

regional level through the provision of technical assistance, including advisory services, to Governments upon request;

“6. *Emphasizes* that the Secretariat should continue its important role in the programme of work on family issues within the United Nations system and, in this regard, encourages the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, within existing resources, to continue to cooperate with Governments, the United Nations system and civil society in strengthening national capacities through the implementation of the mandated objectives of the Year, including through:

(a) The provision of policy guidance on emerging issues and trends affecting the family through the preparation of studies and research papers aimed, in particular, at enhancing the role of the family in society;

(b) The provision of technical assistance to countries, upon request, to enhance, where appropriate, their national capacities in the area of family-related work;

“7. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to disseminate a compilation of existing development cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the field of the family for the benefit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, other relevant United Nations bodies, Member States and observers by the time of the holding of the forty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development;

“8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To give appropriate consideration to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family by preparing the observance of the International Day of Families on 15 May 2004 and by taking appropriate steps for the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

(b) To continue to utilize the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities to provide financial assistance for activities specific to the family and for projects of direct benefit to it, with special focus on least developed and developing countries;

“9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.”

*47th plenary meeting  
21 July 2004*

## **2004/14**

### **Comprehensive and integral international convention on protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of

all Member States and observers of the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work carried out in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development,

*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/12 of 21 July 2003 on a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 58/246 of 23 December 2003, in which the Assembly decided that the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities should start the negotiations on a draft convention at its third session,

*Welcoming* the important contributions made so far to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee by all stakeholders,

*Welcoming* the progress made in the working group established by the Ad Hoc Committee in preparing a draft text that will form the basis for negotiations on a draft convention in the Ad Hoc Committee, taking into account all contributions,

*Encouraging* Member States and observers to participate actively in the Ad Hoc Committee in order to present to the General Assembly, as a matter of priority, a draft text of a convention,

*Reaffirming* the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for their full enjoyment to be guaranteed to persons with disabilities, without discrimination,

*Recognizing* the positive steps taken by Governments, including continued collaboration at the regional and international levels, to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

*Encouraged* by the increased support of the international community for the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities under a comprehensive and integral approach,

1. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to contribute to the process of negotiation of a draft international convention by, inter alia, providing its views regarding the social development perspective, bearing in mind the experience in the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities<sup>60</sup> and the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;<sup>61</sup>

2. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission to the process of elaboration of a draft convention, and requests the Special Rapporteur to contribute further to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, drawing from her experience in the monitoring of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and in collaboration with

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<sup>60</sup> General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

<sup>61</sup> A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendations I (IV).

the Secretariat, by, inter alia, providing her views on the elements to be considered in drawing up a draft international convention;

3. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Division for Social Policy and Development, to continue to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, through, inter alia, the provision of information on issues related to a draft international convention and the promotion of awareness of the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, from within existing resources;

4. *Underlines* the importance of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in order for them to jointly support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

5. *Invites* bodies, organs and entities of the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, in particular those working in the fields of social and economic development and human rights, within their respective mandates, as well as non-governmental organizations, national disability and human rights institutions and independent experts with an interest in the matter, to continue to make available to the Ad Hoc Committee suggestions about elements to be considered in a draft international convention;

6. *Encourages* the relevant bodies of the United Nations to continue to promote and support the active participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 56/510 of 23 July 2002 and 57/229 of 18 December 2002, and requests the Secretary-General to disseminate widely to non-governmental organizations all available information on accreditation procedures, modalities and supportive measures for their participation in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

7. *Invites* Governments, civil society and the private sector to contribute to the voluntary fund established by the General Assembly to support the participation of non-governmental organizations and experts from developing countries, in particular from least developed countries, in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee;

8. *Stresses* the need for additional efforts to ensure reasonable accessibility to facilities and documentation at the United Nations for all persons with disabilities, in accordance with General Assembly decision 56/474 of 23 July 2002;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur to report, as part of their presentations to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session, on the implementation of the present resolution.

*47th plenary meeting  
21 July 2004*