systems, as bilateral and multilateral co-operation between governments and by increasing the

and all relevant UN bodies in the concerned specialized agencies and

96. In view of the role that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs has been

that respect, to this end the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested,

97. of the Plan of Action for the United Nations system with a view to continued liaison and co-ordination in implementing the provisions of the Plan.

99. be kept constantly under review in relation to the implementation of the Plan.

100. effort to accomplish the objectives of the Plan. They should strengthen their

communication at the national level for consulting with the elderly on policies and where possible, support national and private organizations dealing with matters

100. All States are invited to consider designating a national "Day for the Aging" in conformity with General Assembly resolution 30/20 of 9 November 1976.

101. The International Plan of Action on Aging should be brought to the attention

International Conference on Population (1984) so that its conclusions and account

(a) Technical Co-operation

102. The United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Development Programme specialized agencies, should carry out technical co-operation activities in support of population programmes to promote, and provide substantive support

public and private contributions should be encouraged. The World Fund should be

105. Aging is a population issue which affects development and which requires increasing international assistance and co-operation and therefore the United organizations responsible for international population assistance to continue and

(b) Exchange of information and experience

106. There is a need for effective means of stimulating progress and encouraging the adoption of measures to meet the needs of older persons. Countries with different political, economic and social systems and cultures and at different stages of development have

107. Meetings and seminars have proved to be most valuable in providing a regional and international exchange of information and experience and should be continued. These could focus inter alia on promoting technical co-operation among developing

the activities of regional and subregional research and development centres in the United Nations system, promote the preparation of information materials, as well as the constant exchange of information on problems and policies related to aging and

training courses in technologies that will enable older persons to continue to work

111. The International Plan of Action on Aging should be transmitted to the unit in the United Nations Secretariat responsible for international work (1987) in

the youth field.

(C) Formulation and Implementation of International Guidelines

112. The appropriate organizations should undertake studies on and review the effectiveness of existing international guidelines and instruments related to the subject of aging, in order to determine their adequacy in the light of conditions in the modern world and the experience gained since their adoption.

2. Regional action

113. Effective implementation of the Plan will also require action at the regional level. It is essential that governments, particularly those from developing countries,

114. In order to carry out the above-mentioned functions, Governments members of regional commissions should take steps to ensure that their regular programme of activities take into account the problems of aging.

115. Furthermore, in co-ordination with the conduct of the international review discussed above, the regional commission should organize the periodic review of

C. Assessment, review and appraisal

116. It is essential that governments, particularly those from developing countries,

117. Regional appraisal and review should focus on the special role regional action can play and the particular advantages it can offer in such fields as training, research and technical co-operation among developing countries.

118. It is recommended that the Commission for Social Development
Action every four years and to make proposals for updating the Plan
Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly
made within the United Nations system in achieving the goals and objectives of the

B. RESOLUTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY

Resolution

1. Aging people in Lebanon

Decision

Report of the Credentials Committee

Leb. 3 Tr-0.4566 Tc 0.3289 Tw (again) Tj 0 Tr 41.4004 0 TD 3 Tr -0.252 Tc 0.0834 Tw (acutely) Tj 0 Tr
The World Assembly on Aging,

Deeply concerned by the vulnerability of the elderly in situations of armed

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

among the elderly;

elderly, during periods of tension and armed conflict,

...to take necessary measures which would
secure instructions for the...
...of hospitals, Red Cross facilities
etc.,

4. Requests the Secretary-General to call upon Israel to permit the Arab

...to implement this resolution

15th plenary meeting

2/ Report of the World Conference of the International Women's Year, Mexico
city, 19 June-2 July 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XV.1) - chap.

3/ Report of the World Conference on Women, Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-26 June 1975

Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XV.1) - chap.

STOCKHOLM, 5-16 JUNE 1974 (UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION, SALES NO. E.75.XV.1) - chap.

7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for

9/ General Assembly resolution 34/24, annex.

