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Preparatory Activities for the International Year
for Disabled Persons (1981)

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PLAN OF ACTION

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution
34/154 of 17 December 1979 on the basis of the recommendations
of the Advisory Committee for the International Year for
Disabled Persons set up under resolution 32/133 of
the United Nations General Assembly



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PLAN OF ACTION

A. Introduction: Conceptual framework and guiding principles

1. The purpose of the Year is to promote the realization of the goals "full participation" of disabled persons in the social life and development of the societies in which they live, "equality", meaning living conditions equal to those of other citizens in their society, and an equal share in the improvement of living conditions resulting from social and economic development. These concepts should apply in the same manner and with the same urgency in all countries regardless of their level of development.
2. Problems of disabled persons should be conceived in their entirety and take into account all aspects of development. However, it should be noted that in view of many problems of high priority and of insufficient means and resources, the developing countries have been unable to allocate the necessary resources to solving the problems of disabled persons.
3. As the solution of problems of the disabled is closely connected with overall development at the national level, solution of these problems in developing countries depends to a large extent on the creation of adequate international conditions for the faster socio-economic development of these countries. Accordingly, the establishment of the new international economic order is of direct relevance to the implementation of the objectives of the Year. It is estimated that there are some 450 million disabled persons in the world today, the vast majority of whom live in developing countries. It is therefore imperative that a great part of the activities in connexion with the Year should aim at improving conditions for disabled persons in these countries. More scope should be given to projects in this field within the framework of both bilateral and multilateral development programmes, on national, regional and international levels. Such projects should be integral parts of national development strategies. There is a need to secure the participation of Member States as well as governmental and non-governmental international organizations of disabled people in the adoption and implementation of the programme of the Year.
4. Mindful of the fact that a large number of disabled persons are victims of war and other forms of violence, the Year could be appropriately used as an occasion to emphasize the need for continued and reinforced co-operation among nations for world peace.
5. An important objective of the Year should be to increase public understanding of what disability is and awareness of the problems it may bring. Many people today equate disability with restrictions in physical mobility. But disabled persons do not form a homogeneous group. For example, deaf persons and those with impaired hearing, persons with impaired vision, mentally retarded and mentally ill persons, persons with restricted mobility, and persons with various medical impairments have different problems that demand different solutions.
6. The Year should promote recognition of the fact that there is a distinction between an impairment which is a quality of the individual, a disability which is a functional restriction due to that impairment and handicaps which are the social consequences of the disability.
7. It is becoming increasingly obvious that a far more constructive approach is to view disability as a relationship between an individual and his or her environment. Experience shows that it is largely the environment which determines

the effects of an impairment on a person's daily life. Societies by and large still cater only to people who are in full possession of all their physical and mental faculties. Societies still have to learn to respond adequately to the needs of all the people. Societies have an obligation to make their general physical environment, their social and health services, their educational and work opportunities, as well as their cultural and social life, including sports, totally accessible to disabled persons. This does not only benefit disabled persons but also society as a whole. A society that shuts out a number of its members is an impoverished society. Disabled persons should not be considered as a special group with needs different from the rest of the community, but as ordinary citizens with special difficulties in getting their ordinary human needs fulfilled. Action to improve conditions for disabled persons should form an integral part of general policy and planning in every sector of society. It should be part of national reform programmes and of regular programmes for international co-operation.

8. The activities carried out during the Year should have a pragmatic orientation and accordingly should focus on primary health care, rehabilitation and prevention, in view of the importance of that type of activity from the social and human standpoint, particularly since methods and means exist which would enable society to bring about a considerable reduction in the number of disabled persons and the seriousness of their disabilities.

9. In accordance with paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX), containing the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, organizations of disabled persons may be usefully consulted in all matters regarding the rights of disabled persons. An important objective of the Year is to encourage disabled persons to organize themselves so as to be able to express their views effectively and to secure their right to participate actively in the work of policy-making bodies and in the management of society in general.

