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**International cooperation to reduce the impact of the  
El Niño phenomenon****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report, which is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 52/200 of 18 December 1997, provides an overview of actions taken by the international community and the United Nations system towards enhancing international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon. The report elaborates on the scientific and technical aspects of the El Niño phenomenon, and describes existing mechanisms in both the scientific and the social and economic domains that are related to El Niño effects and natural disaster impacts. The report analyses the opportunities and requirements for preventive action in order to make communities at risk more resilient to the impacts of future El Niño events. The report emphasizes the need for multisectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration, especially between the scientific, technological and operational responsibilities of the United Nations system, within the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The report provides information about the organization and objectives of the first intergovernmental meeting of experts on El Niño, called for in the above resolution, and projects the ongoing process of integrating El Niño specific concerns in the disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century, developed within IDNDR. The report presents recommendations for further action.