10/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Co-operation among

developing countries, 1975 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.XV.1) - chap. I

12/ See A/36/471/Add.1, annex, sect. II.

of the aging of the population and its consequences for each individual and thus
needs, rights and abilities of the older generations, whose numbers are growing
organization of society in relation to this stratum of its population.

can make its contribution together with the others, and, lastly, the appeal to the
creativity of each socio-cultural environment, in order to evoke responses that
culture and beliefs. These themes indicate that not just abstract or technical
stake but the fate of human beings, each having his own history

To this important Assembly, which is dealing with these realities in order to
its conviction regarding the family or family-type institutions as the most
propitious setting for the well-being of the aged, and its support for the

natural development of the life of every human being, of which it represents the culmination.

IN HIS LIKENESS. IF THE SACRED DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON IS UNDERSTOOD IN THIS consistency and justice alone, it is surely impossible to value truly the life of an old man without valuing truly the life of a child from the commencement of its

resolutely affirmed, as did the congregation for the Doctrines of the Faith in its Declaration on Euthanasia of 5 May 1980, that nothing and nobody can authorize the termination of the life of an innocent human being, be it a child, an adult, an old person, incurable or dying invalid, and that any such act is a violation

needs to learn to reintegrate death in human life. Surely, there is no one who accomplish that last act of earthly existence with that dignity and that serenity

the weakening of physical strength, a lessened alertness of the mental faculties,

which ensue and the prospect of the emotional separations entailed by the departure for the hereafter. These saddening characteristics may be transformed by

well death are a decisive criterion of the respect which the person

their age and appreciate its potential. The second condition is that modern

technical level and its social level. Old people can live only with difficulty in
self-esteem when they see that what matters most is the citizen's monetary worth

a climate is at variance with the well-being and fruitfulness of old age and

presumes to recognize only its young and adult members in full possession of their
unproductive, whereas numerous experiments, scientifically conducted, prove the
contrary.

" established as an intimate community of life and love the family has

deeper humanity'" (paras. 17 and 21).

from it and their potential contribution to the life and function of the family.

of their children or other relatives do not always exist, and sometimes such an

considered, but the children or other family members have a duty to maintain

also help to restore to honour above all by their

generosity, inwardness and discreet and radiant joy. Furthermore, the regular or

III

Current population trends present society with a new field in which it can

The older generations, which, in some legal and social systems, are being

retired members?

aspirations of the aged. There can be no single solution while it is normal for

institutions. In order to provide continuity with what the elderly have known and

the family, allowing, for example, to the elderly the human warmth which is so

compatible with the requirements of community life, a range of activities is

required by those of advancing age. Of course, institutions of this kind already exist, but many more are needed. In this connection, I wish to draw attention to

a society earns special distinction when it promotes as best it can, with due reverence for the elderly and in the various institutions dedicated to them, the convergence of these paths of service to man.

a place and role in the human community.

employment for those who benefit from

of knowledge and experience which, through this long training, can be put to good use in various

ways, ranging from... might be explored with the elderly themselves or

the associations which represent them. I also think that society should make an effort to provide in different continents, to create opportunities for contact with other persons and other milieux, and time for quiet and prayerful meditation helping those who reach retirement and old age to overcome loneliness and the contribution of the elderly to the vitality and stability of society. Towards that admirable development and growth until the very end of each individual's stay on

In concluding these reflections and suggestions, it remains for me to express that the Vienna World Assembly on Aging will yield abundant and lasting benefits. The United Nations Assembly, including children and the disabled, has a crucial bearing

2. Message from H.E. Mr. Ronald Reagan, President of

United Nations World Assembly on Aging.

This Assembly represents a timely and farsighted effort on the part of the times. Thanks to unprecedented advances in medicine, nutrition, and economic growth, the elderly population is increasing rapidly. They must be given the opportunity to contribute both socially and

wanted, needed, and respected.

The challenges of ensuring a productive place in society for our older

The task before the World Assembly on Aging is not simple, and it must be

define the many questions surrounding a rapidly aging world population and to point

characteristics of the population.

The United States has strongly supported preparation for this World Assembly

this important, growing part of our world population.