10. The Year should contribute to the realization of the above-mentioned principles through action-oriented programmes on the local, national, regional and international levels.

11. The experience acquired in the course of the Year should lead to the adoption of a long-term programme of action (see para. 17 (c) below).

B. Activities at the national level

12. The Advisory Committee recommends that Member States should be invited, in conformity with their right and responsibility to determine freely their own developmental objectives and priorities and in the light of their circumstances, to consider the adoption of the following measures to ensure the implementation of and follow-up to the objectives of the International Year for Disabled Persons, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/123. Member States would be invited:

(a) To issue a proclamation at the beginning of the Year, containing the priority measures to be implemented for the full participation of disabled persons in society;

(b) To establish, as a preparatory measure, national committees or similar bodies for the Year - whose level of representation would be such as to ensure the implementation of their proposals - to plan, co-ordinate and execute, or encourage the execution of, activities in support of the objectives of the Year at the local and national levels; those participating in the committees could include representatives of the ministries, government agencies, non-governmental organizations and voluntary groups, including those representing youth and the business community. The participation of the representatives of organizations of and for disabled persons in such committees should be given priority;

(c) To prepare by the end of 1981, national plans for the follow-up to the objectives of the Year, with a view to reviewing and appraising the results of the Year by 1991;

(d) To promote mass media campaigns to disseminate information on the objectives of the Year, enlighten the public and heighten its awareness of the rights of disabled persons to participate in and contribute to the economic, social and political life of their societies as well as to raise community consciousness of the potential of disabled persons to do so;

(e) To integrate the services for disabled persons into general community development programmes and adopt the concept of integral rehabilitation in all health, labour, education and social security services;

(f) To train professional and technical personnel in the numbers and at the levels which would ensure the implementation of national programmes concerning all aspects of integral rehabilitation through, for example, the inclusion in the curricula of schools, universities and other educational institutions of the concept of integral rehabilitation;

(g) To pay special attention to the co-ordination and strengthening of government services concerning disabled persons, in particular in areas of prevention, health care, education, housing and social and vocational rehabilitation;

(h) To establish appropriate governmental machinery for the co-ordination of all policies designed for disabled people, particularly in the areas of prevention, health care, education, housing and social and vocational rehabilitation;

(i) To review existing legislation to eliminate possible discriminatory practices regarding the education and employment of disabled persons;

(j) To make the development planning and programming of prevention and rehabilitation services an integral part of the national planning process;

(k) To implement existing programmes on measures for the prophylaxis of diseases as an important step in disability prevention;

(l) To make every effort to reliably assess the incidence of disablement,

for example, by household surveys, in order to enable policy-making agencies to know the nature and size of the needs the services are designed to meet. Economic and social planning organs should be involved to a greater degree in questions concerning disability, the provision of rehabilitation services and the stimulation of the training of planning specialists in this field;

(m) To review their services and benefits to ensure that these assist and encourage disabled people to remain and/or become an integral part of the society wherein they live, rather than bring about segregation and isolation;

(n) When drawing up policies for the disabled, to place emphasis on developing their abilities, and provide information to the disabled on the services and benefits available to them;

(o) To initiate investigations into those restrictions and discriminatory actions that limit the freedom of the disabled to fully participate in society, and to take whatever measures are necessary to remedy the situation;

(p) To provide adequate conditions, including unhindered access to the premises, for the full participation of disabled persons in education, work, and sports and other forms of recreation;

(q) To have regard for the need to introduce legislation to ensure that all new buildings and buildings to which major adaptations are being made are fully accessible to disabled people, and to recognize formally that disabled people have the same right of access to all public and social facilities as other people. This should also include measures to create and increase access to public information for deaf persons and those with impaired hearing and vision through, for instance, increased recording of literature on cassettes and transcription into Braille and providing hearing aids in public buildings and interpreter services for the deaf;

(r) As regards housing for disabled persons, to avoid segregated housing programmes that bring about an environment similar to institutional life and, in countries where institutions are being phased out, to transfer resources from institutional to "open" care, and ensure proper support to the disabled person at home and to the family;

