

ECOSOC Resolution 2004/15

Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities, and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and 58/132 of 22 December 2003,

Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 56/168 of 19 December 2001, by which the Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, 57/229 of 18 December 2002, in which it sought views on proposals for a convention, and 58/246 of 23 December 2003, in which it decided that the Ad Hoc Committee should start negotiations on a draft convention at its third session,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolution 2002/26 of 24 July 2002 on further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights, Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/49 of 23 April 2003¹ on the human rights of persons with disabilities and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Noting with satisfaction that the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities play an increasingly important role in the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note* of the views of Governments, contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission for Social Development,² on the proposals contained in the report of the former Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission on Social Development,³ especially on the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities contained in the annex to the report of the Special Rapporteur,⁴ as well as the views expressed during the forty-second session of the Commission for Social Development;

¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 3* (E/2003/23), chap. II, sect A.

² E/CN.5/2004/4.

³ E/CN.5/2002/4.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex.

2. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability undertaken in accordance with section IV of the Standard Rules;

3. *Recommends* that the General Assembly consider the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities contained in the annex to the report of the Special Rapporteur, with a view to completing its consideration at its fifty-ninth session;

4. *Also recommends* that the General Assembly, in considering the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules, take into account the work of the Ad Hoc Committee to consider proposals for a comprehensive and integral international convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;

5. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on disability to contribute to the consideration by the General Assembly of the proposed supplement to the Standard Rules, and requests the Secretary-General to make the Special Rapporteur's contributions available to all Member States and observer States;

6. *Encourages* Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in order to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur, as well as new and expanded initiatives to strengthen national capacities for the equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

7. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, to submit a report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-third session.

*47th plenary meeting
21 July 2004*