I send my warmest wishes to you for success in the assembly.

Message from Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister
of India

Progress in medicine has not actually lengthened the life span of human beings

it merely allows for more of them to live out a full measure of their

The pooling of experiences and ideas from different countries will be useful

in helping us to tackle our own problem. I send my good wishes to the United

representing their countries.

On behalf of the Polish people, the highest authorities of the Polish People's world.

the specific social situation of the aged in various sections of the world
the crisis, but also to ensure that they have a social status which, at a time of

aged, convened early in 1957, covered all such matters and included in its work
of various scientific disciplines.

The maintenance of world peace is of particular importance to the

For this reason we firmly condemn all the hostilities taking place in various
parts of the world. For this reason too, in concert with the other socialist
take the necessary steps to maintain and strengthen peace. The world cannot live

the problems of the aged are and will continue to be the subject of special

Annex II

List of documents

A. Basic documentation

Number	Title
A/CONF.113/1	Provisional agenda
A/CONF.113/2	Provisional rules of procedure
A/CONF.113/3	Organizational and procedural matters
A/CONF.113/4	Introductory documents: demographic
A/CONF.113/5	Introductory documents: development
A/CONF.113/6	Aging populations: economic policy considerations. Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.113/7	Migration and aging: Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.113/8	Aging populations and rural development: Report of the Food and Agriculture
A/CONF.113/9	Water and aging: Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.113/10	issues: Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.113/10	Aging in the context of the family: Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.113/11	Report of the Advisory Committee for the World Assembly on Aging on its second session
A/CONF.113/12	Aging and social welfare: Report of the Secretary-General
A/CONF.113/13	Housing, environment and aging: Report of
A/CONF.113/14	Social development and aging: Report of the Secretary-General

A/CONF.113/15

Problems of employment and occupation for
older workers: Report of the
International Labour Organisation

A/CONF.113/16

A/CONF.113/17

Income maintenance and social protection

A/CONF.113/18

Security: Report of the International

A/CONF.113/20

Health policy aspects of aging: Report of
the World Health Organization

A/CONF.113/20

Education and aging: Report of UNESCO

A/CONF.113/21

The older refugees: Report of the United

A/CONF.113/22

Draft International Plan of Action on
Aging: Report of the Secretary-General

A/CONF.113/25

Human settlements and aging: Report of
the United Nations Centre for Human
Settlements

A/CONF.113/25

Regional plans of action on aging

A/CONF.113/25

In charge of the Organization of International
Ageing Research of America addressed to

Symbol

Title

A/CONF.113/29

Credentials of representatives to the World Assembly on Aging: Report of the

A/CONF.113/30

Report of the Main Committee

A/CONF.113/31

held at the Hofburg Congress Centre, Vienna

A/CONF.113/L.1/Add.1

_____: Addendum

A/CONF.113/L.2

Draft report of the World Assembly on Aging: Table of contents

A/CONF.113/L.2/Add.1

Item: Chapter I. Historical background of the World Assembly on Aging

A/CONF.113/L.2/Add.2

Item: Chapter II. Mandate and

A/CONF.113/L.2/Add.3

general debate

Democratic Yemen, India, Indonesia, Iraq,

Jama'iriya, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

A/CONF.113/L.4

Draft resolution submitted by Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia,

(and) Trinidad and Tobago, 46 House

Resolution submitted by Jamaica and Malta

A/CONF.113/L.6

Establishment of an International Clearing-

submitted by Dominican Republic, France and Poland

Population Activities (UNEP) for matters in the field of ... submitted by Chile, Colombia, Dominican

draft resolution submitted by General

Symbol

Title

A/CONF.113/L.9

International co-operation: draft

ASSEMBLY ON AGING: Draft Resolution

Centre for Social Development and

A/CONF.113/L.12

Netherlands: amendments to draft

document A/CONF.113/24): United Kingdom:
proposed amendments

A/CONF.113/MC/L.3

Draft International Plan of Action on
Aging: Text agreed by the Advisory
Committee at its third session (Annex to
document A/CONF.113/24): United States of
America: proposed amendments