(s) To review and, where necessary, revitalize programmes designed to prevent the occurrence of disability;

(t) To promote health in the context of "primary health care" to prevent disabilities, in particular those of prenatal and natal origin or occurring in early childhood, by undertaking activities designed to improve rehabilitation programmes, nutrition, maternal and child health services, proper assistance during pregnancy and delivery, mycobacterial disease control and the control of chronic diseases, both communicable and non-communicable;

(u) To enforce occupational safety rules and regulations as a preventive measure and adapt their application to a disabled person in employment to the individual's needs;

(v) To make the working environment accessible to persons with restricted mobility, those with orientation problems and those with allergies. Attention should also be drawn to psychological factors in the working environment and the influence of working conditions on a person's mental health;

(w) To provide exemption from custom duties and taxes on machinery, equipment, aids and other materials used by or for the benefit of disabled persons because of their disabilities, and to provide also the necessary import licences and foreign exchange allocations where applicable;

(x) To ensure, as appropriate, that relevant non-governmental organizations are adequately involved in preparation and implementation of national programmes in the field of social services for the disabled;

(y) To give high priority to activities initiated by the disabled and to encourage the establishment of organizations of disabled persons;

(z) To appoint, if possible, representatives of disabled persons to the delegations attending international meetings, particularly when matters concerning them and the Year are discussed;

(aa) To proclaim a national day for disabled persons;

(bb) To submit national reports to the Secretary-General, by 31 March 1982, on the measures taken in observance of the Year.

13. The Advisory Committee also recommends that Member States should be invited to bear in mind a number of activities at the national level proposed by Member States and non-governmental organizations, contained in paragraph 37 of annex I to the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year for Disabled Persons (A/32/288) a/ and reproduced as appendix I to the present plan of action.

C. Regional activities

14. The Committee recommends that regional commissions, other regional intergovernmental organizations and/or interested Governments should be invited to convene regional or subregional meetings or seminars with a view to considering the best possible ways of implementing, within their particular regions, the objectives of the Year and the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, and to making proposals concerning a draft long-term programme of action (see para. 74 (c) below).

15. The regional commissions for Africa, Asia, Latin America and Western Asia should be urged to convene regional meetings of the officers responsible for national programmes on the prevention of disability and on rehabilitation, with a

a/ A number of the proposals have been incorporated in the Committee's recommendations.

view to exchanging experiences and considering the most effective ways to implement and follow up the objectives of the Year for the benefit of the entire population, including that in rural areas.

16. The urgent attention of the regional commissions should be drawn to the necessity of deciding, as early as possible, upon their contributions to the Year.

17. The Advisory Committee considers that it would be useful if international exhibitions on disability prevention and rehabilitation technology were organized, in connexion with the Year, on a regional basis, along the lines of exhibitions that have been organized in recent years in different countries.

D. United Nations programme

18. Recognizing the importance of concerted and co-ordinated efforts by the United Nations system to implement the objectives of the Year, as enumerated in General Assembly resolution 31/123, the Advisory Committee recommends that:

(a) In conformity with the spirit of the Year, "full participation", the "International Year for Disabled Persons" should be redesignated the "International Year of Disabled Persons" and the theme of the Year should be changed to "full participation and equality";

(b) The Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme should organize an action-oriented international symposium of experts from developing and some developed countries on technical co-operation among developing countries and technical assistance for disabled persons; the symposium would be held in one of the developing countries in 1981, for a period of 10 days, and have the following aims:

- (i) To survey the pressing needs of developing countries in the field of services for disabled persons;
- (ii) To evaluate the present technical assistance by the organizations of the United Nations system and to submit proposals for future programmes in this field, particularly with regard to the concrete plan for international assistance - by United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and through bilateral channels - for the education and rehabilitation of disabled people in developing countries and for encouraging research in these countries aimed at the fabrication of prototypes and the mass production of equipment by utilizing indigenous resources and expertise;
- (iii) To work out specific approaches and strategies for the education and rehabilitation of disabled people in rural settings;
- (iv) To consider possibilities and submit proposals for increased technical co-operation among developing countries in the field of production of equipment and organization of services for disabled persons;

