

promotion and protection of the right to development; reaffirmed that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing; affirmed that the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide and developing countries face difficulties participating in the globalization process; affirmed that non-fulfilment of development expectations risks the rekindling of non-democratic forces; affirmed, *inter alia*, that (a) structural reforms which do not take social realities into account could destabilize democratization processes, (b) effective popular participation is an essential component of successful and lasting development, and (c) the participation of developing countries in the international economic decision-making process needs to be broadened and strengthened; welcomed the high priority given by the High Commissioner to activities related to the right to development; decided to establish for a three-year period a follow-up mechanism, consisting of an open-ended working group and an independent expert; invited the High Commissioner to present a report to the Commission each year, for the duration of the mechanism, covering: (a) activities of the OHCHR related to implementation of the right, (b) implementation of relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission, and (c) inter-agency coordination within the UN system for implementation of relevant resolutions; and, requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the 1998 General Assembly and the 1999 Commission on the implementation of the various provisions of this resolution.

The open-ended working group was authorized to meet for five days prior to the Commission's sessions in the years 2000 and 2001 and was given the tasks of:

- ♦ monitoring and reviewing progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development;
- ♦ reviewing reports and other information submitted by states, UN agencies, other international organizations and NGOs on the relationship between their activities and the right to development; and
- ♦ presenting a sessional report on its deliberations to the Commission.

The independent expert was mandated to prepare for each session of the working group a study on the current state of progress in the implementation of the right to development.



DISABILITIES

The Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities were adopted by the General Assembly in 1993. The Rules stipulated that they would be monitored within the framework of the Commission

for Social Development (CSD). In March 1994, the Secretary-General appointed a Special Rapporteur (SR) for a period of three years to monitor implementation of the Standard Rules. The SR mandate was renewed by the CSD at its 1997 session. The SR in 1998 was Mr. Bengt Lindqvist.

At its 1997 session, the Commission on Human Rights invited the SR to present a report to its 1998 session. The report prepared for the CSD and made available to the Commission (A/52/56, issued as a 1997 General Assembly document) provides information on, *inter alia*: the background and framework for the SR's activities; the activities and programmes within the UN system and among non-governmental organizations in support of persons with disabilities; steps taken with regard to promoting the implementation of the Standard Rules; and surveys of progress in such areas as legislation, accessibility, education and employment.

The report recalls that section IV of the Standard Rules established three components related to implementation, viz. that: monitoring take place within the framework of the sessions of the CSD; a special rapporteur be appointed to do the actual monitoring and report to the CSD; and, non-governmental organizations in the disability field be invited to establish among themselves a panel of experts to be consulted by the SR. The report notes that the recommendations made by the NGO panel of experts (five women and five men) included, *inter alia*, that:

- ♦ the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in 1982, be seen as the framework for prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities; the long-term strategy adopted by the General Assembly in 1994 be seen as a tool in the implementation of the Standard Rules;
- ♦ monitoring be carried out cooperatively between the UN and the panel of experts and between governments, national NGOs and the UN;
- ♦ bearing in mind that the goal is to achieve implementation of all 22 rules, monitoring efforts concentrate on six areas: legislation, coordination of work, organizations of persons with disabilities, accessibility, education and employment;
- ♦ efforts be made to involve UN specialized agencies and regional commissions in implementation of the Rules; and
- ♦ further action be taken to increase awareness in governments, NGOs and the UN system of the Rules and the need for their implementation.

The effort to assess the extent to which the Standard Rules have been implemented and the impact they have had involved several rounds of correspondence with governments. In general, the results of the first survey, based on a limited number of responses, indicated that: (a) most governments had "acted in the spirit of the