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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT ON THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

(13-22 March 1989)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

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SUPPLEMENT No. 7



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COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

REPORT ON THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures.

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SUMMARY

At its thirty-first session, the Commission for Social Development reviewed the 1989 report on the world social situation. It adopted a resolution in which it emphasized the importance of improving the quality of social conditions for all population groups and of designing and incorporating explicit social targets in development strategies, and recommended that instead of additional reporting on national experience, the report on the world social situation should take into consideration and continue to reflect the experience of countries in achieving social goals. The Commission recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council by which the Secretary-General would take into account, when elaborating the next report on the world social situation, the effects of science and technology on processes of social welfare and development. In another draft resolution, the Commission recommended that a report be prepared by the Secretary-General, providing an in-depth evaluation of the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, including the impact of structural adjustment policies on the social situation in Africa.

The Commission reviewed the results of the 1987 Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth and implementation of the 1982 World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/51, the Commission convened an informal open-ended ad hoc working group in order to consider in-depth the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging (E/1989/13). It recommended to the Council the adoption of a draft resolution in which appropriate measures to further the cause of the aging were set out. The Commission also recommended the adoption of a draft resolution on youth, by which the Commission, at its thirty-third session, would prepare a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year, to be implemented at the international level, and to identify future strategies in the field of youth. Delegations stressed that the cause of the disabled should be promoted, and emphasized the need for social justice and participation for vulnerable groups in each sector of society. The Commission therefore recommended the adoption of a draft resolution by which the Secretary-General and Member States were requested to pay particular attention during the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons to the functioning and reactivation of national bodies for disabled persons and to the development and strengthening of powerful and influential organizations of disabled persons. In its deliberations, the Commission called for greater consideration of the question of extreme poverty; it agreed that the fight against extreme poverty remained an international challenge that required full international co-operation.

For the first time, the Commission recommended a draft resolution for adoption by the Council in which it was proposed that an expert meeting on the negative consequences of alcohol use be held in Norway in 1990.

The Commission also recommended a draft resolution by which the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade would take into consideration the Commission's proposals on the social dimensions of the strategy.

Furthermore, the Commission reaffirmed its decision to organize its substantive work under three topics: (a) review of the world social situation, (b) monitoring of international plans and programmes of action in the areas of social welfare, youth, aging and disabled persons and (c) selection of specific subjects for in-depth consideration; it decided to give priority consideration at its thirty-second session to the problem of the integration of young people into society and to the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries.

Although there was no consensus on an increase in the membership of the Commission or on the frequency of its sessions, it was felt that there might be a need for special sessions on an exceptional basis.

Finally, the Commission reviewed the report of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and decided to increase the number of nominated members of the Board of the Institute from seven to ten. It took this decision in the interests of wider geographical distribution and adequate coverage of the different disciplines dealt with by the Institute.

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Chapter I

MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft resolutions

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Critical social situation in Africa*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 on the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which provides the framework for international co-operation in the field of social development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 39/29 of 3 December 1984 and 40/40 of 2 December 1985, which led to the convening of the thirteenth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa, at which the Assembly adopted by consensus resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, to which was annexed the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,

Alarmed at the acceleration in the deterioration of social conditions in most African countries,

Noting with concern the gravity of the situation in the southern part of Africa due to the continued policy of apartheid of the racist régime of South Africa,

Noting that in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, 1/ the Governments of African States reaffirmed their primary responsibility for the economic and social development of their countries, identified areas for priority action, and undertook to mobilize and utilize domestic resources for the achievement of their priority objectives,

Reiterating that the African social and economic crisis is a development crisis that concerns the international community as a whole and that greater realization of the rich physical and human potential of the continent is an integral part of a common strategy to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

1/ A/40/666, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl. 1 (XXI), annex.

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by African Governments in redressing some of the acute social problems confronting the African continent,

Noting that the prospects for concerted implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 are being affected by an unfavourable external economic environment, debt-servicing obligations and the rate of flow of development finance, particularly that of a concessionary nature,

1. Takes note of the 1989 report on the world social situation, 2/ including the annex thereto on the critical social situation in Africa;
2. Appeals to the international community, the States members of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase their co-operation and assistance to enhance the efforts undertaken by the African countries to establish or improve their infrastructure, through the creation of a favourable economic environment;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, providing an in-depth evaluation of the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, 3/ including the impact of structural adjustment policies on the social situation in Africa, for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session;
4. Decides that at that session, the Commission should consider the report in the context of its review of the world social situation.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Social Welfare, Development and Science and Technology*

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that scientific and technological progress is an important factor in the social and economic development of human society,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, in which States are called upon to equitably share scientific and technological advances, to intensify international co-operation in this field and to use science and technology for the benefit of the social development of society,

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

2/ E/CN.5/1989/2.

3/ General Assembly resolution S-13/2, annex.

Reaffirming also the Declaration on the Use of Scientific and Technological Progress in the Interests of Peace and for the Benefit of Mankind, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 3384 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, in which all States are called upon to promote international co-operation to ensure that the results of scientific and technological developments are used in the interests of strengthening international peace and security, freedom and independence, and also for the purpose of the economic and social development of peoples and the realization of human rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering that implementation of the above-mentioned Declarations will contribute to the social and economic development of peoples and international co-operation in the interests of scientific and technological progress, as well as to strengthening peace,

Emphasizing that international co-operation of States for the promotion of scientific and technological progress is in the interest of the social and economic development of all peoples,

Convinced that, in a time of rapid scientific and technological progress, humankind's resources and the work of scientists make an important contribution to the peaceful economic and social development of nations and to the improvement of the living standards of all peoples,

Aware that technical co-operation, including the possibility of transfer of technology, is one of the ways of achieving better social progress in developing countries,

1. Calls upon all States to encourage co-operation to ensure scientific and technological progress for the welfare of their peoples, as well as of all human beings and their social and economic development, and to contribute to promoting economic development and eliminating grave social problems in the world;

2. Stresses the necessity of using scientific and technological progress as a major aspect of the implementation process of fundamental political, economic, social and cultural human rights in their entirety, as laid down in the International Covenants on Human Rights; 4/

3. Calls upon all Governments to make every effort to use scientific and technological achievements for the promotion of peaceful social and economic development, and to prevent their misuse to the disadvantage of human beings;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, when elaborating the next report on the world social situation, to take due account of the effects of science and technology on processes of social welfare and development on the basis of available information from Governments and from organizations of the United Nations system;

4/ See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

5. Invites the Commission for Social Development, in its discussion of the item on the world social situation, to pay increasing attention to the effects of science and technology on the processes of social welfare and development;

6. Requests the Secretary-General or interested Governments to consider in the near future convening, within existing resources, an expert seminar on the effects of science and technology on social welfare and development.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Twentieth anniversary of the Declaration
on Social Progress and Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, by which it solemnly proclaimed the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, its resolutions 2543 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, 32/117 of 16 December 1977, 34/59 of 29 November 1979 and 41/142 of 4 December 1986 on the implementation of the Declaration,

"Reaffirming, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the proclamation of the Declaration, its importance as a source of inspiration for national and international efforts for the promotion of social progress and development,

"Recalling its resolutions 40/98 of 13 December 1985 on the improvement of the role of the United Nations in the field of social development, 42/49 of 30 November 1987 on the achievement of social justice and 43/113 of 8 December 1988 on the indivisibility and interdependence of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights,

"Recalling also that in resolution 42/48 of 30 November 1987 it decided to observe in 1989 the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration,

"Desirous of achieving effective realization of the provisions of the Declaration,

"Noting the continuous validity and importance of the principles and objectives proclaimed in the Declaration,

* For the discussion, see chap. II.

"1. Invites all Governments to take into consideration the provisions of the Declaration in their developmental policies, plans and programmes as well as in their bilateral and multilateral co-operation;

"2. Recommends that the Declaration be taken into account in the formulation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade and in the implementation of programmes of international action to be carried out during the decade;

"3. Recommends further that the international organizations concerned with development continue to use the provisions of the Declaration, which is an important United Nations document, in formulating strategies, programmes and international instruments aimed at social progress and development;

"4. Urges the Secretary-General to carry out the activities indicated in the annex to Assembly resolution 42/48 in order to ensure the successful observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration;

"5. Reiterates its invitation to all States that have not yet done so to transmit to the Secretary-General their views and comments pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of Assembly resolution 42/48;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the next report on the world social situation a special part dealing with the activities carried out in pursuance of the present resolution;

"7. Decides to consider including in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session an item entitled 'Twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development'."

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Follow-up of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1987/48 of 28 May 1987 on the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, in which the Assembly, inter alia, endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, adopted at the Interregional Consultation, 5/

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

5/ See the report of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes (E/CONF.80/10), chap. III.

Taking note of the recommendation addressed to the Interregional Consultation by the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs, held at Warsaw in April 1987, that the United Nations look into ways in which the international community could in the future deal with pressing problems related to alcohol use, 6/

Guided by the recommendations, set out in the Guiding Principles, for action at the national, regional and interregional levels in identifying social measures that may appropriately be taken to meet the challenges posed to social structures, values, traditions and attitudes by, inter alia, the negative social consequences of alcohol use,

Mindful of the important contribution of the World Health Organization in highlighting the negative health aspects of alcohol use,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to consider ways of following up the recommendation of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes on this topic by, inter alia, carrying out a study on the negative social consequences of alcohol use, based on a report of an expert meeting to be convened;
2. Takes note with appreciation of the offer of the Government of Norway to act as host to an expert meeting on the negative social consequences of alcohol use that would be convened in 1990 under United Nations auspices;
3. Requests the Secretary-General, to undertake, within existing resources, to make the necessary preparations for such a meeting, drawing on support from interested Governments and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
4. Also requests the Secretary-General to consult with Member States on the nomination of experts to attend the meeting and to invite Member States to participate in the preparatory work by, inter alia, contributing national reports on relevant aspects of the questions deemed of particular importance;
5. Further requests the Secretary-General to report on the outcome of the expert meeting to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session and to distribute the report of the expert meeting to Member States, inviting their comments on the recommendations.

6/ See E/CONF.80/9.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Second review and appraisal of the implementation
of the International Plan of Action on Aging*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging conducted by the Commission for Social Development, as mandated in General Assembly resolution 37/51 of 3 December 1982, 1/

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the comprehensive report on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging;
2. Decides on a set of priorities and recommendations to encourage further implementation of the Plan of Action, as contained in annex I to the present resolution;
3. Endorses the programme of United Nations activities leading up to and following 1992, as contained in annex II to the present resolution;
4. Reaffirms the recommendation made in the Plan of Action that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna serve as the focal point on aging issues for the United Nations system and that, to that end, the Secretary-General, within the existing global resources of the United Nations, give due consideration to the provision of appropriate increased resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action;
5. Recommends the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Third Committee of the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, to focus on the conclusions of the second review and appraisal;
6. Decides to establish an open-ended ad hoc working group of the Economic and Social Council to monitor preparatory activities for the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action;
7. Recommends the convening of a special ad hoc working group of the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session to monitor the activities of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action on Aging in 1992;
8. Decides that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, within existing resources or with extrabudgetary resources, should co-ordinate activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action, as suggested in paragraph 103 of the report of the Secretary-General; 1/

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

1/ E/1989/13.

9. Urges the Aging Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs to place special emphasis on developing expertise in, and providing technical assistance to, Member States on social and economic developmental issues related to aging;
10. Urges the Commission on the Status of Women to give particular attention to the specific problems faced by elderly women;
11. Urges Governments and the United Nations to involve non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to a greater extent than previously in the implementation of the Plan of Action so that their expertise and well-known contributions in the field may be used more effectively;
12. Notes with appreciation the activities, plans and programmes of the International Institute on Aging, recently established in Malta, particularly in the area of training;
13. Recommends that the Secretary-General take into consideration a feasibility study recommending the establishment of a United Nation-related international institute on aging at Belgrade;
14. Welcomes progress made at the preparatory meeting to establish an African Society of gerontology, held at Dakar from 17 to 22 December 1988, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/93 of 8 December 1988, at which a draft statute, draft rules of procedure and a draft work programme were elaborated;
15. Also welcomes the initiative of the Government of Argentina in establishing a subregional South American centre on aging;
16. Calls upon the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, as the focal point in the United Nations system for activities related to aging, to co-ordinate the activities of such institutes or centres, particularly to avoid duplication;
17. Reiterates that these and any other such institutes or centres would not preclude the establishment in other countries or regions of the world of other institutes or centres related to the United Nations and financed by voluntary contributions;
18. Decides to include the question of aging in the agenda of the thirty-second session of the Commission for Social Development.