A/CONF.113/MC/L.3/Rev.1

Idem: United States of America, France,
Federal Republic of Germany: proposed
amendment

proposed amendments

A/CONF.113/MC/L.7

Idem: Holy See: proposed amendments

A/CONF.113/MC/L.8

Draft International Plan of Action on
Aging: Report of the Secretary-General
(A/CONF.113/22): Cuba: proposed amendment

A/CONF.113/MC/L.9

Idem: Tunisia: proposed amendment

A/CONF.113/MC/L.10

Idem: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:
proposed amendments

A/CONF.113/MC/L.11

Idem: France: proposed amendment

A/CONF.113/MC/L.12

Draft International Plan of Action on
Aging: Explanation of variations between
the consolidated text of amendments to
document A/CONF.113/22 and the consolidated text of amendments to
document A/CONF.113/24

amendment

Idem: France: proposed amendment

Idem: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist

Republics: proposed
amendments

Idem: Senegal: proposed amendment

A/CONF.113/MC/L.20

Idem: Consolidated text of amendments to
document A/CONF.113/22

Idem: Consolidated text of amendments to
document A/CONF.113/24

A/CONF.113/MC/L.21

Draft International Plan of Action on
Aging: Consolidated text of amendments to
document A/CONF.113/24): Consolidated
text of amendments to document
A/CONF.113/24

(document A/CONF.113/L.27)
proposed amendment

Item: Amendment proposed by the United States

Item: Amendment proposed by Algeria

A/CONF.113/MC/L.27*

Draft report of the Main Committee

Information documents

Symbol Title

B. Background documents

1. National reports

ALGERIA

EGYPT

AUSTRALIA

FRANCE

AUSTRIA

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

BAHRAIN

GREECE

BELGIUM

GUATEMALA

BULGARIA

HUNGARY

CANADA

INDIA

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ISRAEL

ITALY

JORDAN
KENYA

TURKEY
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VATICAN

VICTORIA

SWEDEN

SWITZERLAND

Symbol

A/CONF.113/NGO/2

International Association of Gerontology
Eighties and Beyond"

A/CONF.113/NGO/2

International Federation on Aging Suggestions
Action Plan

Statement

A/CONF.113/NGO/7

World Leisure and Recreation Association
Statement

A/CONF.113/NGO/6

International Federation of Business &

Symbol

Statement of the International Youth Council
Submitted by the Council

Baha'i International Community

Global Education Associates

International Council of Jewish Women
International Council of Women
International Federation of Settlements
and Neighbourhood Centres
International Federation of University Women

Jaycees International

Scouts
World Federation for Mental Health

Background document

A/CONF.113/NGO/12

International Federation for Home Economics
Statement

Statement

La Fédération Internationale des Résistants

Les activités de la Fédération Internationale
des Résistants pour les personnes âgées et
les victimes de la guerre

A/CONF.113/NGO/16

Switzerland
Maharishi University of Natural Law, England
Maharishi International University, USA
Maharishi Academy of Vedic Science, India
Maharishi's Technology of Consciousness
Transcendental Meditation offering fulfillment
to the United Nations World Assembly on Aging

A/CONF.113/NGO/17

Maharishi's Technology of Consciousness

Switzerland
Maharishi University of Natural Law, England
Maharishi International University, USA
Maharishi Academy of Vedic Science, India

Associations FIAPA: The Role of the
Elderly's Associations towards Aging

A/CONF.113/NGO/18

Statement by Help the Aged

A/CONF.113/NGO/19

IA - Responsible Management of the World's

A/CONF.113/NGO/21

ELVIRITA LEWIS FOUNDATION
Suggestions concerning housing: amendments
to the Draft International Action Plan
submitted by the Society for the Care of Old
People

A/CONF.113/NGO/22

Statement by the Federation of Associations
of Former International Civil Servants

A/CONF.113/NGO/23

Statement by Rehabilitation International

A/CONF.113/NGO/24

2000 Long Education and Aging

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