

The Economic Commission for Western Asia,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) of 11 December 1969 containing the Declaration on Social Progress and Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971 on the rights of mentally retarded persons,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 containing the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 31/123 of 16 December 1976 by which it proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons,

Taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 34/154 of 17 December 1979 by which it adopted a plan of action for the International Year of Disabled Persons,

1. Urges member States of ECWA to mobilize their resources in order to accelerate the preparatory work towards the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of Disabled Persons, including the establishment of national machinery for planning and co-ordinating at the national level all activities of the Year in the field of disability prevention and rehabilitation of disabled persons, with special emphasis on the population in the rural areas;
2. Requests member States of ECWA to attend technical meetings of officers responsible for national programmes, as well as the regional seminar of policy-making officials, preferably at the ministerial level, to be held under ECWA auspices at Baghdad in the autumn of 1980 in order to exchange experiences and consider the most effective ways to implement and follow up the objectives of the Year at the regional level;
3. Requests member States of ECWA to make an effective contribution as a region to the international symposium to be held in July 1981 on technical co-operation among developing countries and technical assistance for disabled persons, particularly as regards the application of science and technology to the fabrication of prototype and the mass production of medical, education and vocational equipment, by utilizing indigenous resources and expertise;
4. Further requests the Executive Secretary of ECWA, in co-operation with the specialized agencies and United Nations bodies concerned, to strengthen the work of ECWA in the field of disability prevention and the rehabilitation of disabled persons, within the framework of the social development programmes of ECWA, taking into consideration the long-term plan of action in this field to be adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session and the preparatory work for the international development strategy for the 1980s.

8th meeting
23 April 1980