Annex I

SECOND REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION ON AGING: PRIORITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. As their populations age, most countries are simultaneously confronted by economic constraints. In such a climate, aging is often low on the list of priorities. Yet, as documented in the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, policy interventions are necessary now. In these circumstances, the expanded awareness of aging issues must be tapped; specific priorities must be identified; and resources must be marshalled. If specific measures based on existing structures and activities are instituted, and collaborative efforts encompassing Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are intensified, the synergy will achieve more, even with limited resources.
2. The Plan of Action contains broad recommendations dealing with different facets of aging. It would serve no useful purpose to repeat or reformulate them. Set forth below, to supplement the Plan of Action and encourage its implementation, are specific recommendations that emerge from the second review and appraisal.
3. In considering those recommendations, Member States might wish to bear in mind the following priorities:
 - (a) The provision of basic services for all - food, water, shelter, health protection and education - must form the cornerstone of any national or community-based group-specific programme;
 - (b) Specific policies and programmes focusing on the elderly must recognize both the humanitarian needs and the human resource potential of the aged;
 - (c) Policies to promote the developmental and humanitarian needs of the aged must focus on the family and community as indivisible social units;
 - (d) The use of the elderly as a societal resource must be predicated upon their involvement and participation in the development of policies and programmes affecting them;
 - (e) Expanding economic opportunities for the elderly must not be seen to imply contracting opportunities for the young; policies and programmes directed at either end of the labour force's age spectrum can be mutually reinforcing;
 - (f) Policies and programmes for, and by, the elderly must grow upon quality baseline information that reflects the demographic, epidemiological, biological, social and economic aspects of aging.
4. The following recommendations are emphasized for the consideration of Member States:

- (a) National machinery should be established or strengthened to ensure that the humanitarian needs and developmental potential of the aged are appropriately addressed within the context of each country and culture;
- (b) The United Nations should continue to provide support, particularly to developing countries, in developing the national, local and voluntary institutional capacities necessary to respond appropriately to population aging;
- (c) International development agencies, governmental and non-governmental, are strongly encouraged to assist Governments, particularly of developing countries, in developing or expanding their institutional capacities for responding appropriately to population aging;
- (d) The expansion of research focusing on the demographic, epidemiological, biological, social and economic aspects of aging, particularly in developing countries, should be supported;
- (e) Bilateral and multilateral co-operative research arrangements, particularly between developing and developed countries, should be encouraged in order to understand and respond better to global-specific and country-specific aging issues;
- (f) The establishment or expansion of community-based or institutional care systems that provide the necessary health and social services for the frail elderly who have limited or no family support should be encouraged;
- (g) The ability of families to care for their frail elderly should be supported and strengthened by the development or expansion of community-based health and social services that foster home care;
- (h) Family support for the aged should be promoted by policies and programmes that provide economic and psycho-social incentives for families that care for their older members;
- (i) To ensure their dignity and support, elderly women should be given special attention in appropriate policies and programmes;
- (j) In countries where institutions are used to shelter and provide services for the frail elderly, policies that ensure active quality control and community integration should be promoted;
- (k) Self-help initiatives on the part of the elderly should be encouraged and supported;
- (l) Organizations and associations of the elderly, which ensure their active involvement in policy and programme development, should be encouraged and promoted;
- (m) Intergenerational service programmes and educational opportunities should be supported to maintain intergenerational cohesion;
- (n) Training in gerontology and geriatrics should be offered by the expansion of international institutes, as well as by individual country

institutes and training centres, to ensure that policy makers, researchers and practitioners have an adequate knowledge of aging issues;

(o) Bilateral and multilateral co-operation between Governments and non-governmental organizations to provide training for specialists in aging, particularly specialists from developing countries, should be encouraged and supported;

(p) Laws and practices that support age discrimination should be discouraged;

(q) Income security programmes, including those related to pensions, employment opportunities and family assistance, should be supported to ensure dignity and opportunity in old age;

(r) Income security should be enhanced, where necessary, by the development and support of income-generating projects for and by the elderly.

Annex II

OUTLINE OF A PROGRAMME OF UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF AGING FOR 1992 AND BEYOND

1. A draft programme of organizational and substantive activities to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging is given below, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/93 of 8 December 1988. The substantive focus reflects priority needs identified in the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging. 7/

2. The draft programme aims at stimulating interest, inquiry and response, as well as celebrating aging as a significant phenomenon and achievement of the twentieth century. When implemented, the draft programme's substantive focus and organizational arrangements would vary between the entities concerned and from country to country.

3. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna, as the focal point within the United Nations system for activities on aging, will co-ordinate the programmes of the anniversary year. Working within existing resources, it will endeavour:

(a) To mobilize national machinery on aging to launch national consciousness-raising events;

(b) To use the expertise of the organizations of the United Nations system for action-oriented programmes on aging in their respective areas of concern;

(c) To co-operate with non-governmental organizations in the production and distribution of specialized and general information for wide distribution within their respective networks;

(d) To ensure that the general public is informed of the year and its

follow-up activities by increasing channels of communication between the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations information centres around the world;

(e) To raise extrabudgetary resources for supplementing those activities.

4. Issues selected for special attention during the year and its follow-up will include, in accordance with the findings of the second review and appraisal, policies and programmes relating to the following:

- (a) Income security and income-generating activities;
- (b) Health-care delivery and its financing in aging societies;
- (c) Community-based activities for and with the elderly;
- (d) Organizations of the elderly;
- (e) Training.

5. In addition to Governments, groups to be targeted during the year and its follow-up will include mid-life and elderly persons, trade unions and employers' organizations, women's and youth organizations, schools and universities, and research and training institutions.

6. If extrabudgetary resources become available, the following specific activities leading up to and during 1992 should be envisaged:

1989 International meeting of non-governmental organizations to assist in the development and organization of concrete programmes and activities for 1992 and its follow-up.

1990 Regional meeting of developing countries, in co-operation with regional commissions and national machinery on aging, to promote the development of country-specific profiles and the preparation of national agenda on aging for the decade 1992-2001.

1991 Publication of a graphic and succinct status report entitled "Aging - highlights from the twentieth century, forecasts for the twenty-first century".

1992 Activities marking the tenth anniversary of adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging, including:

- (a) A public information campaign focusing on selected aging issues to stimulate the necessary preparation for or response to aging;
- (b) An international art and literature campaign (including a poster competition), to enlist the general public, artists and writers in celebrating aging;
- (c) The issue of United Nations stamps to commemorate the occasion;

- (d) Publication of an agenda for the decade, entitled "Selected priorities for action on aging: 1992-2001". This would complement the broad-based Plan of Action, and priorities would be selected on the basis of national profiles and experience in implementing the Plan of Action at various levels. It would be for use by decision makers, practitioners and non-governmental organizations;
- (e) An information packet containing technical reports, news features, human interest items and so forth for use by schools, universities, the media and non-governmental organizations.

7. After 1992, substantive activities might focus on several specific issues within the general context of the aging of populations, with a view to ensuring that exchanges of knowledge and expertise can actually be operationalized. Four clusters of activities are suggested below, each one beginning with a draft paper prepared by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in consultation with the relevant specialized agencies; the draft papers will be refined at regional meetings, in co-operation with the regional commissions, and will finally be published as technical manuals or monographs:

- (a) Establishing community-based organizations of the aged;
- (b) Income security and income generation for and by the aged;
- (c) Health-care delivery and financing in aging societies;
- (d) Intersectoral co-operation on aging.

8. Information on the activities undertaken on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action and the follow-up proposed for the decade 1992-2001 will be made available to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session when, in accordance with Assembly resolution 43/93, the occasion will be commemorated in the plenary meeting.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Youth in the contemporary world*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1985/23 of 29 May 1985 and 1987/45 of 28 May 1987,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/14 of 18 November 1985 entitled "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace", by

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

follow-up activities by increasing channels of communication between the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations information centres around the world;

(e) To raise extrabudgetary resources for supplementing those activities.

4. Issues selected for special attention during the year and its follow-up will include, in accordance with the findings of the second review and appraisal, policies and programmes relating to the following:

- (a) Income security and income-generating activities;
- (b) Health-care delivery and its financing in aging societies;
- (c) Community-based activities for and with the elderly;
- (d) Organizations of the elderly;
- (e) Training.

5. In addition to Governments, groups to be targeted during the year and its follow-up will include mid-life and elderly persons, trade unions and employers' organizations, women's and youth organizations, schools and universities, and research and training institutions.

6. If extrabudgetary resources become available, the following specific activities leading up to and during 1992 should be envisaged:

1989 International meeting of non-governmental organizations to assist in the development and organization of concrete programmes and activities for 1992 and its follow-up.

1990 Regional meeting of developing countries, in co-operation with regional commissions and national machinery on aging, to promote the development of country-specific profiles and the preparation of national agenda on aging for the decade 1992-2001.

1991 Publication of a graphic and succinct status report entitled "Aging - highlights from the twentieth century, forecasts for the twenty-first century".

1992 Activities marking the tenth anniversary of adoption of the International Plan of Action on Aging, including:

- (a) A public information campaign focusing on selected aging issues to stimulate the necessary preparation for or response to aging;
- (b) An international art and literature campaign (including a poster competition), to enlist the general public, artists and writers in celebrating aging;
- (c) The issue of United Nations stamps to commemorate the occasion;

- (d) Publication of an agenda for the decade, entitled "Selected priorities for action on aging: 1992-2001". This would complement the broad-based Plan of Action, and priorities would be selected on the basis of national profiles and experience in implementing the Plan of Action at various levels. It would be for use by decision makers, practitioners and non-governmental organizations;
- (e) An information packet containing technical reports, news features, human interest items and so forth for use by schools, universities, the media and non-governmental organizations.

7. After 1992, substantive activities might focus on several specific issues within the general context of the aging of populations, with a view to ensuring that exchanges of knowledge and expertise can actually be operationalized. Four clusters of activities are suggested below, each one beginning with a draft paper prepared by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in consultation with the relevant specialized agencies; the draft papers will be refined at regional meetings, in co-operation with the regional commissions, and will finally be published as technical manuals or monographs:

- (a) Establishing community-based organizations of the aged;
- (b) Income security and income generation for and by the aged;
- (c) Health-care delivery and financing in aging societies;
- (d) Intersectoral co-operation on aging.

8. Information on the activities undertaken on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action and the follow-up proposed for the decade 1992-2001 will be made available to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session when, in accordance with Assembly resolution 43/93, the occasion will be commemorated in the plenary meeting.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

Youth in the contemporary world*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1985/23 of 29 May 1985 and 1987/45 of 28 May 1987,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 40/14 of 18 November 1985 entitled "International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace", by

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

which the Assembly requested the Commission for Social Development to examine, on a regular basis, specific youth issues, and resolution 43/94 of 8 December 1988 by which the Assembly called upon all States, all United Nations bodies, in particular the Economic and Social Council through its Commission for Social Development, the specialized agencies and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to continue to exert all possible efforts for the implementation of guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, in accordance with their experience, conditions and priorities,

Recognizing the necessity of adopting effective measures, particularly in the field of teaching, education, culture and information, in order to strengthen the efforts for the promotion of understanding, mutual respect and friendship between nations, and, primarily, between youth, for the creation of an international climate free from mistrust and discord,

Convinced that it is necessary to ensure full enjoyment by youth of all the rights stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth; 8/
2. Recognizes that the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth provide a constructive framework for a long-term strategy in the field of youth;
3. Expresses its concern that the lack of financial and human resources has hindered the effective implementation of the guidelines within the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna and, especially, in developing countries;
4. Calls upon all States, all governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations system, in particular the Economic and Social Council through its Commission for Social Development, to continue to pay appropriate attention to proper follow-up and the implementation of the guidelines;
5. Urges the Secretary-General to strengthen the efforts for proposing and monitoring action-oriented programmes to promote the implementation process of the guidelines, inter alia, focusing on the promotion of regional and international co-operation;
6. Invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute generously, according to their ability, to the

8/ E/CN.5/1989/7.

United Nations Youth Fund, taking into account the specific recommendations included in the guidelines;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-second session, a report on the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth;

8. Requests the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-third session, to prepare a draft programme of action to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace, to be implemented at the international level, and to identify future strategies in the field of youth, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and 37/53 of 3 December 1982, by which it proclaimed the period 1983-1992 United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, and other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 43/98 of 8 December 1988, by which the Assembly adopted a list of priority activities and programmes for the second half of the Decade and requested the Secretary-General to undertake a feasibility study on the substantive, financial and administrative implications of alternative ways to mark the end of the Decade in 1992, and to submit the study to the Assembly at its forty-fifth session,

Noting with satisfaction the strengthening of the Disabled Persons Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs through the generous financial support of some Governments,

Noting with appreciation the installation at the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of a Thiel Braille Printer donated by a foundation,

Noting with deep concern that many developing countries are facing enormous difficulties in dealing with increasing numbers of disabled citizens, and recognizing the need for developed countries and relevant United Nations bodies to take this into account when planning bilateral and multilateral development co-operation,

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

Recognizing the pivotal role of the United Nations in promoting the exchange of information, experience and expertise and closer regional and interregional co-operation to advance the status and welfare of disabled persons,

Stressing that the Centre for Social and Humanitarian Affairs is the focal point within the United Nations system for the implementation and monitoring of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,

Mindful that the incidence of disability rapidly increases with age, that the problems facing the aging are very often similar to those suffered by the disabled and that the number of the aged population affected by disability is on the increase,

Mindful also of the often extremely difficult position of disabled women,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons for the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, 9/

1. Calls upon Member States, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further the practical implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons during the second half of the Decade, based on the list of priorities and programmes set forth in the annex to General Assembly resolution 43/98;
2. Urges Member States, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide all possible support to the awareness and fund-raising campaigns to give added momentum to the Decade;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the clearing-house function of the Secretariat by exploring possibilities, including the financial implications of implementing an international information system, and by encouraging Member States and organizations that have acquired experience in the disability field to inform the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of their experience;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to disseminate relevant information, on a pilot basis, within existing resources and with voluntary contributions, on the activities of the Disabled Persons Unit of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs in forms accessible to blind persons in order to contribute to the Secretary-General's examination of ways of making United Nations meetings, information materials and documentation accessible to disabled persons and the financial implications thereof, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 7 of its resolution 43/98;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to determine the financial implications of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the three studies on accessibility to United Nations buildings, documents and information by persons with sensory disabilities, prepared in conjunction with the International Year of Disabled Persons 1981, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 35/133 of 11 December 1980;
6. Requests the Secretary-General and Member States to pay special attention during the second half of the Decade to the functioning and reactivation of national bodies for disabled persons and to the development and strengthening of powerful and influential organizations of disabled persons;
7. Calls upon the Member States to give due consideration to the close interrelationship between aging and disability and to pay attention to the application of measures aimed at avoiding or curing disabilities of aging persons; Member States, that have conducted research in this field are invited to provide the Secretariat with information on the results;
8. Also calls upon Member States and appropriate United Nations organizations and bodies, when planning their development co-operation and similar projects, to pay increased attention to the needs of disabled persons in developing countries;
9. Invites the Secretary-General, in connection with the preparation of the feasibility study of alternative ways to mark the end of the Decade in 1992, to convene an expert meeting in 1990, within the existing resources, inter alia, to advise on the best possible ways of marking the end of the Decade and of continuing the work in the disability field;
10. Requests the Secretary-General and Member States to pay particular attention to improving the situation of vulnerable groups, as outlined in the World Programme of Action, emphasizing the need for social justice and participation for those groups in each sector of society;
11. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that contributions, in kind or cash, related to the Decade are channelled into the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons, already established by the General Assembly; such contributions may be earmarked by the donors for special purposes;
12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission for Social Development, at its thirty-second session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION VIII

Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969, as well as other relevant international instruments,

"Reaffirming the importance and value of strategies and plans of action in the areas of women, aging, youth, the disabled, crime prevention and drug abuse,

"Recalling its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, in which, inter alia, it endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future and requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure the follow-up action to the Guiding Principles,

"Stressing the importance of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/48 of 28 May 1987, by which the Secretary-General was requested to redeploy resources to ensure adequate and appropriate follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes,

"Mindful of the critical importance of practical social welfare questions and the need to provide adequate resources to deal with them,

"Further concerned about the lack of follow-up in the regions of Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Western Asia,

"1. Reaffirms the validity of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future as an appropriate framework for future action in the field of social welfare and development;

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

"2. Calls upon Governments to make use of the Guiding Principles, to apply the recommendations contained in the Guiding Principles, as appropriate, within their national structures, needs and objectives, to inform the Secretary-General of problems in the national implementation process and to accelerate the follow-up of the Interregional Consultation;

"3. Requests the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to pay particular attention to the recommendations for action at the regional level, contained in the Guiding Principles;

"4. Urges the Secretary-General and all organizations of the United Nations system concerned to include the implementation of the Guiding Principles in their respective programmes of work and to assist Governments, particularly of the developing countries, in formulating appropriate social welfare policies and in setting up effective programmes according to their needs;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the follow-up of the Interregional Consultation, focusing on, inter alia, integrated, family-oriented and community-oriented cost-effective innovations in the design of social welfare policies and programmes;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen technical support and co-operation to Governments, especially of developing countries, focusing on the policy, planning, administration and training aspects of developmental social welfare;

"7. Reiterates the request to the Secretary-General to redeploy resources for undertaking measures to follow up the Interregional Consultation;

"8. Recommends the organization of further regional expert group meetings devoted to issues raised in the Guiding Principles, such as the first regional follow-up international expert meeting, held at Bonn in January 1989;

"9. Recommends that the efforts to reinforce the functioning of intergovernmental machinery in the social sector of the United Nations should continue in line with the view expressed in paragraph 95 of the report of the International Consultation; 10/

"10. Decides that social issues as conceived in the Guiding Principles should become a major part of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade;

"11. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the results and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes; 11/

10/ E/CONF.80/10.

11/ E/CN.5/1989/3.

"12. Takes note of the progress made so far in developing the United Nations Office at Vienna as the nucleus for social policy and development;

"13. Invites funding agencies within the United Nations system to consider readjustment and appropriate increase of their input of resources in the field of social development to fully reflect the changing world situation and actual requirements;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General:

"(a) To enhance the monitoring functions of and within the United Nations Office at Vienna and to maintain effective co-ordination between its individual units;

"(b) To summarize, maintain and publicize an overview of social components and internationally accepted norms of the many international plans, covenants, declarations and strategies in the social field;

"(c) To ensure that all United Nations organizations consult the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs on the social components of their developmental programmes and projects;

"(d) To reflect appropriately the recommendations of the Guiding Principles in the draft medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and in the draft programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991;

"(e) To report to the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, on the progress achieved in implementing and following up the Guiding Principles and the present resolution;

"15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled 'Implementation of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future'."

DRAFT RESOLUTION IX

Need to enhance international co-operation in the field of protection and assistance to the family*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/135 of 8 December 1988 on the need to enhance international co-operation in the field of protection and assistance to the family,

* For the discussion, see chap. III.

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Social situation of families: results of the survey of national policies for families", prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/46 of 28 May 1987; 12/

2. Requests the Secretary-General, Member States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, to implement fully General Assembly resolution 43/135.

DRAFT RESOLUTION X

The social dimension of the international development strategy*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/182 of 20 December 1988 on preparation of an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade,

Reaffirming the fundamental importance of social goals in the development process,

Recognizing that social and economic policy measures are complementary in the achievement of development objectives,

Recognizing further the importance for all countries of increasing and strengthening national and international, as well as public and private, co-operation in both the social and economic spheres,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole for the Preparation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, established by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/182, will submit a progress report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session, with a view to finalizing the strategy in time for its adoption in 1990,

1. Recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee, in preparing an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, take into consideration the proposals of the Commission for Social Development contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. Decides that the Commission for Social Development should consider the implementation of social components of the strategy at its thirty-second session.

* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

12/ E/CN.5/1989/4.

Annex

PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

The Commission for Social Development proposes that an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade should:

- (a) Emphasize the interaction of social and economic policies, in particular the idea that social policies and programmes should be linked to both short-term and long-term economic development efforts;
- (b) Emphasize the need to improve the social situation, in particular of developing countries, highlighting poverty in all its forms as an issue requiring urgent action by all;
- (c) Be action-oriented and promote international action to create an appropriate global environment for social development;
- (d) Consider the roles of both the public and private sectors;
- (e) Support the advancement of women as a global concern;
- (f) Promote the social integration of all segments of society and specific population groups;
- (g) Propose measures to strengthen the capacity of countries, particularly of developing countries, for co-ordinating social policy.

B. Draft decision

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-first session;
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission set out below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTY-SECOND
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Review of the world social situation.

Under this item the Commission will review emerging trends and issues of global concern, giving particular attention to social policy and programme implications. Emphasis will be placed on the review of new approaches and methods for the solution of problems based, *inter alia*, on recent national experience. The Commission will also consider the implementation of social components of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on global trends and newly emerging social issues (Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/21)

Report of the Secretary-General on the critical social situation in Africa (draft resolution I above)

4. Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action.

Under this item, the Commission will monitor the implementation of international plans and programmes of action, specifically, the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, the International Plan of Action on Aging, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

The Commission will review concurrently the relevant activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna in the field of social development, including technical co-operation activities, in particular those relating to developmental social welfare, co-operative, community and local-level action and family issues, as well as activities relating to youth, aging and disabled persons. The Commission will receive reports from the regional commissions on their social welfare and social development activities, as well as reports on relevant expert group meetings.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups (Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/20; see also draft resolutions V-VIII and Commission resolution 31/3)

Annex

PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE
SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
FOR THE FOURTH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE

The Commission for Social Development proposes that an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade should:

- (a) Emphasize the interaction of social and economic policies, in particular the idea that social policies and programmes should be linked to both short-term and long-term economic development efforts;
- (b) Emphasize the need to improve the social situation, in particular of developing countries, highlighting poverty in all its forms as an issue requiring urgent action by all;
- (c) Be action-oriented and promote international action to create an appropriate global environment for social development;
- (d) Consider the roles of both the public and private sectors;
- (e) Support the advancement of women as a global concern;
- (f) Promote the social integration of all segments of society and specific population groups;
- (g) Propose measures to strengthen the capacity of countries, particularly of developing countries, for co-ordinating social policy.

B. Draft decision

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-first session;
- (b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-second session of the Commission set out below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTY-SECOND
SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Review of the world social situation.

Under this item the Commission will review emerging trends and issues of global concern, giving particular attention to social policy and programme implications. Emphasis will be placed on the review of new approaches and methods for the solution of problems based, *inter alia*, on recent national experience. The Commission will also consider the implementation of social components of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

Documentation

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Under this item, the Commission will monitor the implementation of international plans and programmes of action, specifically, the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future, the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth, the International Plan of Action on Aging, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (1983-1992).

The Commission will review concurrently the relevant activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna in the field of social development, including technical co-operation activities, in particular those relating to developmental social welfare, co-operative, community and local-level action and family issues, as well as activities relating to youth, aging and disabled persons. The Commission will receive reports from the regional commissions on their social welfare and social development activities, as well as reports on relevant expert group meetings.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the major issues and programme activities of the Secretariat and the regional commissions relating to social development and welfare and specific social groups (Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/20; see also draft resolutions V-VIII and Commission resolution 31/3)

5. Priority subjects.

Under this item, the Commission will consider in depth (a) the problem of the integration of young people into society and (b) the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development co-operation. The Commission will consider the conclusions and recommendations of relevant expert group meetings, focusing on policy measures and taking into account the special concerns of the developing countries.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the integration of young people into society (Commission resolution 31/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development co-operation (Commission resolution 31/3)

6. Other matters before the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-second session.

C. Decisions calling for action by the Council

3. The following decisions adopted by the Commission call for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 31/101.

Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

At its 14th meeting, on 22 March 1989, the Commission decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

(a) For a four-year term, beginning on 1 July 1989:

Maureen O'Neil (Canada);
Ingrid Eide (Norway);

(b) For an additional term of two years, beginning on 1 July 1989:

Ismail-Sabri Abdalla (Egypt);
Sartaj Aziz (Pakistan);
Vida Cok (Yugoslavia);
Louis Emmerij (Netherlands).

Decision 31/102. Enlargement of the Board of the United Nations
Research Institute for Social Development

At its 14th meeting, on 22 March 1989, the Commission decided to increase the number of nominated members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development from seven to ten. It also decided that the nomination and confirmation of the three additional members would take place, as appropriate, at the first regular session of 1989 of the Economic and Social Council.

D. Resolutions and decisions brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolutions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Resolution 31/1. 1989 report on the world social situation

1989 report on the world social situation

The Commission for Social Development,

Having considered the 1989 report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/1989/2),

Regretting that the delay in issuing the report prevented the members of the Commission from reviewing the report in depth,

Reaffirming that it is an important function of the United Nations Secretariat to execute the policies laid down by the Commission for Social Development,

1. Takes note of the 1989 report on the world social situation;
2. Reaffirms the importance of General Assembly resolution 42/125;
3. Welcomes the recent decision of the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board to transfer to the United Nations Office at Vienna, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the responsibility for the preparation of the report on the world social situation and of other related reports on social issues;
4. Emphasizes the importance of improving the quality of social conditions for all population groups, and of designing and incorporating explicit social targets in development strategies;

5. Endorses the importance of the report on the world social situation and the unique contribution it can make towards increased understanding of the world social situation;

6. Recommends that the quality of social conditions be addressed in the next report on the world social situation, and that the report contain concrete information on methods and measures to improve social conditions;

7. Recommends also that instead of additional reporting on national experience, the report on the world social situation take into consideration and continue to reflect the experience of countries in achieving social goals;

8. Urges the Secretariat to prepare reports on the world social situation in due time, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council and, in particular, to ensure their distribution in all the official languages of the United Nations.

Resolution 31/2. United Nations Research Institute
for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development,

Having considered the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development on its activities during the period 1 November 1986 to 31 October 1988 (E/CN.5/1989/9 and Corr.1),

Recognizing the importance of research on social issues for formulating and implementing integrated development plans and policies and for promoting studies on the impact on the poorest groups of society of the development process resulting from them,

Considering the functions of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development and the important contribution made by the Institute in those areas,

Recognizing that the Institute has complied with the recommendations of the Commission for Social Development in past years, particularly with regard to its catalytic role and its support for research by national research bodies,

Stressing the need to ensure and strengthen its capacity to implement its overall programme,

Considering the appeal made on various occasions by the Board to the Commission for Social Development for an increase in the number of donor countries,

1. Expresses its appreciation to Governments providing financial support to the Institute;

2. Invites those Governments that have not yet done so to make financial contributions to the Institute according to their ability, and invites those Governments that already support the Institute to consider the possibility of increasing their contributions, in both cases preferably on a regular basis or on a project basis.

Resolution 31/3. Improvement of the work of the Commission
for Social Development

Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 43/174 of 9 December 1988 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations in the economic and social fields,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/50 of 28 May 1987, in which the Council, inter alia, approved the proposals of the Commission on the improvement of its work contained in the annex to its resolution 30/2, 13/

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the improvement of the work of the Commission (E/CN.5/1989/11),

Adopts the proposals contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

IMPROVEMENT OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Focusing the agenda of the Commission

1. The Commission, after further review of the proposals contained in paragraph 2 of the annex to its resolution 30/2, reaffirms its decision to organize its substantive work under three agenda items, and makes the following additional observations:

(a) Review of the world social situation: the review will be carried out in depth every four years, at sessions when the Commission considers the report on the world social situation. At other sessions, the Commission will devote no more than two meetings to this item, basing its discussion on a note by the Secretary-General summarizing global trends and emerging social issues;

(b) Monitoring of international plans and programmes of action, particularly in the areas of social welfare, youth, aging and disabled persons: the Commission will review concurrently the relevant activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna and receive reports from the regional commissions and relevant expert group meetings, basing its discussion on a report of the Secretary-General summarizing the substantive issues and related United Nations activities, as well as on other relevant reports that the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council may refer to the Commission for its consideration;

^{13/} See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1987, Supplement No. 7 (E/1987/20), chap. I, sect. D.

(c) Specific subjects will be chosen in advance for in-depth consideration at each session.

B. Selection of specific subjects for in-depth consideration

2. In-depth consideration should be given to specific subjects that are of universal importance, vital to societies, taking into account the special concerns of developing countries and leading to concrete recommendations by the Commission. The specific subjects selected for priority attention will be discussed by the Commission in open-ended working groups. For each subject, the Commission will have before it a background document prepared by the Secretariat.

3. Having reviewed a number of suggestions, the Commission decided to give priority attention at its thirty-second session to two specific subjects: (a) the problem of the integration of young people into society and (b) the social impact of the critical economic environment on developing countries: strategies for social development co-operation.

4. The Commission also decided to give priority attention at its thirty-third session to one topic, either disability matters or family issues. The final decision on the subject will be taken at the Commission's thirty-second session.

C. Expert group meetings

5. Governments are encouraged to act as host to expert group meetings in order to prepare for in-depth consideration of priority subjects, as well as other items on the Commission's agenda. The results of such meetings should be brought to the attention of the Commission.

