

1997/55. Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, including a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto, as an integral part of that resolution,

Noting especially that in paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action current regional and interregional conferences of ministers responsible for youth affairs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia were invited to intensify cooperation among each other and to consider meeting regularly at the international level under the aegis of the United Nations to provide an effective forum for a focused global dialogue on youth-related issues,

Noting that in paragraph 124 of the Programme of Action youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system were invited to cooperate with the above-mentioned conferences,

Welcoming the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Vienna from 25 to 29 November 1996, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 44/59 of 8 December 1989 and 50/81, which was convened by the United Nations in partnership with the Austrian Federal Youth Council, and taking note of the report of the Forum,²²⁴

Mindful that the Secretary-General, in his report on the implementation of the Programme of Action,²²⁵ recommended that action be taken to implement the global recommendations of the Programme of Action and that a report be submitted to the General Assembly, through the Commission for Social Development, on progress achieved and obstacles encountered,

Reiterating the call on all States that have not already done so to formulate and adopt an integrated national youth policy, in consultation with youth and youth-related organizations, as reflected in paragraph 112 of the Programme of Action,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond²²⁵ and of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation of the United Nations with the Government of Portugal in holding the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth;²²⁶

2. Calls upon all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make all possible efforts for the implementation of the Programme of Action, in accordance with their experience, situation and priorities;

3. Encourages the regional commissions, within their mandates, pursuant to the Programme of Action, to convene biennial meetings of regional non-governmental youth organizations, regional offices of youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and regional intergovernmental organizations to review and discuss issues and trends as well as regional action;

4. Stresses again the importance of the active and direct participation of youth and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in its implementation, as well as the need to support the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations;

5. Welcomes the offer of the Government of Portugal to host the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, to be held at Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998 in cooperation with the United Nations, as well as its support to the holding of the third session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, which is to be convened by the United Nations in partnership with the Portuguese National Youth Council at Braga, Portugal, from 2 to 6 August 1998;

6. Notes with appreciation that the Government of Portugal has agreed to support the participation of ministers responsible for youth in the least developed countries as identified by the General Assembly;

7. Invites all States, youth-related bodies, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the intergovernmental organizations concerned, as well as non-governmental youth organizations, to support that Conference;

8. Recommends that the report of the Conference be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-seventh session.

*39th plenary meeting
23 July 1997*

²²⁴ A/52/80-E/1997/14, annex.

²²⁵ A/52/60-E/1997/6.

²²⁶ E/1997/103.