



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/43/731
21 October 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
Agenda item 86

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly decision 42/433

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision 42/433 of 11 December 1987 on the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/657) on the implementation of its resolution 41/201 of 8 December 1986, the General Assembly decided to request the Secretary-General to proceed with the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations contained in his report and, *inter alia*, welcomed the initiative of the Secretary-General to establish a central focal point in the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation to ensure effective response by the United Nations system in the field of disaster and other emergency situations. The General Assembly further decided to consider the matter at its forty-third session together with a progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of that decision. The present progress report is submitted pursuant thereto.

II. OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

2. In his report, the Secretary-General recommended that UNDR0 should focus its attention on sudden natural disasters and on preparation and prevention measures related thereto, and indicated that it was his intention to ask the Advisory Management Service to assist in adjusting the work programme and organization of UNDR0 to reflect that orientation. The study is currently in process. In this context, due account is being taken of the work of UNDR0 as presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (A/43/375 and Corr.1). The results of the Advisory Management Service study and any consequent action will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

3. As recommended, a joint UNDR0/UNDP task force was established to work out improved modalities for co-operation. The initial stages of the task force's work were conducted on a bilateral basis between UNDP and UNDR0, with the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation participating in an observer capacity. The conclusions and recommendations of the task force were then discussed at an inter-agency meeting at which representatives of other concerned entities of the United Nations system participated.

4. The final report of the task force is attached as an annex to the present report. The report contains several specific recommendations to strengthen the co-operation between UNDP and UNDR0. It also deals in some detail with co-operative arrangements between all organizations in the field, including the strengthening of government mechanisms to deal with disasters. UNDP and UNDR0 are formulating the necessary work programme to implement these recommendations.

5. Given the important role ascribed to UNDR0 in the management of disaster-related information, steps are being taken to strengthen this capacity - notably in the post-disaster collection, evaluation and dissemination of information. The report of the UNDP/UNDR0 task force sets forth strengthened procedures for the international exchange of information; the Advisory Management Service report reviews what UNDR0 has recently done to improve internal information management and suggests some additional measures. Both underscore the considerable potential for rapid, economical, multi-user communications by means of electronic mail, using the facility established by UNDR0 called the international disaster management information network, which affords direct access to a parallel network used by UNDR0's field representative, UNDP, and can offer rapid international access to constantly updated information in disaster situations.

III. OPERATIONS AT THE FIELD LEVEL

6. As indicated above, the report of the UNDR0/UNDP task force addresses issues related to the responsibilities of the United Nations resident co-ordinator and his colleagues in the field. Specific reference is made in this context to the need for a standing United Nations disaster response team in disaster-prone countries, with full representation by the relevant entities of the United Nations system. It is noted that in its resolution 1988/51 the Economic and Social Council recognized the importance, particularly in disaster-prone countries, that the United Nations system be organized, under the resident co-ordinator, in an emergency operations group.

IV. UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS ARRANGEMENTS

7. The Secretary-General has entrusted the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation with the responsibility, on a continuing basis, of ensuring that he is kept fully informed on potential and existing disaster situations so as to be in a position to take appropriate action. The above arrangements involve no changes in the reporting arrangements or operational responsibilities of the relevant entities of the United Nations system. The various entities of the system retain responsibilities in their respective areas of

competence. In areas falling outside the specific mandate of a particular agency, and with a focus on sudden natural disasters, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator has system-wide responsibilities as set forth in General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971. The responsibility entrusted to the Director-General is designed to provide a capacity at United Nations Headquarters to follow developments and the adequacy of response and thus assist the Secretary-General in making full use of his authority in mobilizing the international community and in facilitating a co-ordinated response.

8. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation has sought to make the fullest possible use of existing resources and arrangements. Within the Office of the Director-General, responsibility for matters relating to disaster and emergency situations has been entrusted to the Director for Operational Activities. A close working relationship has been established with UNDRO; the Director of the UNDRO Liaison Office at United Nations Headquarters assists the Director-General in carrying out his responsibilities. The UNDRO Liaison Office actively participates in formal arrangements such as the African Emergency Task Force and has, on several occasions, arranged informal meetings to review specific situations. Rather than establish new reporting arrangements, the Director-General has taken steps to ensure access to existing reports; however, as the situation merits, he has taken the initiative to request special ad hoc reports. In all of these areas, a major concern has been to ensure a timely, adequate, and co-ordinated response by the United Nations system.

V. OTHER ISSUES

9. The report of the Secretary-General (A/42/657) identifies several issues meriting further consideration (para. 28). Many of these issues are addressed in the report of the UNDP/UNDRO task force referred to above. In addition, these issues have been drawn to the attention of the Organization Committee of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. Further inter-agency consultations will be held within the framework of that Committee.

10. The report of the Secretary-General also refers to the possibility of convening a technical panel to advise him on ways and means to take advantage of technological advances in dealing with disaster and emergency situations. This activity is now being pursued in connection with General Assembly resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987 entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction", in particular the establishment of an international ad hoc experts group for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. A separate report on progress in the implementation of this resolution has been submitted to this session of the General Assembly (A/43/723).