6. These expert group meetings should promote the exchange of national experience in the social field, including the training of social welfare personnel, bearing in mind that one of the most important tasks for the Commission is to promote bilateral, regional and international co-operation between countries in order to find practical solutions to urgent social problems that are common world wide.

7. It is the Commission's understanding that the United Nations will convene expert group meetings on priority subjects when resources are available.

D. Membership and frequency of sessions

8. It was felt that, for the time being, no consensus could be reached on membership or the frequency of sessions.

E. Special sessions

9. Most representatives felt that there might be a need for special sessions on an exceptional basis.

F. Documentation

10. In order for the Commission to carry out its work effectively and to adopt appropriate recommendations and decisions, the six-week rule for the circulation of substantive reports of the Secretariat should be strictly observed.
5. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 31/103. World social situation, including the elimination of all major social obstacles

At its 14th meeting, on 22 March 1989, the Commission took note of the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress (A/44/86-E/1989/14);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (A/44/116-E/1989/15).

Decision 31/104. Trends and strategies for social integration, popular participation, and policies for the advancement of specific groups

At its 14th meeting, on 22 March 1989, the Commission took note of the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (A/44/79-E/1989/8);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the results and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes (E/CN.5/1989/3);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the social situation of migrant workers and their families and guidelines for establishing social services appropriate to their needs (E/CN.5/1989/5).

Decision 31/105. Programme questions

At its 14th meeting, on 22 March 1989, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of work in the field of social development, the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the social welfare and social development activities of the regional commission (E/CN.5/1989/8).

Chapter II

WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION, INCLUDING THE ELIMINATION OF ALL MAJOR SOCIAL OBSTACLES

6. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st to 5th, 9th, 10th and 14th meetings, from 13 to 15 and on 17 and 22 March 1989. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress (A/44/86-E/1989/14);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (A/44/116-E/1989/15);

(c) 1989 report on the world social situation, including the annex on the critical social situation in Africa (E/CN.5/1989/2).

7. The Assistant Secretary-General for Development Research and Policy Analysis, in introducing the reports, drew the attention of the Commission to the impending work of the United Nations system in drawing up an international development strategy for the decade of the 1990s, and the contribution that the Commission could make to that effort.

8. The 1989 report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/1989/2) emphasized that the decade of the 1980s had been a period of profound change, no less in the social sphere than in the economic and political ones. The report dealt with a number of social issues arising from economic setbacks, and from economic growth and institutional change. Special attention was drawn to issues concerning the family, equality between women and men in the labour force, food security, inequality and poverty, and the social consequences of rapid advances in technology. The report also dealt with the growing international co-operation in addressing problems of the environment, drug abuse, international terrorism and the spread of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and the concerns of migrants and refugees. The importance of international co-operation in reducing expenditures on armaments and using resources released for social development was stressed. The report brought out the fact that decisions with regard to economic and social policy were being made in a new policy environment that placed greater emphasis on individual initiative, economy and efficiency in the use of resources, and reassessment of the use of the governmental institutions in seeking solutions to economic and social problems. The annex to the report contained a carefully researched assessment of the critical social situation in Africa, prepared by the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa.

9. The report of the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress (A/44/86-E/1989/14) contained a summary of replies from 29 Member States to a questionnaire on the subject. Accounts of achievements in several areas of social development were provided and some new approaches to dealing with outstanding problems were described. The report revealed difficulties in undertaking a systematic analysis of experiences in social policy on the basis of a few national responses. In that light, the Commission was requested to consider the value of such reports and the purpose served by them.

10. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (A/44/116-E/1989/15) contained a historical review of the evolution of the United Nations system for the promotion of economic and social advancement and a summary of the current trends in international co-operation in trade, finance and the environment, and of international support for national efforts in seeking food security, poverty alleviation, employment policy, health, education, human settlements, the status of women, the protection of vulnerable groups and human rights.
11. Most representatives expressed concern that they had not received the documents, especially the 1989 report on the world social situation, in proper time and, as a result, had not been able to study them in sufficient detail and comment on their substance. They reaffirmed the importance of the timely issuance of documents for future meetings.
12. Representatives gave accounts of emerging problems in the social situation in their countries, new approaches to addressing those problems, innovations in institutional arrangements, and difficulties in formulating and implementing policies and programmes.
13. A number of representatives were encouraged by the improved climate for international co-operation in all fields, including social development. Such co-operation was all the more necessary because in an increasingly interdependent world, the origins and the solutions to many social problems, such as unemployment, the degradation of the environment and the deteriorating condition of vulnerable social groups, transcended national boundaries.
14. Many representatives observed that there were close links between economic development and social progress. They pointed to the precipitous decline in living standards in many developing countries, especially in Africa and Latin America, which had made the achievement of social development objectives difficult. Much of the social unrest and even threats to democratic political institutions stemmed from those difficulties. Some representatives pointed to the drop in commodity prices, deteriorating terms of trade and barriers in industrialized countries to the import of manufactured goods. A particularly aggravating factor was the onerous external debts of developing countries, whose high cost of servicing and resultant net outflow of capital had acted as severe constraints on economic and social development. The representative of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean noted that the rate of growth of gross national product per capita in the region in 1988 was 1.5 percentage points lower than in 1987. During the seven years ending in 1988, there had been a net transfer of \$US 20 billion to \$US 30 billion from countries in the region. Easing those constraints and promoting greater access to technology were necessary conditions for a resumption of economic growth and progress in social development. In the light of those observations, one representative proposed that the social consequences of the debt crisis should serve as the theme for the next session of the Commission.
15. Several representatives pointed out that social development should not be subordinated to economic development. It was necessary to seek an integrated approach to economic and social development. Measures of social protection were especially important in times of adverse economic conditions.

16. Many representatives found the 1989 report on the world social situation both comprehensive and thoughtful; it was useful for evaluating progress in social development and as a resource in devising an international development strategy for the next decade. The report was also helpful for the exchange of information and experience between nations, and for raising awareness of the importance of social development and promotion of international co-operation. The global perspective from which the report was presented and its methods of analysis were commended.
17. Several representatives raised questions on the scope, thrust and periodicity of the report. More attention should have been given to questions of youth and the development of human resources because of their central importance in most economies. Every effort should be made to bring the information in the report up to date. The practical value of the report could have been much improved by modifying its content and form. Its thrust should be changed to help to identify trends and future directions. One representative questioned the value of a periodic report and suggested that some of the resources used in its preparation could be deployed for action-oriented programmes. Finally, one representative suggested that the report might be issued every five or six years, while another suggested that it should be prepared biennially. Several representatives said that the report could be strengthened by addressing the moral and cultural dimensions of social change.
18. Many representatives discussed several aspects of social development that were contained in the report. They noted that the time had come for solidarity between countries seeking solutions to common social problems. In some instances, such as damage to the environment, it was necessary for the costs to be equitably borne by all nations. There was some ambivalence in the report between the requirement for better integration of women into the economy and the demands made on them as members of families. While there had been greater participation by non-governmental organizations in formulating social policies and programmes, there was a need to work out a more equitable sharing of those burdens between governmental and non-governmental institutions. The absorption of large numbers of unemployed persons, including migrant workers, the disabled and women with children, in the labour force was considered to be a major social concern in many societies. The consequences of technological changes for society required more elaboration and analysis as not all of them were beneficial. One representative noted that the growing number of refugees and asylum seekers tended to be those leaving their countries for economic reasons and there was a need for an international plan of action to handle their problems. One representative noted that alcohol abuse was a social problem and should be dealt with as such.
19. A number of representatives discussed the Commission's contribution to the formulation of an international development strategy for the 1990s. The new strategy should be pragmatic in approach and contain measures to solve both short-term and long-term problems. Social development issues must appear much more prominently in the new strategy. While the social problems of societies with a high standard of living merited careful attention, the elimination of poverty must be given the highest priority. To achieve those objectives, it was necessary, among other things, to obtain greater access to science and technology. Measures to assure the equitable sharing of costs of maintaining the common heritage of humanity would also need to be included in the strategy.
20. Several representatives commented on the critical social situation in Africa. Specifically, they referred to conditions of extreme poverty and hunger, especially

in sub-Saharan Africa. Those conditions of poverty and deprivation had been worsened by poor management of economies, as well as by national disasters and unfavourable international economic conditions. The drop in the prices of major export commodities, continued adverse terms of international trade, high real interest rates and heavy debt repayment burdens, and the decline in the net inflow of external resources were the main external factors accounting for the deterioration in the situation. One representative pointed out that apartheid and the colonial experience of those societies should be given their due place as contributing factors. In those adverse conditions, the African continent was becoming a dumping ground for toxic waste material from some other countries.

21. Several representatives said that the instruments of constructive international policies were already in place in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, in the Khartoum Declaration and the Lagos Plan of Action and they should be vigorously implemented. Some policies for structural adjustment had brought undesirable consequences in a number of instances. Among the major areas for international action was the write-off of bilateral public debt, a reduction in interest rates, a rescheduling of debt owed to multilateral agencies and an increased net inflow of resources to the developing countries.

22. The Commission recalled that 1989 was the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969. The Declaration contained the hopes and objectives of social development in all countries and constituted a contemporary guide, especially for the developing countries. Although not all the targets in the Declaration had been realized, much had been done during the past two decades in moving towards them.

23. Some representatives proposed that the Commission consider promoting regional co-operative action to further the objectives of the Declaration. Co-operation between countries in Europe in social development activities was held out as an example of such activities.

Action taken by the Commission

1. Critical social situation in Africa

24. At the 9th meeting, on 17 March, the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of Algeria 14/, Cameroon, Egypt, 14/ Ghana, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, 14/ Nigeria, 14/ the Philippines, the Sudan, Togo and Uganda, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.4) entitled "Critical social situation in Africa", which read as follows:

14/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

"Critical social situation in Africa

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 on the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which provides the framework for international co-operation in the field of social development,

"Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 39/29 of 3 December 1984 and 40/40 of 2 December 1985, which led to the convening of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa, at which the Assembly adopted by consensus resolution S-13/2 of 1 June 1986, to which was annexed the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,

"Alarmed at the acceleration in the deterioration of social conditions in most African countries,

"Noting with concern the gravity of the continued acts of violence committed by the racist régime in South Africa against its people, Namibia and neighbouring States, which have resulted in a particularly disquieting social situation in the southern African countries,

"Noting that in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, the Governments of African States reaffirmed their primary responsibility for the economic and social development of their countries, identified areas for priority action, and undertook to mobilize and utilize domestic resources for the achievement of their priority objectives,

"Reiterating that the African social economic crisis is a development crisis that concerns the international community as a whole and that greater realization of the rich physical and human potential of the continent is an integral part of a common strategy to promote the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

"Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by African Governments in redressing some of the acute social problems confronting the African continent,

"Noting that the prospects for concerted implementation of Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 are being affected by an unfavourable external economic environment, debt-servicing obligations and stagnation in the flow of development finance, particularly that of a concessionary nature,

"1. Takes note of the 1989 report on the world social situation (E/CN.5/1989/2) and its annex on the critical social situation in Africa;

"2. Appeals to the international community, the States members of the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase their co-operation and assistance to enhance the efforts undertaken by the African countries to establish or improve their infrastructure, through the creation of a favourable economic environment, including equitable terms of trade, and transfer of technology necessary for sustained social development in Africa;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, as part of the forthcoming report on the world social situation, a comprehensive annex to the report, in consultation with the Organization of African Unity, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, providing an in-depth evaluation of the critical social situation in Africa, paying particular attention to the obstacles in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for the African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, including the impact of structural adjustment policies on the social situation in Africa, for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-second session;

"4. Decides that the evaluation contained in the above-mentioned annex shall be considered by the Commission at its thirty-third session in the context of its review of the world social situation."

25. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of Algeria, 14/ Argentina, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, 14/ Ghana, Guatemala, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco, 14/ Nigeria, 14/ Pakistan, the Philippines, Romania, the Sudan, Togo and Uganda, introduced a revised draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.4/Rev.1) entitled "Critical social situation in Africa". Subsequently, India 14/ joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

26. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Commission read out revisions to the revised draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

27. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution, as further revised orally (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

2. Social welfare, development and science and technology

28. At the 9th meeting, on 17 March, the representative of the German Democratic Republic, on behalf of Bulgaria, 14/ the German Democratic Republic, Iraq, Malta, Poland, Romania and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.5) entitled "Social welfare, development and science and technology". Subsequently, Czechoslovakia 14/ joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

29. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of the German Democratic Republic orally revised the draft resolution by replacing the seventh preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Aware that the transfer of science and technology is one of the principal ways of accelerating the social and economic development of the developing countries",

with the following text:

"Aware that technical co-operation, including the possibility of transfer of technology, is one of the ways of achieving better social progress in developing countries".

30. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

3. Twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development

31. At the 9th meeting, on 17 March, the representative of Poland, on behalf of Bulgaria, 14/ Czechoslovakia, 14/ the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.6) entitled "Twentieth anniversary of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development".

32. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the observer for Bulgaria 14/ read out revisions to the draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

33. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III).

4. 1989 report on the world social situation

34. At the 10th meeting, on 17 March, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of Austria, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.8) entitled "1989 report on the world social situation".

35. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of Austria, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, introduced a revised draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.8/Rev.1) entitled "1989 report on the world social situation". In the revised text, a new operative paragraph had been inserted after operative paragraph 2, reading:

"3. Welcomes the recent decision of the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board to transfer to the United Nations Office at Vienna, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the responsibility for the preparation of the report on the world social situation and of other related reports on social issues".

Subsequently, Spain joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

36. At the same meeting, the representatives of Pakistan and Togo made statements in which they expressed reservations on the revised draft resolution.

37. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 31/1).

5. World social situation, including the elimination of all major social obstacles

38. At its 14th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the reports of the Secretary-General on national experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress (A/44/86-E/1989/14) and on the implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development (A/44/116-E/1989/15) (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 31/103).