(c) A draft long-term programme of action should be prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with Member States, the relevant organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system and international non-governmental organizations of and for disabled persons, which should be considered by the Advisory Committee at one of its proposed future sessions (see subpara. (i) below);

(d) The Secretary-General should appeal to the developed nations to increase, strengthen and reinforce multilateral and bilateral programmes of economic and technical assistance to the developing nations for rehabilitation of the disabled so that the latter can become a self-reliant and productive force within their national societies;

(e) The United Nations should take the necessary steps to co-ordinate efforts between Member States and world agencies, thus ensuring that maximum help is afforded to disabled people, duplication of effort is avoided, and development of the programme for the Year as a basis for further long-term activities is encouraged;

(f) Absolute priority should be given to the provision of substantive support to Governments and national organizations in their activities for the Year in every administrative and financial provision adopted within the United Nations system for the implementation of and follow-up to the objectives of the Year;

(g) Non-governmental organizations should be invited to provide technical and financial support, as required, for the programmes of developing countries for the implementation of and follow-up to the objectives of the Year;

(h) The Secretary-General should undertake, in co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the widest possible dissemination of the technical advisory note on disability prevention and rehabilitation, No. 1202 of 30 April 1978 (G3400-1);

(i) The Secretary-General should organize further meetings of the Advisory Committee to evaluate progress in the implementation of the programme for the Year, to ensure an adequate follow-up to the Year, and to draft a report on the observance of the Year by Member States, the organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system, and the international non-governmental organizations concerned;

(j) The organizations concerned should adopt specific measures designed to implement fully the relevant recent resolutions of the United Nations and specialized agencies on disability prevention and rehabilitation;

(k) All the organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system should adopt the policy of employing more disabled persons;

(l) All the organs, organizations and bodies within the United Nations system should adopt the policy of holding their meetings, to the extent possible, where the facilities provided are accessible to all, including users of wheel-chairs, deaf persons and those with impaired hearing who need sign-language interpreters, and persons with impaired vision who need documentation on cassettes or in Braille;

(m) Steps should be taken to encourage the adoption of measures by which international passenger transport (aeroplanes, buses, ferries, trains and ships) as well as the facilities used for them (such as airport buildings, terminals for aeroplanes, buses, ferries and ships, as well as railway stations) could be made accessible to all, including disabled persons using a wheel-chair, the blind, the deaf and others who have problems in using such means of transport;

(n) A series of manuals should be prepared covering:

- (i) Modification of architectural and other man-made barriers, to be carried out by the people themselves within community development programmes and co-operatives of disabled persons;
- (ii) Model projects for the organization of residential and other physical facilities for disabled persons;
- (iii) Systems and methods in development aid projects to eliminate existing barriers and to avoid the creation of new ones;
- (iv) Criteria for training national and local rehabilitation personnel in order that they may identify architectural and man-made barriers that could be eliminated or altered as part of general community improvement programmes;
- (v) Development of a series of indicators for assessing the level or degree of accessibility of existing buildings and facilities intended for general use;

(o) Exchanges among countries should be facilitated in the field of rehabilitation, such as exchange of rehabilitation personnel, study tours and fellowships to visit rehabilitation facilities in other countries; at least 50 per cent of such fellowships should be awarded to disabled persons;

(p) The United Nations Postal Administration should issue a special stamp or stamps in 1981 to celebrate the Year, commemorative souvenir coins should be struck and the revenue from the sale of all these items should be allocated to activities for disability prevention and rehabilitation or for the integration of disabled persons into society;

(q) The United Nations should encourage:

- (i) Activities of the organizations of and for disabled persons to contribute to the promotion of world peace and peaceful relations among States and peoples;

