

***V. The Start of the Implementation Phase -  
General Assembly Resolution 46/149  
Toward the World Conference on  
Natural Disaster Reduction (1994)***



Lava flow at Mt. Etna, Italy.  
Courtesy: Osservatorio Vesuviano / A. Biasiucci.

## **UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/149.**

### **INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION**

#### **The General Assembly,**

*Recalling* its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, in which it proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and 45/185 of 21 December 1990,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/58 of 26 July 1991,

*Reaffirming* the need for the international community to demonstrate the strong political determination required to mobilize and use existing scientific and technical knowledge to mitigate natural disasters, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs of developing countries,

*Welcoming* the positive steps taken by approximately one hundred Governments in establishing national committees or focal points to stimulate and coordinate disaster mitigation activities for the purpose of attaining the objective and goals set for the Decade,

*Reconfirming* the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international co-operation in order to mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and coordinate relief, preparedness and prevention,

*Welcoming* the establishment of the Special High-Level Council, which completes the organizational arrangements for the Decade called for in its resolution 44/236, and the inaugural session of the Council, held in New York on 9 and 10 October 1991, on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction,

*Expressing its appreciation* to those countries that have provided generous support to the activities of the Decade through voluntary contributions, including staff secondments, the development and implementation of disaster reduction projects and the hosting of activities or meetings related to the Decade,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade, the addendum to which contains the New York Declaration of the Special High-Level Council and the first annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the Decade, *1/*

*1. Endorses* the Declaration of the Special High-Level Council and encourages the members of the Council to embark actively on the implementation of their tasks, with particular attention to increasing public

*At the conclusion of the first two years of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Special High-Level Council and of the Scientific and Technical Committee, decided to convene in 1994 a world conference of representatives of national committees for the IDNDR and commended those countries which have already adopted the national disaster mitigation policies in resolution 46/149*

awareness of the potential for disaster reduction and raising support for the activities of the Decade from Governments, funding organizations and the business community;

2. *Endorses* the recommendations contained in the first annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the Decade, <sup>2/</sup> while recognizing that implementation by disaster-vulnerable countries of the targets set by that Committee would constitute significant progress in reducing the impact of disasters during the Decade;



Earthquakes affect also health services and facilities. Iran 1991.  
Photo: WHO / O. Elo

3. *Endorses also* the proposal of the Scientific and Technical Committee concerning the convening in 1994 of a world conference of representatives of national committees for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, <sup>3/</sup> which would bring together partici-

pants from a broad range of sectors of activity, including the scientific and technological sector, the business sector and the industrial sector, as well as non-governmental groups, and which would serve as a substantive contribution to the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, called for in its resolution 44/236;

4. *Commends* the initiatives already taken by countries exposed to disasters to reduce their vulnerability, and encourages them to continue with the adoption of national disaster mitigation policies and their implementation during the Decade in the context of their socio-economic development, taking into account the targets proposed by the Scientific and Technical Committee as a measure of progress in disaster reduction;

5. *Stresses* the benefits of regional meetings with heads of national committees, such as that organized by the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Americas, the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator at Guatemala City from 9 to 13 September 1991;

6. *Invites* Governments to accelerate communication and co-operation globally and at the regional level in order to share valuable experience and to transfer scientific and technical knowledge for disaster mitigation;

7. *Reiterates* its appeals to the international community, in particular, to donor countries, for adequate funding, including contributions to the Trust Fund, for carrying out the activities of the Decade;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the activities of the Decade.

<sup>1/</sup> A/46/266-E/1991/106 and Add.1.

<sup>2/</sup> A/46/266-E/1991/106/ Add.1, annex II.

<sup>3/</sup> Ibid., para. 6 (e).



Flash Flood. Melbourne, VIC, Australia (1971).  
Courtesy: Australian IDNDR Co-ordination Committee





Set of stamps issued by the Belize Postal Service in commemoration of the  
International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

Courtesy: STOP DISASTERS n.5, January-February 1992