Chapter III

TRENDS AND STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION, POPULAR PARTICIPATION, AND POLICIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SPECIFIC SOCIAL GROUPS

39. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 6th to 9th and 11th to 14th meetings, from 15 to 17 and 20 to 22 March 1989. It had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (A/44/79-E/1989/8);
- (b) Report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging (E/1989/13);
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on the results and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes (E/CN.5/1989/3);
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the results of the survey of national policies for families (E/CN.5/1989/4);
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the social situation of migrant workers and their families and guidelines for establishing social services appropriate to their needs (E/CN.5/1989/5);
- (f) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons for the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (E/CN.5/1989/6);
- (g) Interim report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and follow-up in the field of youth (E/CN.5/1989/7).

A. Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes

40. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the results and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes (E/CN.5/1989/3), which had been prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/48. In introducing the report, the Director of the Social Development Division noted that the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future had become a new synthesizing agent for an integrated and action-oriented approach to social issues.

41. A number of representatives stressed the significance they attached to the holding of the Interregional Consultation (Vienna, September 1987). It had marked a turning point by contributing to a valuable conceptual development in the social policy field. Those representatives and several others felt strongly that the Guiding Principles adopted by the Interregional Consultation formed an extremely

valuable and comprehensive instrument. Already they had been used in the further formulation of both national and regional social policy.

42. While wide dissemination of the Guiding Principles was thought to have been beneficial, a number of representatives regretted the apparent dearth of action-oriented initiatives undertaken to implement them. One representative pointed out that there appeared to be some ambiguity in viewing the Guiding Principles: as a catalogue of the whole spectrum of social concerns or as a plan of action. The existence of the Guiding Principles in no way absolved the Commission of its responsibility to set priorities and work out a time-table for action. Other representatives felt that the Guiding Principles did provide a solid basis for such work by the Commission. The major challenge, therefore, was to transform those Principles into concrete action, and to find ways to make them operational in the face of new global challenges.
43. Many suggestions were made concerning priorities and emphases that should be borne in mind in carrying out the Guiding Principles. A number of representatives stressed the need to firmly establish social development and social policy as matters of equal importance within national and international policy-making. Economic growth, it was pointed out, was a necessary but in no way sufficient means to resolve social problems, because it was not at all certain that all sections of the national society would benefit equally from it, or indeed benefit at all. What was required was a new and comprehensive approach, by which social and economic policy would be fully correlated.
44. Notwithstanding the need to work within a comprehensive framework, it was always possible in an operational sense to identify precise target groups and points for policy intervention. The need to base social policy on respect for human rights was noted by several representatives. Those representatives and others stressed the importance of giving proper attention to strengthening mechanisms for effective popular participation, given that experience had shown that the best results were obtained from complementary and mutual action by central and local governments, civic associations, and non-governmental organizations.
45. Several representatives from developing countries stressed the need for expanded and more effective technical co-operation in support of their social policies. Strengthening of institutional capability was necessary, particularly in order to efficiently co-ordinate the efforts of Governments and private organizations, and internal and external efforts.
46. Many representatives considered that the strengthening of United Nations activities, specifically those undertaken by the United Nations Office at Vienna as a nucleus for social policy matters, constituted a most important means of ensuring the effective follow-up of the Interregional Consultation. A number explicitly indicated their support for General Assembly resolution 42/125, in which, inter alia, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of, and follow-up action to, the Guiding Principles. Several delegations expressed their strong approval of arrangements to transfer the remaining posts concerned with social policy matters from New York to Vienna.
47. Several representatives conveyed their positive impression of the detailed proposals made in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/1989/3). One considered that the proposal to give priority to broader mutual co-ordination among social studies, analyses and the monitoring of global trends on the one hand, and

operative measures on the other, was a most useful approach. Another suggested that, in view of the diversity between countries in levels of economic development, cultures and values, it might be useful to build up a global picture of social conditions and policies by means of a monitoring process that would construct a mosaic that could be synthesized progressively from national to regional and subregional levels. One representative proposed that the United Nations should convene, within existing United Nations resources, intergovernmental consultations on social policies among countries at a similar level of economic and social development.

48. One representative called for the inclusion, within the set of topics for future in-depth discussion by the Commission, of the effects of natural disasters on social and economic development, in view of the growing incidence and severity of those catastrophes and the international nature of their causes and effects.

49. One representative recommended that United Nations activities in the social area should be based to a greater extent on the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, which had defined the goals and tasks of the United Nations and its Member States. The importance and topicality of the Declaration had been stressed by the Commission at its thirtieth session.

50. Some representatives said that the views of the Commission concerning the follow-up of the Interregional Consultation should take concrete form in the preparation of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. The responsibilities of the Commission in that respect were addressed by many representatives. They emphasized the importance of ensuring that social development and social policy were effectively integrated in the strategy, taking into account the fact that the needs of a complex, profoundly interdependent and always changing world had to be addressed.

51. It was essential to plan for a new and more active role for the United Nations, and to encourage co-operation between the United Nations system, Governments, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The strategy should stress the role of United Nations entities as being responsible for the organization of the co-operation necessary for the further implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development. Further exchange of experience in the solution of certain specific problems would be necessary.

B. Achievement of social justice

52. The Commission considered the question of achieving social justice in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/46. The achievement of social justice for all was a principle that underlay the Commission's entire consideration of the follow-up of the Interregional Consultation and, in particular, its discussions concerning the need for the inclusion of social policy in a position of equality with economic policy in developing the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

53. Representatives considered that the advancement of all vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of society depended upon the achievement of real social justice. That in turn was possible only if an equitable distribution of national income could be assured by means of access to economic and social benefits. It was

possible only in an appropriate political framework, that of democracy, which had to be based on meaningful popular participation. Democracy, however, could not be envisaged in conditions of massive impoverishment.

54. One representative, in the belief that the Commission was the most appropriate among the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations to deal with the matter of the achievement of social justice, proposed that a working group of the Commission be established during the intersessional period for the purpose of exchanging views and preparing documents on the subject.

C. Extreme poverty

55. The Commission considered the question of extreme poverty in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/47. In their discussion of preparations for the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade, many representatives emphasized the need to ensure that the strategy addressed effectively the problems of extreme poverty.

56. A number of representatives stressed the importance they attached to renewed efforts to resolve the problem of extreme poverty. In spite of commitments made and resources expended, a very considerable proportion of humanity lived in that condition. As the international community moved towards the twenty-first century, it could no longer allow that situation to persist. Several representatives pointed to the economic results of the past decade, and to the impact of structural adjustment measures on the poor in many countries. A number of representatives drew attention to the extremely critical situation in Africa. Here, economic conditions had been worsened by natural disasters and political disturbances, both resulting in the displacement of very considerable proportions of national populations. That had placed a major burden on the capacity of the affected societies to deal with extreme poverty.

57. A number of representatives stressed the importance of identifying the root causes of extreme poverty. The condition of the international economy was said to be the principal cause. Specific causes were the size of external debt, the nature of the international division of labour, protectionist policies, the inappropriate extension of new technologies, and the general transfer of the economic difficulties of the developed countries to the developing countries. Several representatives referred to the shortage of funds at the national level for programmes designed to deal directly with extreme poverty, and others referred to insufficient institutional capability for carrying out appropriate policies as factors in its persistence.

58. Several representatives felt, however, that the problem of extreme poverty, and that of especially vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the population, was only to some extent a result of poor economic performance. It persisted in part because insufficient attention was given by Governments to social problems. Extreme poverty was a phenomenon that could be overcome only if a comprehensive social policy were carried out. Nevertheless, there could be no doubt that social problems could be diminished if economic policy, and specific development projects, had a greater social content.

59. It was noted by several representatives that the existence of extreme poverty had to be fully recognized within each country and made the object of specific

public policy. However, the methodology for diagnosing extreme poverty was still rudimentary. The identification of the poorest sections of society and examination of their behaviour and the means by which they survived were not yet adequately understood. Hence, there remained much to be learned about their condition. In particular, the philosophies drawn upon by international organizations were often inappropriate, and that had affected the extent to which their macro-economic approaches had been able to resolve the problem.

60. Representatives were agreed that the fight against extreme poverty remained an international challenge that required full international co-operation. Within countries also, further intensification of effort was necessary. That would involve not only state agencies, but civic associations and humanitarian organizations. Special programmes needed to be elaborated to raise general living standards in communities where extreme poverty persisted.

61. Several representatives referred to the Regional Conference on Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Cartagena, Colombia, in August/September 1988. The main findings had been summarized in the Declaration of the Conference circulated in document A/C.2/43/4 of 6 October 1988 and included ideas that might be useful in the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/47.

D. National experience in promoting the co-operative movement

62. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (A/44/77-E/1989/8), which had been prepared in accordance with Council resolution 1987/47. In introducing the report, the Director of the Social Development Division pointed out that the co-operative movement was an important vehicle for participatory development that, when combined with adequate management and incentives, had generally facilitated the pooling of individual efforts to achieve social goals.

63. One representative emphasized the important role of the co-operative sector in resolving complex social problems; hence the social and humanitarian functions of co-operatives should not be lost sight of. Drawing upon a large number of occupational opportunities and skills, they made possible the participation in economic life of many individuals who, for different reasons, were unable to work in large enterprises. Those people included elderly and disabled persons, and women. That was of particular importance in small towns and rural areas where they were able to contribute not only to family incomes, but also to the budgets of local authorities. The fact that the co-operative sector was established and growing in many different economic and socio-cultural environments throughout the world was proof of its continued vitality. It appeared useful to undertake and fully utilize studies of diverse national experience. It would be important for the United Nations to continue its work in support of the co-operative sector, particularly in contributing to the sharing of experience.

64. A second representative stressed the beneficial role of co-operatives in support of national economic and social progress in developing countries, where they contributed to a more equitable distribution of income. Co-operatives were an important source of credit to small farmers and landless peasants and thereby contributed significantly to agricultural and rural development. Another representative said that as part of the restructuring of economic and social

institutions in his country, co-operatives were also undergoing an important change.

E. Social situation of families

65. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the survey of national policies for families (E/CN.5/1989/4), which had been prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolutions 1985/29, 1987/42 and 1987/48. In introducing the report, the Director of the Social Development Division said that it had been based on the responses of 48 Governments to the Secretary-General's questionnaire, and faithfully followed the pattern of those responses. The report attempted to examine the impact of public policies on families and in so doing revealed that few of the countries that replied had family policies per se. Moreover, the impact of social policies on families, as distinct from that of individual family members, was difficult to isolate and assess. A more complete report that would address such issues in more depth and based on a larger sample was being prepared and would be issued as a technical publication.
66. A proposed international year of the family received support from a number of representatives. It would provide an opportunity for increasing awareness and understanding of family issues, promoting sensitivity to the role of women, focusing on the difficulties of reconciling work and family life, and elaborating co-operative programmes for ensuring family development. Because of the extremely varied societal contexts, it appeared most useful that observance of such a year should be carried out at the national level. It should seek an increased awareness of family issues among Governments and the public, stress practical policy approaches, and be sensitive to the role of women.
67. One representative said that he was not in favour of holding such international years, believing that priority in resource allocation should be given to United Nations technical assistance in specific projects supportive of disadvantaged groups such as poor families.
68. Several representatives stressed the need to establish the legal status and rights of families. Referring to the holding in May 1988 of an international round-table meeting on family law, one representative pointed to the importance of a declaration on family rights, and to the need for reconciling individual rights with the social rights of the family. The view was expressed that an International Year of the Family would act as a catalyst in the preparatory work for the proclamation of such a declaration. Other proposals concerned a Decade of the Family, and provisions relating to the family in the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.
69. Several representatives attached great importance to the development of more specific forms of international co-operation on the family. As an example, one representative referred to the planned United Nations seminar on terms and concepts for statistical indicators in the field of the social situation of the family, to be held in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
70. The principal value of the family in society was found to be that it offered the prospect of addressing, in an integrated way, issues related to its individual members from the perspectives of education, health and social welfare. Hence it could be the object of substantial policy efforts. The traditional role of

families in providing care, socializing, preparation for life, health, nutrition, education and the imparting of important values had suffered immense strain. That strain had been due to poverty, industrialization, urbanization, migration, civil strife, disease as well as natural and man-made disasters and, even in more normal times, difficulty in reconciling work and family responsibilities. Nuclear families had suffered dissolution, resulting in large increases in the numbers of single-parent families headed, for the most part, by women. In part, that had been due to increasing rates of divorce and extra-marital births. Many individuals, as a result, especially single mothers, the elderly, migrants, the disabled, refugees and street children had found themselves without care.

71. Representatives agreed that to address those problems, families should be strengthened by enabling them to care for infants, children, youth and elderly and disabled persons. Policies should carefully assure equal rights between spouses, as well as encourage their shared roles and responsibilities. Several representatives pointed out that policies to strengthen families were means of helping to minimize such problems as delinquency, crime, drugs, alcoholism and prostitution, for the family was an institution capable of dealing with such problems in a comprehensive manner. One representative suggested that the United Nations organize specific surveys and convene symposia on family education. To fulfil its role, the family required the greatest possible protection and support.

F. Welfare of migrant workers and their families

72. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the social situation of migrant workers and their families and guidelines for establishing social services appropriate to their needs (E/CN.5/1989/5), which had been prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/24. In introducing the report, the Director of the Social Development Division noted that in the study on migrant workers and their families the Secretary-General had proceeded from the assumption that migrants were frequently faced with structural obstacles to integration that might delay their full participation in the receiving countries. The report also examined some of those obstacles and the effects of various public policies on the stability and well-being of migrant workers and their families.

73. The report noted that the social services traditionally provided to migrant workers and their families had been based on policy orientations that viewed their integration into society and the labour force as fraught with difficulties. With specific reference to second-generation and contract migrants, the report suggested that a new interpretation of the situation of migrants would be appropriate, and offered guiding principles that would recognize the contributions that migrants made to receiving societies and attempt to overcome structural obstacles that might delay their integration into host societies.