- (ii) Disabled persons all over the world to organize themselves to ensure their participation in the activities of the International Year;
- (iii) The participation of other relevant international non-governmental organizations in the activities of the Year; in drawing up the draft long-term programme of action, the United Nations should ensure that it is informed of the activities of these groups;
- (r) The United Nations and the World Health Organization, in connexion with the work on revising the Handbook of Household Surveys being carried out by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, should provide guidance on planning and conducting household sample surveys that will supply needed statistics on disabilities and disabled persons;
- (s) The United Nations and the World Health Organization should continue the development and testing, in co-operation with interested countries, of concepts, classifications and definitions needed for the collection of statistics on disabilities and disabled persons;
- (t) The necessary procedures should be adopted to provide for a review at an appropriate time to determine to what extent the objectives of the Year, including the full participation of disabled persons in community life, have been achieved as a result of the efforts made within the framework of the Year and whether other useful purposes have been served through these efforts.

E. Public information programme

19. The Advisory Committee recommends that:

- (a) All publicity in connexion with the Year should reflect the view of disability expressed in the introduction to the present section, which outlines the conceptual framework and guiding principles for the recommendations (paras. 57-67 above); this means recognition of the fact that persons with various kinds of disabilities, such as the deaf, persons with impaired hearing or impaired vision, the mentally retarded and mentally ill, persons with restricted mobility and various medical impairments, have different problems that demand different solutions; it also demands making a distinction between impairment, disability and handicaps and recognizing that disability is not primarily a problem of the individual but a relationship between the individual and the environment and concerns society as a whole;
- (b) An emblem for the Year should be designed during the year 1979 so that it can be used during 1980-1981 on posters, brochures and pamphlets both internationally and nationally;

(c) The Secretary-General should continue to make every effort to promote campaigns to disseminate information on the objectives of the Year, to enlighten the public and heighten its awareness of the rights of disabled persons to participate in and contribute to the economic, social and political life of their societies and to raise community consciousness of the potential of disabled persons to do so;

(d) The Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities b/ should be requested to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session on the policies and activities of the public information services of the United Nations system regarding the Year, starting from 1 January 1979. c/

(e) The Secretary-General should direct the Inter-Organization Board for Information Systems of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to issue an addendum to its Directory of United Nations Information Systems and Services, which would deal with the rehabilitation of disabled persons and related matters, and to distribute it to Member States with a view to preparing an international exchange of scientific information on the rehabilitation of disabled persons and facilitating the selection of the appropriate technology in prosthetic and other aids by the authorities concerned in the developing countries; d/

(f) In co-operation with the appropriate non-governmental organizations, an accessibility guide to the United Nations and its agencies should be prepared and published as part of the public information programme for the Year.

F. Activities of agencies and bodies within the United Nations system and interagency co-ordination

20. The Advisory Committee feels strongly that issues concerning disabled persons cannot be treated separately but should be integrated in the regular work of the agencies and bodies concerned. A direct purpose of the Year is to ensure this permanent integration. On the international and regional level, the specialized agencies and bodies concerned have a crucial role to play in this process. Accordingly, the Committee, noting the proposals and intentions of agencies and bodies within the United Nations system (A/AC.197/1, paras. 37-49), recommends that:

b/ Established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/115 C of 18 December 1978.

c/ See General Assembly resolution 33/170 of 20 December 1978.

d/ In particular, the information systems of the International Labour Organisation, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Development Programme.

