

AG/RES. 1296 (XXIV-O/94)

SITUATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE

(Resolution adopted at the tenth plenary session,
held on June 10, 1994)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1249 (XXIII-O/93), which instructed the Permanent Council to undertake an examination of current issues relating to the situation of the disabled in the Hemisphere so as to identify effective disability prevention and rehabilitation measures, and instructed the Permanent Council to explore, in close liaison with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the possibility of creating a Unit devoted to the problems of the disabled;

CONSIDERING:

That, in Latin America and the Caribbean regions, there are more than 60 million persons with disabilities who, together with their families, suffer from the lack of economic or social integration;

That, in 1990, the Pan American Sanitary Conference instructed PAHO (Resolution XV), as the specialized agency for health within the inter-American system, to continue its cooperative efforts with member states and with local and international organizations to develop programs and activities for the prevention of disability and the full integration of the disabled into the society, and to obtain supplemental funds from multilateral and bilateral agencies to support national and regional programs on disability; and

That the Regional Program for Health and Rehabilitation of the Disabled is already functioning within PAHO to support member states in the formulation of policies and the development of programs aimed at promoting knowledge and understanding of the problems of disabilities and impairments, the prevention thereof, and the treatment of a large number of disabled persons,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the Secretary General of the Organization on his constant concern to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the Americas.
2. To urge the member states to cooperate in taking concrete actions to improve the health of disabled persons, to assimilate them into society with full exercise of their rights and duties, and to identify risks which lead to disability, and to prevent disabilities.

3. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to advise the Permanent Council before October 1, 1994 of any measures they may have taken to improve the situation of persons with disabilities.

4. To instruct the Permanent Council and the Secretary General to coordinate with the Pan American Health Organization and Inter-American Children's Institute, strategies and programs in order to avoid duplication of existing programs and programs proposed in the future.