74. Some representatives commented favourably on the conclusions of the report. It had been noted that the situation of second-generation migrants was characterized by a high rate of long-term unemployment, school drop-outs and juvenile delinquency. It had also been noted that social integration of migrants was more a matter of offering equal opportunities to all sections of the population, migrant and native, and enabling them to participate fully in the social, economic and political life of the multi-cultural host societies.

75. A number of representatives of receiving countries expressed concern about

integrating migrants, especially those from the second and succeeding generations. Although measures had been taken to strengthen policies and programmes in favour of second-generation migrants, it had been suggested that more action be undertaken, specifically in the field of education and vocational training. Some representatives expressed their readiness to support efforts made by both sending and receiving countries to ensure the well-being of migrant workers and their families. One representative expressed support for the drafting of a convention on the rights of migrant workers and their families.

G. Advancement of specific social groups

1. Youth in the contemporary world

76. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth (E/CN.5/1989/7), prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/45. The report focused on national-level action, especially activities of national machinery for youth and similar co-ordinating mechanisms.

77. In introducing the topic, the Director of the Social Development Division stated that achievement of the objectives of International Youth Year: Participation, Development, Peace had remained elusive. Accordingly, the main thrust of the United Nations programme on youth included assisting Governments to improve the situation of youth by exchanges of knowledge and promoting integrated approaches to youth policies, strategies and programmes. He said that the thirty-second session of the Commission, in 1991, would coincide with five years of follow-up of the International Youth Year. At that session, the Commission might wish to consider organizing a comprehensive evaluation of progress achieved and obstacles encountered in implementing the guidelines.

78. Many representatives described national experience in improving the situation of youth. Problems encountered were universal, although they might manifest themselves in ways that were unique to each nation or region. They related mainly to education, training, employment, health, housing, family life, culture and the environment. Several representatives noted in that regard that assessments of the impact of the International Youth Year indicated that various approaches had been made to develop national youth policies and programmes. Such efforts, however, were constrained by limited resources and national capacities.

79. The growing global awareness of the situation of youth engendered a realization that the objectives of the International Youth Year should be an integral part of national development efforts. Some representatives stressed the need to treat youth as a major theme in the context of socio-economic development, as well as in preparations for elaborating an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade.

80. Many representatives said that the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth provided both an internationally agreed strategy and a basis for planning and organizing a concerted practical follow-up of the International Youth Year. Implementation of the guidelines should be a continuous process. Special attention was directed to the role of national and subnational focal points on youth, as well as the need for more active advocacy on behalf of youth.

81. Some representatives emphasized the need to develop and strengthen policies and programmes for the training of personnel, focusing particularly on youth leadership training. The establishment of national leadership institutes or training centres for professional youth leaders and workers was encouraged. It was also noted that rapid technological changes would require a life-long process of technical training, whose success depended on a sound basic education. One representative added that the key to educating young people for productive endeavours lay in partnership with the private sector.
82. Many representatives emphasized the close linkage between family and youth issues and the resources inherent in the institution of the family. In that regard, some delegations said that attention should be paid to youth within the framework of the proposed international year of the family. One representative raised the issue of helping more young people to anticipate and prepare for old age; another representative discussed the importance of intergenerational cohesion.
83. Some representatives considered it important to achieve a co-operative partnership with independent agencies and the decentralization of youth work, including the services offered by private, religious and non-governmental organizations. Others stressed the need for more action-oriented programmes for young people rather than research and data collection.
84. Several representatives drew attention to young people in marginal situations who were vulnerable to the social stresses that were a concomitant of development, for instance, young women, young disabled, rural youth, homeless youth, young migrants and refugees. Concern was expressed that despite many efforts and initiatives, the process of marginalization continued. It was also stressed that the situation of youth in Africa was deteriorating, reflecting the critical socio-economic situation in that region.
85. The importance of promoting youth travel and youth exchanges for the purpose of increasing mutual understanding and co-operation was stressed by one representative. Another representative said that efforts should be made to remove obstacles to youth mobility and to young people's access to information.
86. Some representatives emphasized the important role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point within the United Nations system for work in the field of youth and stressed that it should direct special attention to youth-related issues in its work, particularly when formulating policy options and strategies. Reference was also made to the important role of the United Nations Youth Fund, managed by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, in supporting catalytic and innovative action. One representative called for generous contributions to enhance the capacities of the Fund.
87. Representatives submitted a number of suggestions for strengthening international co-operation. Among those were the following: that the Commission should hold a special session on integrated youth policies and programmes; that it should appoint a working committee to evaluate follow-up activities to the International Youth Year; and that the Economic and Social Council, at its first regular session of 1990, and the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, should devote special attention to evaluating the implementation of the guidelines, and plan for the future. One representative also suggested holding an international congress to elaborate an international plan of action on youth. Another referred

to the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples proclaimed by the General Assembly in resolution 2037 (XX).

2. Aging

88. The Commission conducted the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/1989/13). Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/51, the Commission established an open-ended ad hoc working group to give adequate consideration to the question. In introducing the report, the Director of the Social Development Division said that its central conclusion was that there was a growing awareness of issues related to aging but that corresponding programmes and measures had not kept pace with the aging of populations.

89. Many representatives noted with appreciation the comprehensiveness of the report and addressed in particular the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, as well as the draft programme of activities to mark in 1992 the tenth anniversary of the adoption by the World Assembly on Aging of the International Plan of Action on Aging.

90. Selected issues identified by representatives as requiring further attention within the broad scope of the International Plan of Action on Aging might be subsumed under the twin themes of "care" and "participation". Several representatives paid particular attention to strategies for the participation of the elderly in both the care process itself and in socio-economic development. The provision of adequate and cost-effective care for the feeble elderly was a common concern throughout the debate. Many representatives noted that in their countries care was provided by a partnership of care-givers and support structures including national and local government, the private sector, professionals and volunteers, family and community members, and the elderly themselves. Integrated community care programmes and service teams were seen as an effective and affordable response to care needs in most countries. Some representatives reported on new initiatives in institutional care in their countries. The role of government was mainly one of helping the elderly and their families and communities to help themselves.

91. Measures to promote the participation of the elderly in development, frequently neglected in development plans, were advocated by several representatives. Such measures included life-long training, preparation for retirement, self-help and income-generating opportunities for the elderly as well as their participation in decision-making that affected their lives and the well-being of their families and communities. Some representatives advocated legislative measures to ensure the rights of the elderly, while others expressed reservations on the appropriateness of such measures. Participation and self-help strategies gained additional significance in many countries when viewed against a contracting resource base from which to provide adequate social security coverage. The extension of the pension system was urged by some representatives, while others stressed that the needs of vulnerable groups, including elderly women and migrants, should be given special attention. Entitlements of the elderly, such as access to education, food and housing, should be increased since those, in turn, would enhance their capabilities for employment, health, independent living and integration in community life.

92. Some representatives said that the programme of activities for 1992 should be action-oriented rather than celebratory. The draft programme of activities proposed by the Secretary-General in his report was found by many representatives to be a useful guide in elaborating a programme of activities in the field of aging for 1992 and beyond. Several representatives stressed that the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs should serve as the co-ordinating entity of the proposed programme.

93. Noting the unprecedented aging of populations, which was likely to proceed more rapidly in developing regions than had been the case in the developed ones, many representatives stressed the need for a commensurate strengthening of the relevant United Nations infrastructures, particularly the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, which was the United Nations system's focal point on aging. One representative suggested the establishment of the post of special representative on aging, to be funded by voluntary contributions. Some representatives stressed the urgent need for adequate voluntary contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Aging; and one announced his Government's pledge of \$US 25,000 to the Fund, earmarked for an ongoing project in the African region.

94. One representative, in referring to paragraph 88 of document E/1989/13, requested that the words "affiliated to" be replaced by the words "established in co-operation with the United Nations".

95. Many representatives welcomed efforts to establish an African Society of Gerontology and the emergence of a global network of training and research institutes in gerontology and geriatrics. Particular reference was made to the experience of the recently established International Institute on Aging in Malta. Note was also taken of current initiatives of the Governments of Yugoslavia and Argentina to establish institutes or centres on aging, affiliated with the United Nations. Several representatives also reported on national activities including the creation and strengthening of national committees on aging, and others reported on efforts to create national gerontological and geriatric centres to improve national training and research capabilities.

96. The work programmes of the specialized agencies and bodies of the United Nations, notably the World Health Organization and the regional commissions were noted with appreciation by several representatives. Continuing and strengthened co-operation between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations on matters of aging was urged by a number of representatives. In that regard, non-governmental efforts to establish a world foundation on aging were noted with appreciation.

3. Disabled persons

97. The Commission considered the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons for the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons (E/CN.5/1989/6). Therein, the Commission's attention was drawn to the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-second and forty-third sessions (A/42/551, A/42/561 and A/43/634 and Add.1), and the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988 (E/1988/32).

98. In introducing the question, the Director of the Division for Social Development drew the Commission's attention to the priority activities and programmes for the second half of the Decade approved by the General Assembly at its forty-third session, based on the outcome of the mid-term evaluation of the Decade. He acknowledged that, as a result of special contributions made by some Governments, the role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as a focal point had been strengthened. Considerable resources were still needed to ensure the success of the Decade at all levels. Innovative ways were therefore being explored to obtain critically needed extrabudgetary resources to increase awareness of and raise funds for the Decade.

99. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Promotion of the Decade described the main activities carried out by his office since his appointment in April 1988. Those activities included securing the financial base for his office, through generous contributions and staff secondments by certain Member States; elaboration of a detailed action plan that concentrated on project and programme expansion and increasing public awareness; establishment of a "committee of sages" composed of representatives from management, advertising, public relations and finance; establishment of a committee on assistance to disabled Afghans under the aegis of the Co-ordinator for United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Afghanistan; organization of a team of experts to assist with earthquake relief in the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic; consultations both within the United Nations system and with the non-governmental community; and co-operation with the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT concerning the feasibility of expanding trade between developing countries of equipment and components for disabled persons.

100. Several representatives welcomed the appointment of the Special Representative as an important step towards the revitalization of the Decade. The role of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point for the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons within the framework of the Decade was acknowledged, and there was general agreement that it should be further strengthened. Several representatives referred to the positive impact the Decade had on international awareness of disability issues and on programmes and activities at the national level.

101. A number of representatives described measures taken in their countries for the implementation of the World Programme of Action. One representative made special reference to the capabilities of disabled persons who, having overcome their disabilities, made impressive and valuable contributions in all fields including science, medicine, the arts and sport. He informed the Commission of the launching in his country of a National Access Awareness Week to promote improved access to employment, housing, transportation and recreation for disabled persons. Another representative said that in his country a Five-Year Work Programme for the Disabled (1988-1992) focusing on employment, education and rehabilitation had been prepared by the National Disabled Persons Federation in collaboration with six governmental ministries.

102. The Commission was informed of the Second Action Programme on Disabled Persons of the European Economic Community, called HELIOS, which had been under way since 1988. The Programme aimed at facilitating rehabilitation and professional education of disabled persons as well as their social and economic integration.

103. Many representatives said that the goals of the Decade were far from being reached and a new impetus was essential. Measures identified included the strengthening of national committees, increased co-ordination and co-operation, and more support for action-oriented programmes, greater publicity, expansion of trade between developing countries in the field of technical aids, greater attention to the situation of disabled women, and increased efforts in the prevention of disablement.
104. The following measures were suggested by representatives to promote and revitalize the Decade: promotion of equalization of opportunities as the principal theme for the second half of the Decade; organization of an open-ended ad hoc working group on the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons during the thirty-second session of the Commission for Social Development, in 1991; organization of further expert meetings by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs; collection of data on international aid to disabled persons; preparation of a draft plan for employment of disabled persons; promotion of training facilities in developing countries; establishing and strengthening national co-ordinating mechanisms; support for organizations formed by disabled persons themselves; encouraging basic research on disability; promoting measures for improved domiciliary care and support for persons with limited mobility.
105. The area of technology transfer received special attention. Since many of the appliances needed by disabled persons could be produced by developing countries, greater co-operation was suggested. One representative reported on the work of the Rehabilitation Technology Centre for Aids and Appliances in his country, which co-ordinated research on development and manufacture of low-cost technical aids.
106. Several representatives addressed the issue of disabled women, stating that they often suffered double discrimination, as women and as disabled, and that full support was needed to improve their situation. The Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs was asked to give special consideration to that area of concern. The United Nations Development Programme was urged to integrate disability-related components into development projects and to promote projects aimed at improving the situation of disabled women.
107. Several representatives called for an event to mark the end of the Decade in 1992. One representative offered to host an expert meeting on the matter in 1990; another proposed a global conference in 1992 and the launching of a second decade from 1993 to build on the results achieved in the first 10 years.
108. There was agreement between representatives that programmes in the field of disability deserved the consistent and predictable support of Member States and should not be dependent on charitable contributions. Several representatives urged that more contributions should be made to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons so that it could provide the critically needed support for catalytic and innovative action.

Action taken by the Commission

1. Follow-Up of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future

109. At the 11th meeting, on 20 March, the representative of Norway, on behalf of Austria, China, Finland, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Sweden ^{15/} and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.9) entitled "Follow-up of the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future". Subsequently, Poland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

110. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of Norway read out revisions to the draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

111. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV).

2. Second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging

112. At the 12th meeting, on 20 March, the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Mrs. Mita Pardo de Tavera (Philippines), introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.10), entitled "Second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging", which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held in the informal open-ended ad hoc working group on the question of aging established by the Commission.

113. In introducing the draft resolution, she pointed out that the working group had had much productive discussion on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging. In order to streamline its endeavours, it had constituted, from among its members, a drafting committee, in which Argentina, the Dominican Republic, China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and Yugoslavia participated actively.

114. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V).

3. Youth in the contemporary world

115. At the 11th meeting, on 20 March, the representative of Romania, on behalf of China, Egypt, ^{15/} the German Democratic Republic, Iraq, the Philippines, Romania, the Sudan and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.11) entitled "Youth in the contemporary world".