(a) The agencies and other bodies within the United Nations system should be urged to strengthen their capacity to carry out projects in the fields of disability prevention and rehabilitation of the disabled;

(b) The secretariats of the agencies and other bodies concerned should bring to the attention of their respective governing bodies, for adoption by them, concrete measures and programmes to implement the objectives of the Year as set out by the General Assembly in resolution 31/123 by according, inter alia, priority to the establishment of continuing and enduring services for preventing disabilities and providing care, employment and rehabilitation to the disabled persons of all countries, especially the developing countries;

(c) The activities of the agencies and bodies concerned, both during the Year and in the long term, should be well co-ordinated through continuing interagency consultations in which the competent international non-governmental organizations should also be invited to take part;

(d) The International Labour Organisation should be invited to develop normative instruments for the benefit of disabled persons and continue its activities in the field of vocational rehabilitation;

(e) The World Health Organization should be invited to update clear international definitions of all terms used regarding disability prevention and rehabilitation and should strengthen basic health services with a view to making early detection of disabilities possible;

(f) In view of the mutuality of goals between the International Year of the Child and the International Year for Disabled Persons, the United Nations Children's Fund, in co-operation with the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, should be invited to pay particular attention to disabled children, by focusing on methods for the prevention of disability from childhood and contributing to outlining educational and rehabilitative programmes for disabled children so that programmes for the disabled in general can be strengthened and improved;

(g) The United Nations Development Programme should be requested to finance, in developing countries during the Year, some activities such as co-operatives, workshops or whatever other forms are considered suitable;

(h) The Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator should be requested to make its manual on disaster preparedness available also to those concerned with the prevention of disabilities and rehabilitation of the disabled;

(i) The United Nations and its agencies should be invited to make every effort to ensure that their documentation is available to all, in particular those documents which are of direct concern to disabled persons.

APPENDIX I

Activities at the national level proposed by Member States
and non-governmental organizations

A number of different activities at the national level have been proposed by Member States and non-governmental organizations. In some cases, a clear indication has been given by the Governments concerned that the activities mentioned by them will also be carried out. Among the proposed activities are the following:

- (i) Issue of a governmental declaration on the occasion of the International Year containing, for example, a list of priority measures required to promote social integration of disabled persons.
- (ii) Formation of interministerial committees or co-ordinating councils, with participation of non-governmental organizations, to prepare and co-ordinate national programmes for the International Year and to take necessary follow-up measures. Formation of provincial committees for activities on the provincial level.
- (iii) Strengthening and increasing the activities of government agencies concerned with the rehabilitation of disabled persons and providing these agencies with the necessary financial and technical means. Establishment of new rehabilitation centres, model projects for the delivery of rehabilitation services and workshops for disabled persons, as well as the encouragement of disabled persons themselves to establish co-operatives.
- (iv) Integration of the services for disabled persons into general community development programmes, for example, through the development of simplified rehabilitation techniques, with opportunities for the disabled to work, be trained and be cared for within their communities. Expansion of services on referral levels (at health centres and hospitals, for instance) for those disabled persons whose needs cannot be dealt with at the community level.
- (v) Development of practical measures to increase the participation of disabled persons in community life.
- (vi) Provision of adequate accommodation for severely disabled persons who, because of their training and education, must live away from their homes and, in general, elimination of architectural barriers and eradication of discriminatory attitudes and prejudices that may impede the participation of disabled persons in community life.

- (vii) Special attention to disabled children and young people with a view to creating suitable conditions for their preparation for life as adults in their communities, as well as for family relationships involving their adjustment to the society of able-bodied persons.
- (viii) Promoting the access of persons with communication difficulties (deaf and blind persons) to normal public sources of information.
- (ix) Organization of such special events as, for instance, a vocational rehabilitation week, as well as national congresses, seminars, workshops and similar events on specific areas of rehabilitation and related questions;
- (x) Provision of adequate rehabilitation services for disabled women and, in particular, for the elderly among them, whose number is proportionately high in some countries, as well as for certain groups of disabled persons whose specific needs may not be met within more general rehabilitation programmes (for example, those with myocardial infarction or mental disorders).
- (xi) Review of existing legislation and formulation of proposals for new provisions concerning disabled persons, in particular those devoted to the protection of the fundamental rights of disabled persons, such as education, rehabilitation and employment specifically, and implementation of the objectives of the International Year.
- (xii) Increasing employment opportunities for disabled persons in government offices and agencies and State enterprises in particular. Adaptation of jobs to meet the specific requirements of disabled persons.
- (xiii) Provision of adequate conditions for educating disabled persons in public schools and universities, including unhindered access to the premises, and formulation of programmes for their continuing education.
- (xiv) Provision of necessary appliances and technical aids to all disabled persons who need them.
- (xv) Promotion of measures aimed at preventing disabilities, in particular those of prenatal and natal origin or occurring in early childhood. In this regard, attention should be given to improving nutrition, immunization, mycobacterial disease control, early detection of disabilities, and maternal and child health services. Attention should also be given to genetic guidance; avoidance of industrial hazards causing genetic injuries; requiring hospitals to find special ways of receiving and treating disabled persons on special occasions, such as dealing with the deaf in emergency rooms; and programmes for the prevention of blindness.
- (xvi) Greater recognition of occupational safety hazards, enforcement of occupational safety rules and regulations, and development of road safety measures.