ANNEX

Final report of the joint UNDP/UNDRO task force to improve
co-operation for disaster response, mitigation and
rehabilitation

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
Preface		5
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 13	6
II. THE UNDP/UNDRO CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS REACHED ON HOW TO IMPROVE THEM	14 - 53	8
III. INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	54 - 74	16
IV. SUMMARY OF THE AGREEMENTS REACHED AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARRIVED AT BY THE UNDP/UNDRO MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE REGARDING OPERATIONAL MODALITIES BETWEEN UNDP AND UNDRO ...	75 - 122	21

PREFACE

The present report has been prepared by the UNDP/UNDRO members of the joint task force established pursuant to the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/657 and Corr.1) on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/201 of 8 December 1986, endorsed by General Assembly decision 42/433 of 11 December 1987.

UNDP and UNDRO have met and reviewed matters chiefly concerning their relationship. This review is reflected in parts I and II and summarized in part IV.

Part III concerns aspects of the report which affect other organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, also summarized in part IV.

It is recognized that the review has resulted in agreements and recommendations for the most part bearing on arrangements that already exist but do not appear to have been implemented effectively. It is the hope of UNDP and UNDRO that the envisioned strengthening and clarification of these arrangements, combined with new measures, will bring about the desired improvements.

It will be noted that while in parts I and II reference is, as a rule, made to the UNDP/UNDRO resident representative, in part III reference is made to the resident co-ordinator of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system. This is attributable to the fact that most of the responsibilities referred to in parts I and II are, by written agreement between UNDP and UNDRO, operational functions carried out by the UNDP resident representative in his capacity as UNDRO representative, while the functions referred to in part III are of a co-ordinating nature and therefore very much in line with the general mandate of a resident co-ordinator. At the same time, this is consistent with the terms of General Assembly resolution 36/225 of 17 December 1981.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations recommended that "the United Nations Development Programme should be requested to consider the feasibility of taking over the functions currently performed by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator" (A/41/49, recommendation 24).

2. In its resolution 41/201 of 8 December 1986, the General Assembly noted, inter alia, the "different nature and functions of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the United Nations Development Programme".

3. In its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the General Assembly referred the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to the Secretary-General for implementation, subject to taking duly into account, in the implementation of recommendation 24, the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/201 of 8 December 1986.

4. In his progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 (A/42/234 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General states: "With regard to recommendation 24, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator is being retained as a separate entity located in Geneva, but measures will be taken to improve its performance. The comprehensive review and assessment of existing mechanisms and arrangements for emergency assistance and co-ordination called for in General Assembly resolution 41/201 will provide a basis for specific recommendations both in this regard as well as for the co-ordination and rationalization of emergency humanitarian and special economic assistance programmes called for in recommendation 23."

5. In his report (A/42/657 and Corr.1) on implementation of resolution 41/201, in which he reviewed and assessed existing arrangements for emergency assistance and co-ordination, the Secretary-General reaffirmed that UNDR0 was retained as a separate entity in Geneva. Given the complementary responsibilities of UNDR0 and UNDP with respect to the response to disasters and emergencies, rehabilitation and the resumption of development, however, the Secretary-General recommended that a "joint UNDP/UNDR0 task force be established to work out improved modalities of co-operation. Other organizations of the system should be invited to join this task force, as appropriate". The General Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendations in decision 42/433 of 11 December 1987.

6. In December 1987, UNDP and UNDR0 reached agreement on a common course of action to implement paragraph 21 of the report of the Secretary-General. The date of the first meeting was set for 13 January, and the task force would conclude its work within three months.

7. A report of the Secretary-General (A/38/202) submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session identified three types of emergencies in which the United Nations system could be involved:

(a) Those disaster situations "which fell clearly within the competence of one of the United Nations organizations or specialized agencies and for which that organization was primarily responsible". For example FAO, WFP, UNHCR, WHO and UNICEF have clearly defined emergency programmes for which they alone are responsible. This category could cover the cases where one agency could handle a task alone, or in practical co-operation with others, or in the formal role of lead agency;

(b) Natural disasters and other disaster situations in which "aspects" fell outside "the specific mandate of a particular ... agency, involved more than one organization and necessitated the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator playing a co-ordinating role for the United Nations system as a whole;

(c) "... in exceptional circumstances, there might be disasters and emergencies of such magnitude or complexity that special arrangements would be needed to co-ordinate, mobilize and deliver emergency relief".

8. With the exception of measures related to UNDRO's "information clearinghouse function", the provisions of the present report refer to disaster situations in the second category in which "aspects" fall outside "the specific mandate of a particular agency" or "involve more than one organization".

9. It was decided that the task force should comprise up to three staff from each organization and an observer from the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation. Other organizations of the United Nations system would be associated at an appropriate stage once matters concerning the relationship between UNDP and UNDRO had been addressed. The concept of rotating chairmanship was agreed to.

