Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2003

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/58/497 (Part II))]

58/132. Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women\(^1\) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,\(^2\)

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,\(^3\) resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and resolution 56/115 of 19 December 2001, as well as the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted on 8 September 2000 by heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations,\(^4\) stressing the need to promote and protect the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, and recognizing the importance of incorporating the disability perspective in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

Noting with appreciation the initiatives and actions of Governments to implement relevant sections of the Standard Rules and of relevant resolutions that give special attention to the questions of accessible environments and information and communication technologies, health, education and social services, employment

\(^1\) Resolution 34/180, annex.
\(^2\) Resolution 44/25, annex.
\(^3\) A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation l (IV).
\(^4\) See resolution 55/2.
and sustainable livelihoods, including the relevant activities of intergovernmental
and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and
summits and their respective follow-up reviews,

Noting that the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted
by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, considers “older persons and
disabilities” as a specific issue for policy concern,

Noting also the preparatory work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a
Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and
Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities in establishing a
working group with the aim of preparing and presenting a draft text that would be
the basis for the negotiation of the draft convention,

Recognizing the strong commitment of Governments to the equalization of
opportunities and to the rights of persons with disabilities and the promotion and
protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities,
including in the context of development,

Acknowledging the important role of non-governmental organizations in the
promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with
disabilities, and noting in this regard their work in promoting the elaboration of an
international convention on the rights of disabled persons,

Noting with appreciation the important contributions of regional
intergovernmental organizations and the regional commissions of the United
Nations in promoting awareness and building capacities for the full participation
and equality of persons with disabilities, as well as the outcome of international
conferences relating to persons with disabilities,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to
promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with
disabilities at all levels,

Recognizing the importance of accessibility both of the physical environment
and of information and communication in enabling persons with disabilities to enjoy
fully their human rights,

Reiterating that technology, in particular information and communication
technologies, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment
for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation
and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations and contributions
from regional groups in promoting information and communication technologies as
a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive
topics, programme planning and evaluation and the need for the further development
of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on
populations with disabilities,

Recognizing also the challenge of better incorporating the disability
perspective in development and technical cooperation activities,

5 Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8–12 April 2002 (United Nations publication,
Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.
Recognizing further the need to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide through the enhancement of awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities,

Recognizing that, in the elaboration of national and international development strategies, consideration needs to be given to the impact of poverty, especially in rural areas, on the conditions of persons with disabilities,

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict continue to have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, including the recommendations of the Secretary-General relating to policy options to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities in the context of development;

2. Welcomes the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to promote the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and the equalization of opportunities for, persons with disabilities;

3. Calls upon Governments to take all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, inter alia, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation;

4. Encourages Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to continue to take concrete measures to mainstream the disability perspective into the development process and promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities;

5. Encourages Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations and other groups, including organizations of persons with disabilities, that contribute to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action;

6. Also encourages Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans, in particular those pertaining to them;

7. Urges relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to incorporate the disability perspective in their activities, as appropriate, and to continue to work closely with the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat for the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, including activities at the field

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level, by sharing experiences, findings and recommendations on persons with disabilities;

8. **Stresses** the importance of improving data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in compliance with national legislation on the protection of personal data, so that they can be compared internationally and domestically for purposes of policy design, planning and evaluation from the disability perspective, urges Governments, in this regard, to cooperate with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat in the continuing development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data-collection systems;

9. **Urges** Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide special protection to persons with mental or physical disabilities, who may experience multiple or aggravating forms of discrimination, with special emphasis on integrating them into society and protecting and promoting their full enjoyment of all human rights;

10. **Urges Governments to address the situation of persons with disabilities with respect to all actions taken to implement existing human rights treaties to which they are parties;**

11. **Invites States to continue to participate actively in the negotiations within the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities;**

12. **Encourages Governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability, with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;**

13. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue to support the initiatives of relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and non-discrimination in respect of, persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action, as well as their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

14. **Expresses its appreciation** to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide a barrier-free environment;

15. **Welcomes** the review by the Secretary-General in his current report on the fourth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

77th plenary meeting
22 December 2003