- (xvii) Adherence of all Governments to the UNESCO Agreement on the Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials.
- (xviii) Informing disabled persons and their families of their rights and responsibilities in the community.
- (xix) Carrying out of national censuses of all disabled persons.
- (xx) Proclamation of a national day for disabled persons.
- (xxi) Honouring disabled persons who have distinguished themselves as well as persons who have rendered outstanding services to their rehabilitation.
- (xxii) Promotion of mass media campaigns to disseminate information on the objectives of the International Year, enlighten the public and raise its awareness of the rights of disabled persons to participate and contribute to the economic, social and political life of their societies as well as to raise community consciousness of the potentials of disabled persons to do that.
- (xxiii) Preparation of promotional films in national languages to be shown in cinemas and on television throughout the International Year in order to explain to the public the meaning, objectives and methods of rehabilitation.
- (xxiv) Seeking and commissioning studies, statistics and other scientific data concerning disabilities.
- (xxv) Publication of documentation on national policies and achievements concerning rehabilitation of disabled persons and of articles and fact sheets on different aspects of rehabilitation and on the participation of the disabled in community life.
- (xxvi) Organization of arts and crafts exhibitions of work by disabled persons. The exhibitions may also include appliances and aids needed by disabled persons, demonstrations of preventive measures, explanations of specific problems of disabled persons and facilities available for their rehabilitation and the changing of attitudes towards particular disabilities, such as leprosy. Exhibitions could also be organized as tourist attractions to demonstrate disabled persons' skills and achievements and the results of rehabilitation measures.
- (xxvii) Organization of special ceremonies at major rehabilitation centres, for example, to observe the International Year.
- (xxviii) Organization of educational programmes in schools, churches and with community groups about disabled persons' rights, their integration into the community and the problems involved. Special attention should be given to approaching the children 7 to 15 years of age inasmuch as attitudes towards disabilities, among other things, can best be affected at that age.

- (xxix) Publicity regarding the accessibility of buildings to disabled persons and the need for eliminating architectural barriers, including distribution of a "Building for the Disabled Award".
- (xxx) Organization of competitions in schools (for example, in writing essays) and among artists for the design of posters.
- (xxxi) Organization of sports events for disabled persons.
- (xxxii) Organization of training and vacation camps for handicapped children.
- (xxxiii) Issue of special stamps commemorating the Year, the proceeds from the sale of which should be used for the promotion of services for disabled persons (additional income for this purpose might come from a special tax on cinema tickets and from the sale of various souvenir items related to the International Year).
- (xxxiv) Exemption from customs duties and company commissions on cultural and vocational equipment, as well as on instruments needed by disabled persons and on their daily necessities. Exemption also from customs duties and taxes on machinery, equipment, instruments and raw materials used in rehabilitating disabled persons in rehabilitation centres.
- (xxxv) Attention to the training of rehabilitation personnel, including additional upgrading and specialized training of medical, paramedical and social work personnel and other professionals directly concerned with rehabilitation of the disabled.
- (xxxvi) Organization of fund-raising campaigns for financing activities for the benefit of disabled persons.
