

ECOSOC Resolution 2002/7

Comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews, in particular as they pertain to the promotion of the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities on an equal and participatory basis,

Noting the important role of Governments in the promotion and protection of all human rights of persons with disabilities,

Underlining the important contribution of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development to the elaboration of a comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities,

Acknowledging the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities, and noting, in this regard, their work in promoting the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of persons with disabilities,

Deeply concerned about the disadvantaged and vulnerable situation faced by 600 million persons with disabilities around the world,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to the participation of all Member States and observers to the United Nations, to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, based on the holistic approach in the work done in the fields of social development, human rights and non-discrimination and taking into account the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission for Social Development;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of his final report for the period 2000-2002,¹ in particular his recommendations relating to the international convention, as part of efforts to strengthen the international framework for the protection of persons with disabilities;

3. *Underlines* the importance of receiving, as soon as possible, the contributions requested by the General Assembly from States, relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies, the regional commissions and the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental

¹ See E/CN.5/2002/4.

organizations with an interest in the matter to the work entrusted to the Ad Hoc Committee, based on the practice of the United Nations;

4. *Also underlines* the importance of the request made by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, for the submission to the Ad Hoc Committee, prior to its first session, of a compilation of existing international legal instruments, documents and programmes that directly or indirectly address the situation of persons with disabilities, to include those of conferences, summits, meetings or international or regional seminars convened by the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

5. *Further underlines* the importance of the request made by the General Assembly to the Secretary-General, to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the outcome of the study undertaken pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2000/51 of 25 April 2000² and the final report presented by the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development to that Commission;

6. *Recommends* that the Ad Hoc Committee, when considering proposals for a convention, take into account the relationship of the proposed convention with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;³

7. *Encourages* Member States to provide adequate financial resources to ensure necessary expertise and the participation of international disability organizations in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, in accordance with the standard practice of the General Assembly;

8. *Decides* to remain seized of this matter.

*37th plenary meeting
24 July 2002*

² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (E/2000/23 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

³ General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.