^{15/} In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

116. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the representatives of Romania and Spain, as well as the Secretary of the Commission and the Director of the Social Development Division made statements.

117. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI).

4. United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons

118. At the 13th meeting, on 21 March, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Austria, Cameroon, China, Denmark, 15/ the Dominican Republic, Finland, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Norway, Spain, Sweden, 15/ and Yugoslavia 15/ introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.12) entitled "United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons".

119. Subsequently, Algeria, 15/ Bangladesh, France, India, 15/ Italy, 15/ Malta, Pakistan and the Sudan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

120. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of Finland read out revisions to the draft resolution that had been agreed upon during informal consultations.

121. At the same meeting, the representatives of Iraq made a statement in which he proposed amending the revised draft resolution by adding a new operative paragraph, which would read:

"Requests the Secretary-General to pay particular attention to the situation of disabled persons in areas of wars, armed conflicts or natural disasters, and to assist Governments' efforts in this regard".

122. A statement was made by the representative of Finland.

123. Also at the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Iraq in which he agreed not to press for action on his proposed amendment, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VII).

5. Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes

124. At the 13th meeting, on 21 March, the representatives of the Philippines and the Federal Republic of Germany on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, 15/ Cameroon, China, Cyprus, Denmark, 15/ the Dominican Republic, Finland, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, the Netherlands, 15/ the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, the Sudan, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, 15/ and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, jointly introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.13) entitled "Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes".

125. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VIII).

126. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

6. Need to enhance international co-operation in the field of protection and assistance to the family

127. At the 13th meeting, on 21 March, the representative of Malta, on behalf of Argentina, Denmark, 15/ the Dominican Republic, France, the German Democratic Republic, Malta, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.14), entitled "Need to enhance international co-operation in the field of protection and assistance to the family". Subsequently, Austria, Cyprus and Poland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

128. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IX).

7. Trends and strategies for social integration, popular participation, and policies for the advancement of specific social groups

129. At its 14th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to take note of the reports of the Secretary-General on national experience in promoting the co-operative movement (A/44/79-E/1989/8), on the results and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes (E/CN.5/1989/3) and on the social situation of migrant workers and their families and guidelines for establishing social services appropriate to their needs (E/CN.5/1989/5) (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 31/104).

Chapter IV

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS AND OTHER MATTERS

130. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 10th to 12th and 14th meetings, on 17, 20 and 22 March 1989.

131. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/43/329);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme of work in the field of social development, the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the social welfare and social development activities of the regional commissions (E/CN.5/1989/8);

(c) Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1989/9 and Corr.1);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/1989/10);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General on the improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development (E/CN.5/1989/11);

(f) Note by the Secretariat on the publications programme of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (E/CN.5/1989/CRP.1);

(g) Note by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of work for the biennium 1990-1991 (E/CN.5/1989/CRP.2 and Corr.1);

(h) Note by the Secretariat on preliminary proposals for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, major programme V (International co-operation for social development) programme 29 (Integration of social groups) (E/CN.5/1989/CRP.3).

132. The Director of the Social Development Division introduced documents E/CN.5/1989/8, E/CN.5/1989/11 and E/CN.5/1989/CRP.1 at the 10th and 11th meetings, on 17 and 20 March. He noted that the period under review had been a milestone for issues of social policy and development in the United Nations, the culmination of which was the decision of the Secretary-General to establish the United Nations Office at Vienna as the nucleus for social policy and social development in the United Nations. That action had been taken in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 42/125, which called for all social reporting to be undertaken at Vienna. The reporting period had been characterized by a growing international consensus on the importance of social issues, which had resulted in increased requests for activities in the social field, and a reduction in available resources that affected the ability of the United Nations to deliver even mandated outputs.

133. During the period under review, the activities of the United Nations in the social field had included reports and studies, training, workshops and technical assistance. Attention had been given to the social impact of economic measures, changes in families, and progress in implementing programmes of action on youth,

the aging and disabled persons. New topics had included extreme poverty, AIDS and the socio-economic consequences of demographic aging. Moreover, recurrent publications prepared by the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs had been streamlined, and the rationalization of reports had already been undertaken.

134. With regard to the improvement of the work of the Commission, a number of representatives stressed the importance of improving the work along the lines of Commission resolution 30/2, adopted at the last session, and as outlined in the note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.5/1989/11). Emphasis was placed by several representatives on the need to focus on practical steps to bring about social progress and development and on developing co-operation for solving problems of a universal nature. The Commission had also made proposals for simplifying its future agenda. It was emphasized that the improvement of the work of the Commission should be a continuing concern of Member States, in view of the importance attached to it as the main intergovernmental body concerned with social policy and social development in the United Nations. In the view of one representative, a mechanism should be established to enable the Commission to set programme priorities. Special task groups might be constituted before the Commission met to prepare the groundwork for its discussions.

135. Representatives stressed the need for in-depth discussions on specific issues and thus a streamlined agenda. Several representatives proposed that there should be three main agenda items: a review of the world social situation, monitoring of plans and programmes and in-depth consideration of specific subjects. A special topic was proposed for the thirty-third session of the Commission: the impact of the current economic situation on social development in developing countries. Other topics proposed for in-depth review were development co-operation in the social field, changes in the family during the development process, the social dimension of extreme poverty and the problems of the integration of young people into society.

136. While some representatives favoured longer or more frequent sessions, including annual sessions of the Commission, others considered that greater efficiency could be achieved within the current arrangements on duration and periodicity of meetings, or considered it premature to recommend annual sessions, citing the current financial situation of the United Nations as one constraining factor.

137. The holding of special sessions was viewed by some representatives as an alternative to annual sessions. One representative proposed holding a special session in 1992 on aging and disability. Another proposed holding a special session in 1990 on social problems of the developing countries, especially those of the least developed countries. A number of representatives supported holding intersessional working groups, training workshops or expert meetings to prepare for the regular sessions of the Commission. Financing for such activities might come either from regular budget funds or from voluntary contributions. It was noted that some Governments might offer to act as host to such meetings, and thereby reduce the cost borne by the United Nations.

138. Several representatives proposed enlarging the membership of the Commission in line with that of the Commission on Human Rights; others opposed that proposal preferring its existing size. Some argued for more equitable geographical representation in the event that the membership of the Commission were expanded.

139. A number of representatives called for streamlining the number of documents submitted to the Commission and reiterated the importance of issuing documentation well before each session.
140. Some representatives stressed the need to work out concrete definitions of universally used concepts such as social values, social justice, social security and minimum standards of social security. In that context, the possibility of working out a charter of universal social values was considered an appropriate measure to follow up the Declaration on Social Progress and Development.
141. One representative proposed that one of the regular sessions of the Economic and Social Council be devoted entirely to the international social situation. It was suggested that such a meeting be convened at the ministerial level.
142. Many representatives reiterated support for the decision of the Programme Planning and Budgeting Board of the United Nations Secretariat to transfer responsibility for the report on the world social situation from the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in New York to the United Nations Office at Vienna, with the appropriate resources. One representative considered that such a transfer would preclude an integrated analysis of development from both social and economic points of view.
143. In respect of the Commission's consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, a few representatives expressed regret that the information necessary for their consideration of those important matters had been circulated only after the Commission's session had begun. Consequently, only preliminary views could be expressed. The Director of the Social Development Division explained the reasons for the delay and the procedures followed in elaborating conference room papers on budgetary and programme questions.
144. Several representatives, in agreeing in principle with the proposals contained in the conference room papers, pointed out that, in view of the financial limitations faced by the United Nations Office at Vienna, it was essential to set priorities. Concrete action should be emphasized. A number of priority topics should be addressed: concerning youth, attention might be given to unemployed and homeless youth in particular; the problems of the disabled, which must continue to receive attention after the end of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons; implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging, which required increased efforts; social work; social aspects of poverty and of international migration, including migration of refugees and asylum seekers.
145. Several representatives called for further studies of national experience, with a more extensive exchange of experience by means of symposia, seminars and conferences, which should involve much greater participation of national specialists. Closer links between the United Nations Office at Vienna and national organizations active in social policy were called for. One representative recommended that the publications of the United Nations Office at Vienna, currently distributed in English, French and Spanish only, should henceforth be distributed in the other official languages of the United Nations in order to reach a large potential audience of social policy professionals and specialists, concerned organizations and the general public. Another representative said that care should be taken to avoid duplication of work between the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in New York and the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

146. One representative proposed that the United Nations should urge Governments to revive observance of a day of the disabled on the third Sunday in March of each year.
147. A number of representatives drew attention to the need to find new ways in which to follow up the view of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes, set out in paragraph 95 of its report (E/CONF.80/10), that special efforts should be made to find a long-term solution that placed the social and human dimensions of development in the international public, political and professional picture.
148. The representative of Spain wished to place on record the fact that the Spanish translation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons was not acceptable to the highest relevant institutions in Spanish-speaking countries. The version issued by the United Nations did not follow the World Health Organization manual on the subject, with the result that certain terms contained in the Spanish text, specifically "disability" and "handicapped", carried a pejorative connotation. It was requested that in future publications, the Spanish translation of the official titles of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons should follow the terminology of the official translation adopted by the Spanish Royal Commission concerning disabled persons. The Director of the Social Development Division assured the Commission that the Secretariat was aware of the shortcomings of the Spanish translation and that measures had been taken to remedy them on the basis of the text provided by the Spanish Royal Commission.
149. The Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development introduced the report of the Board of the Institute (E/CN.5/1989/9 and Corr.1) at the 11th meeting, on 20 March. He said that the period covered by the report had been one of transition. There had been both a change of Director and a new Chairman of the Board. The Institute had also celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. Recalling some of the Institute's characteristics as a research centre and the principal themes of its work over the past 25 years, he said that its position as an autonomous entity within the United Nations system remained indispensable to the conduct of objective and critical research on complex and sensitive issues of development. Research areas covered over the past 25 years had included assessment and analysis of social indicators, designing new methods for measuring social progress, rural co-operatives, socio-economic effects of the Green Revolution and regional planning.
150. More recently, work had been completed on participatory development, food systems and society, and social integration of refugees. Research was currently under way on the social impact of sustained economic crisis and adjustment-related food policy. In the current biennium, the Board had approved work on the themes of people's participation in natural resource management, economic reform and social participation in countries with centrally planned economies, and social conflicts and development.
151. He said that the Institute's financial situation continued to be sound, but core funding was provided by a very few donor countries. The resources available to the Institute were extremely modest in relation to those of comparable international research centres. Given the Institute's intention to expand its research programme in 1989-1990, he hoped more countries would provide funding.

152. Several representatives expressed their appreciation of the high quality of the Institute and the impressive output achieved with modest funds. Two representatives commended the Institute for its work on environmental problems and popular participation, refugees and the social impact of adjustment policies. Several representatives hoped that more countries would provide financial support for the Institute's activities. One representative expressed the need for closer relations between the Institute and the United Nations Office at Vienna, especially in view of its new function in the social areas and the desirability of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs being represented on the Institute's Board. In his reply, the Director indicated his desire to establish close links with the United Nations Office at Vienna and his intention to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General the desirability of having the Social Development Division participate in Board meetings.

Action taken by the Commission

1. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

153. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the representative of France, on behalf of Finland and France, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.15) entitled "United Nations Research Institute for Social Development".

154. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 31/2).

2. Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development

155. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.16) entitled "Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development", which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

156. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. D, resolution 31/3).

3. The social dimension of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade

157. At the 14th meeting, on 22 March, the Chairman introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.5/1989/L.17) entitled "The social dimension of the international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade" which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

158. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution X).

4. Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations
Research Institute for Social Development

159. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: Maureen O'Neil (Canada) and Ingrid Eide (Norway) for a four-year term, beginning on 1 July 1989, and Ismail-Sabri Abdalla (Egypt), Sartaj Aziz (Pakistan), Vida Cok (Yugoslavia) and Louis Emmerij (Netherlands) for an additional term of two years, beginning on 1 July 1989 (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 31/101).

5. Enlargement of the Board of the United Nations
Research Institute for Social Development

160. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission decided to increase the number of nominated members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development from seven to ten and that the nomination and confirmation of the three additional members would take place, as appropriate, at the first regular session of 1989 of the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 31/102).

6. Programme questions

161. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme of work in the field of social development, the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the social welfare and social development activities of the regional commissions (E/CN.5/1989/8) (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 31/105).

Chapter V

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

162. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 14th meeting, on 22 March 1989. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-second session together with a list of requested documentation (E/CN.5/1987/L.2).

163. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to entrust the Secretary of the Commission with the task of completing the provisional agenda, in the light of the resolutions adopted by the Commission at its thirty-first session, for submission to the Economic and Social Council in accordance with Council resolution 1979/41 (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

Chapter VI

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

164. At its 14th meeting, on 22 March 1989, the Commission adopted the report on its thirty-first session (E/CN.5/1987/L.3 and Add.1-3), as amended during the discussion.

Chapter VII

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

165. The Commission for Social Development held its thirty-first session at the Vienna International Centre from 13 to 22 March 1989. The Commission held 14 meetings (1st to 14th) and a number of informal meetings.

166. The session was opened by Michal Dobroczyński (Poland), Chairman of the thirtieth session of the Commission.

167. The newly elected Chairman made a statement. He said that there had been fundamental changes in the world characterized by the elimination of tensions and a reduction in confrontation. That had given rise to new optimism. The new spirit had been particularly evident during the Conference of European Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs, held at Warsaw in 1987, and during the International Expert Meeting on Common Goals and Different Roles for Social Welfare Policies in the European United Nations Region, held at Bonn in January 1989. In the area of human rights and economic and social development, some progress had been made, although unemployment, poverty and inequality had increased in many countries and environmental issues had been neglected. It was imperative that human development acquired new importance for developed and developing countries. The Commission could contribute towards realizing that aim by assessing the social situation and devising concrete, action-oriented programmes to assist the underprivileged. In that connection, non-governmental organizations and community groups had an important role to play.

168. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna said that the issues before the Commission, as in the past, were of vital concern not only to millions who were disadvantaged in so many ways, but also to those more privileged who were concerned with the political, economic and social management of national societies and of the international community. There was a growing realization of the universalization of social issues that was attributable to an awareness that certain social phenomena, such as drug trafficking and crime, were transnational in character; many social problems stemmed from such global phenomena as changing population structures and technological change; and social problems, such as integrating youth and defining the role of the aging, had similar characteristics even in different social systems and at different levels of development. Moreover, easier communication and greater social mobility had created new aspirations across national boundaries, and global and regional economic integration had called for greater co-operation in social policies relating, for example, to labour conditions and social security. No country was immune from social problems; social stability went hand in hand with political stability. The outcry over the heavy social costs of adjustment policies for developing countries had also served to remind all concerned of the importance of social issues and that economic strategies had not given sufficient weight to social development.

169. She said that in her capacity as Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna it had been her intention in the past two years to reverse a trend towards diminution of social engagement within the United Nations, to insist on full attention to social policies at all levels and to develop the United Nations

Office at Vienna as an effective and relevant instrument at the service of the international community. Her purpose had been and continued to be to render fully operational the Secretary-General's decision regarding the central role of the United Nations Office at Vienna in the social arena. Improvements in the work of the Commission to be discussed at the current session should contribute to those efforts. Moreover, a proposal had recently been made to strengthen the role of the United Nations Office at Vienna in global analyses and monitoring by transferring to it responsibility for preparing future reports on the world social situation.

170. Over the past two years, progress had been made by the Secretariat at Vienna in relation to the five priorities she had spelled out in 1987, namely, to monitor trends, support policy formulation, increase direct operational support to interested Governments, co-operate with non-governmental organizations and publicize social issues. Budgetary constraints, however, combined with the perennial difficulty of arousing interest in social questions, had had a negative impact.

171. Nevertheless, successful efforts had been made to adopt by consensus at the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes a set of principles basic to the further development of social policy and social development. The United Nations Office at Vienna continued to monitor and support the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and the guidelines for the follow up of the International Youth Year.

172. The United Nations Office at Vienna had also advanced its preparations for the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and had undertaken work on the social implications of AIDS, and intravenous drug abuse and AIDS in prisons, and had intensified its contact with non-governmental organizations. In the field of disability, a special representative had been appointed by the Secretary-General to further the role of the United Nations in that important area of activity. A Task Force on the Family had been set up in the United Nations Office at Vienna to provide inputs into the work in that sensitive and important area. It was essential, however, to ensure that steps meant to strengthen the family were not taken at the expense of the hard-won gains made by women in their long struggle for equality.

173. The United Nations Office at Vienna had sought closer links with the United Nations Development Programme, it had prepared a Programme Advisory Note on social policy and development and had contributed to a growing number of social matters. The Director-General identified several further priorities for future work, namely, contribution to the preparation of an international development strategy for the 1990s, improved analysis and synthesis of global policy developments and broadened public outreach. In all activities, streamlining and rationalizing the volume of work was essential, particularly in the light of the heavy staff cuts that had been borne by the United Nations Office at Vienna on its already slim base. She expressed appreciation to Governments that had made available specialist staff and emergency funding to help facilitate the work of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

B. Attendance

174. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1147 (XLI) of 4 August 1966, the Commission is composed of 32 States Members of the United Nations, elected on the principle of equitable geographical distribution. One member from African States remains to be elected.

175. The session was attended by 30 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, and representatives of specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended. A list of participants is given in annex I to the present report.

C. Election of officers

176. At its 1st, 2nd and 11th meetings, on 13 and 20 March 1989, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Oskar Schröder (Federal Republic of Germany)

Vice-Chairmen: Mita Pardo de Tavera (Philippines)
Elsie MBella NGomba (Cameroon)
Eduardo Castillo-Arriola (Guatemala)

Rapporteur: Norbert Poerschke (German Democratic Republic)

D. Agenda

177. At its 1st meeting, on 13 March, the Commission considered the provisional agenda for the session, contained in document E/CN.5/1989/1.

178. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Philippines. The Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna also made a statement.

179. The Commission then adopted the provisional agenda (see annex II to the present report).

E. Organization of work

180. At its 1st meeting, on 13 March, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session contained in the note by the Secretariat (E/CN.5/1989/L.1). It also decided, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 42/51 on the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging and related activities, to establish an informal open-ended ad hoc working group in order to consider adequately, under item 4 of the agenda, the report of the Secretary-General on the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Plan of Action on Aging (E/1989/13), with a view to recommending to the Commission appropriate measures to advance further the cause of the aging.

181. At its 3rd meeting, on 14 March, the Commission decided to appoint Mita Pardo de Tavera (Philippines), Vice-Chairman of the Commission, as Co-ordinator of the informal open-ended ad hoc working group.

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

182. In accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), observers for the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council made statements under item 4 of the agenda:

Category I: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities

World Federation of Democratic Youth

Category II: International Association of Schools of Social Work

Foundation for the Rights of the Family

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

Annex I

ATTENDANCE

Members

- Argentina: Juan Carlos Beltramino, Juan Carlos O'Donnell,
Julio N. Bello, Silvia E. Mira
- Austria: Richard Wotava, Johann Unger, Evelyn Hönigsperger,
Maria Orthofer-Samhaber, Erika Winkler,
Mechtild Petritsch-Holaday, Wilfried Almoslechner
- Bangladesh: M. Rezwanul Huq Chowdhury, Muzammel Hussain,
Nurul Islam Khan, Abdul Kader Mahmud
- Cameroon: Elsie N. MBella NGomba, MBena Celestion
- Chile: Maria Teresa Infante Barros, Patricio Guesalaga Meissner,
Verónica Chahin Sarah
- China: Qin Huasun, Chen Yuchu, Zhang Xilin, Yang Qingwei, Du Qiwen
- Cyprus: Demetrios Pelekanos
- Dominican Republic: Julia Tavares de Alvarez
- Ecuador: Fernando Flores, Maria Gonzales
- Finland: Vappu Taipale, Arto Kurittu, Esa Markkanen,
Marja-Liisa Kauppinen, Päivi Blinnikka, Pekka Voutilainen
- France: Claude Perinel, Danièle Refuveille, Jean-Marie Schuh,
Georges Gautier, Jean Galinier
- German Democratic Republic: Gerd Hoehne, Joachim Maser, Norbert Poerschke,
Jutta Gysi
- Germany, Federal Republic of: Oskar Schröder, Dieter Schaad, Horst Fenge,
Hans von Hengstenberg, Fritz Schütte, Volker Berger,
Rolf Schütte, Dieter Lamlé, Manfred Gerwinat,
Hans-Joachim Bierbaum
- Ghana: Samuel Agyei-Mensah, Clifford Nij Amon Kotey
- Guatemala: Eduardo Castillo-Arriola, Magda Ibarra-Rivera de Gillen
- Haiti: Wilfrid Bien-Aimé
- Iraq: Jawad Mohammad Ghali

- Liberia:*
- Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: Jamaleddin Hamida, Omar Mohamed Zentani
- Malta: Peter Serracino Inglott, Charles Vella, Saviour F. Borg, Alfred Grech, T. Shuman, Charles G. Vella
- Norway: Jon Olav Norbom, Rolf Berg, Oystein Opdahl, Knut Toraasen, Eli Jonsvik
- Pakistan: Kurshid Haider, Iftikhar A. Arain, Amjad Hussain B. Sial
- Philippines: Mita Pardo de Tavera
- Poland: Michal Dobroczyński, Aleksander Czepurko
- Romania: Dan Mihai Bârliba, Maria Dreghici-Sutic, Nicolae Irimie
- Spain: Eloy Ybañez, Patrocinio de las Heras, Magdy Martinez Soliman, Aurelio Fernandez Lopez, Antonio Bullon, Pilar Gonzalez Blanco, José Maria Ferre, Candido Palacios
- Sudan: Ibrahim Abu-Ouf, Khalafalla Ismail, Salwa Dallalah
- Togo: Kati Ohara Korga
- Uganda: Bernadette Olowo, Christine Mulindwa-Matovu
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: V. M. Vinogradov, M. P. Beliakov, A. J. Nekrasov, O. V. Kabanov, N. V. Beliakov, V. V. Possadski, J. A. Manuilova, O. J. Pavlov, S. H. Solodovnikov
- United States of America: Michael H. Newlin, David E. Hohman, Norman H. Frisbie, Youngeun H. Anderson, Gregory B. Sprow, Garrett G. Sweany, Lucy Tamlyn

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Thailand, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

* Not represented at the session.

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See, Switzerland.

United Nations Secretariat

Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations Office at Vienna), Division of Narcotic Drugs (United Nations Office at Vienna), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organisation, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

European Economic Community, League of Arab States

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council on Social Welfare, International Organization of Consumers Unions, International Social Security Association, Muslim World League, Soroptimist International, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of Democratic Youth, World Federation of Trade Unions, Zonta International

Category II: Bahá'i International Community, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Disabled Peoples' International, Foundation for the Rights of the Family, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Federation of University Women, International Federation on Aging, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Union of Students, Pax Christi, International Catholic Peace Movement, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of Catholic Students), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation for Mental Health, World Federation of Methodist Women, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations

Annex II

AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. World social situation, including the elimination of all major social obstacles.
4. Trends and strategies for social integration, popular participation, and policies for the advancement of specific social groups.
5. Programme questions and other matters:
 - (a) Programme performance and implementation;
 - (b) Social welfare and social development activities of the regional commissions;
 - (c) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991;
 - (d) Review of recurrent documents and publications;
 - (e) Medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;
 - (f) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development;
 - (g) Improvement of the work of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda of the thirty-second session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-first session.

Annex III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
A/43/329	5	Preparation of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997: note by the Secretary-General
A/44/79-E/1989/8	4	National experience in promoting the co-operative movement: report of the Secretary-General
A/44/86-E/1989/14	3	National experience in achieving far-reaching social and economic changes for the purpose of social progress: report of the Secretary-General
A/44/116-E/1989/15	3	Implementation of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development: report of the Secretary-General
E/1989/13	4	Second review and appraisal of the implementation of the International Plan of Action on Aging: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1989/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/CN.5/1989/2	3	
E/CN.5/1989/3	4	1989 report on the world social situation
E/CN.5/1989/4	4	Results and follow-up of the Interregional Consultation on Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1989/5	4	Social situation of families - results of the survey of national policies for families: report of the Secretary-General
	4	Social situation of migrant workers and their families and guidelines for establishing social services appropriate to their needs: report of the Secretary-General

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.5/1989/6	4	Progress made in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons for the second half of the United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1989/7	4	Implementation of the guidelines for further planning and suitable follow-up in the field of youth: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1989/8	5	Programme of work in the field of social development, the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and the social welfare and social development activities of the regional commissions: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1989/9 and Corr.1	5	Report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/1989/10	5	Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1989/11	5	Improvement of the work of the Commission for Social Development: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1989/CRP.1	5	Publications programme of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.5/1989/CRP.2 and Corr.1	5	Draft programme of work for the biennium 1990-1991: note by the Secretary-General
E/CN.5/1989/CRP.3	5	Preliminary proposals for the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, major programme V (International co-operation for social development), programme 29 (Integration of social groups): note by the Secretariat
E/CN.5/1989/INF.1	-	Information for participants

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.5/1989/INF.2	-	List of participants
E/CN.5/1989/INF.3	4	Note by the Secretariat circulating the report of the International Expert Meeting on Common Goals and Different Roles for Social Welfare Policies in the European United Nations Region, Bonn, 25-27 January 1989
E/CN.5/1989/L.1 and Rev.1	2	Organization of the work of the session: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.5/1989/L.2	6	Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission for Social Development: note by the Secretariat
E/CN.5/1989/L.3 and Add.1-3	7	Draft report of the Commission
E/CN.5/1989/L.4	3	Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Sudan, Togo and Uganda: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.4/Rev.1	3	[same sponsors], Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, India, Iraq, Malta, Pakistan and Romania: revised draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.5	3	Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Iraq, Malta, Poland, Romania and Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.6	3	Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, German Democratic Republic, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.7		[withdrawn]
E/CN.5/1989/L.8	3	Austria, France, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United States of America: draft resolution

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.5/1989/L.8/Rev.1	3	[same sponsors] and Spain: revised draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.9	4	Austria, China, Finland, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Sweden and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.10	4	Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Commission, Mrs. Mita Pardo de Tavera (Philippines)
E/CN.5/1989/L.11	4	China, Egypt, German Democratic Republic, Iraq, Philippines, Romania, Sudan and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.12	4	Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, India, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Norway, Pakistan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden and Yugoslavia: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.13	4	Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iraq, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sudan, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.14	4	Argentina, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, German Democratic Republic, Malta, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland and United States of America: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.15	5	Finland and France: draft resolution
E/CN.5/1989/L.16	5	Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman
E/CN.5/1989/L.17	4	Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

Document number

Agenda item

Title or description

E/CN.5/1989/NGO/1

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Statement on aging submitted by International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization of Consumers Unions, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; All-India Women's Conference, American Association of Retired Persons, Associated Country Women of the World, Bahá'i International Community, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, Disabled Peoples' International, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, International Road Safety, Medical Women's International Association, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of Catholic Students), the Salvation Army, Women's International Zionist Organization, World Association of Former United Nations Interns and Fellows, World Federation for Mental Health, World Federation of Methodist Women and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly, Gray Panthers, Help the Aged, International Association of Gerontology, International Inner Wheel, National Council on the Aging, Inc. and Rotary International, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

<u>Document number</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/CN.5/1989/NGO/2	4	Statement submitted by Disabled Peoples' International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II
E/CN.5/1989/NGO/3	4	Statement submitted by International Association of Schools of Social Work, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II
E/CN.5/1989/NGO/4	4	Statement submitted by Disabled Peoples' International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II