AG/RES. 1249 (XXIII-O/93)

SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
IN THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE

(Resolution adopted at the ninth plenary session,
held on June 11, 1993)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That the Western Hemisphere Conference on Persons with Disabilities was held during the second fortnight of March 1993, under the aegis of the Organization of American States, and was attended by the First Ladies of several member states;

That the Conference drew up an Agenda for the Future (AG/doc.2972/93) which includes significant comments on the situation of disabled persons in the Hemisphere and recommends action guidelines in this area (AG/doc.2973/93);

That, according to figures provided by the Pan American Health Organization, there will be some 33 million disabled persons in the Americas by the end of the 20th century, only 2% of whom will receive any form of services or assistance to improve their situation; and

That actions and measures should be taken to bring about a substantial improvement in the situation of persons with disabilities in the Hemisphere, in line with the recommendations made in the Agenda for the Future; and

NOTING the holding of the International Conference for the Protection of Victims of Armed Conflicts, to be held in Geneva from August 30 to September 1, 1993,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note with satisfaction of the recommendations contained in the Agenda for the Future drawn up by the Western Hemisphere Conference on Persons with Disabilities.

3. To request the Permanent Council to explore, in the framework of that examination and in close liaison with the Pan American Health Organization, the possibility of creating a Unit devoted to the problems of the disabled, which would study the various regional needs and interests in that area, in order to develop or provide, *inter alia*:

- guidelines designed to develop regulations to improve the situation of the disabled;
- technical assistance on legislative matters;
- action designed to establish a standard nomenclature for terms related to the disabled; and
- active promotion of exchanges of technical assistance to further develop and extend the scope of the various national resources devoted to the disabled, giving priority to the care of disabled children.

4. To request the member states to advise the Permanent Council, before December 15, 1993, of any measures they may have taken to improve the situation of persons with disabilities.