10. Terms of reference were decided on at the first meeting.

11. The issues included measures to strengthen the relationship between UNDP and UNDRO; institutional capacity and skills, relief co-ordination and management; assessment of relief needs; Situation Reports and information management; emergency grants; disaster preparedness, prevention and the UNDP Country Programming and project formulation process; rehabilitation and reconstruction. The issues discussed and consequent agreements are elaborated in part B.

12. Two sets of meetings were held between UNDP and UNDRO: on 13 and 14 January, and on 10 and 12 February and 2 March. A meeting in which other organizations of the United Nations system would participate was scheduled for 29 and 30 March 1988 in Geneva. The task force would conclude its work with the submission of its final report shortly thereafter.

13. The work of the task force will result in:

(a) Agreements reached on substantive aspects of the co-operation between UNDP and UNDRO and on procedures to improve it;

(b) A revised set of instructions in the form of a new entry to the UNDP Programme and Projects Manual;

(c) A brief memorandum of understanding or agreement between UNDP and UNDRO;

(d) A standing mechanism for consultation between UNDP and UNDRO;

(e) A report of the task force that will be reflected in the submission of the Secretary-General to the forty-third session of the General Assembly.

II. THE UNDP/UNDRO CO-OPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND AGREEMENTS REACHED ON HOW TO IMPROVE THEM

A. History of the UNDP/UNDRO relationship

14. The importance of the representational role at the field level of the UNDP Resident Representatives as UNDRO representatives has been recognized since the founding of UNDRO by General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, which included reference to the envisaged disaster-related responsibilities of the UNDP Resident Representatives. Successive and increasingly detailed instructions on "the role of UNDP Resident Representatives in respect of pre-disaster planning and disaster relief" have been issued by UNDP in agreement with UNDRO in 1974, 1979, 1982, and 1983.

15. The UNDP Resident Representatives have acted for UNDRO in the field in a variety of disaster-related activities (relief, prevention, preparedness). Ad hoc consultations have occurred between UNDP and UNDRO in different ways: visits of UNDP Resident Representatives to UNDRO in Geneva, UNDRO participation in regional and global meetings of UNDP Resident Representatives, discussions at UNDP and UNDRO headquarters on specific issues.

16. Since 1982, following the passage of General Assembly resolution 36/225 (17 December 1981) on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations, the UNDP Resident Representatives' responsibilities with respect to disasters have also reflected their role as Resident Co-ordinators of the Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations system as indicated in the UNDP Administrator's letter of 20 July 1982.

17. As far as joint UNDP/UNDRO disaster mitigation activities are concerned, UNDRO has been implementing UNDP-funded prevention and preparedness projects as a sub-contractor or associate agency since 1981.

B. Issues relating to the present co-operation between UNDP and UNDRO and modalities agreed to for its improvement

18. In its work, the task force reviewed the present co-operation between the two organizations with respect to arrangements between the two headquarters and between

headquarters and the field. The issues discussed were of three types: conceptual, institutional and substantive.

1. Conceptual issues

19. The task force agreed to summarize the functions of the UNDP/UNDRO mechanism with respect to disaster response and mitigation as follows.

20. The efforts of the United Nations system as a whole aim to assist Governments of disaster-prone countries to strengthen their disaster management capacities so as to develop self-sufficiency in disaster mitigation and in disaster response. When national capacity and resources are insufficient to meet disaster mitigation and disaster relief needs following a disaster, the United Nations system aims at ensuring that resources from outside the country are made available to complement national efforts. While organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system will provide assistance within their respective mandates, the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator should be the focal point in the country for mobilization efforts in this field.

21. A mechanism capable of providing a speedy, accurate and co-ordinated response to disasters is needed. Rapid reporting to UNDRO by UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representatives on the occurrence of a disaster accompanied by initial damage assessment, however tentative, is required, followed by regular and systematic reporting. The United Nations system should strive to come up with a consolidated assessment of emergency requirements. The UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative should be the focal point for the collection of information on such assessments which would be carried out by individual agencies or organizations of the United Nations system. To the extent feasible, the headquarters of the specialized agencies will be consulted on the assessment reports or parts thereof in their areas of competence.* These consolidated assessments will be diffused through UNDRO to appropriate entities of the international community, and could form the basis of appeals for funds.

2. Institutional issues

22. The task force recognized the key responsibilities of the UNDP Resident Representative, as UNDRO representative, especially in the often complex and sensitive situations attending major disasters. This implies special recognition of the disaster-proneness of certain countries, and consequent understanding by the UNDP/UNDRO representative of how to deal with disasters and related issues. UNDRO agreed to advise UNDP systematically on the disaster-proneness of countries, and UNDP agreed to take this aspect into consideration in the appointment of UNDP Resident Representatives to these countries.

* One agency asked that agency field assessments be cleared by respective headquarters.

23. In order to formalize the UNDP Resident Representatives' responsibilities and authority as UNDRO representatives, the task force agreed that the UNDP Resident Representative would receive a letter from the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator on appointment.

24. The task force considered that existing arrangements to inform the UNDP Resident Representative of his disaster-related responsibilities were not adequate. It was agreed that a more systematic briefing procedure would be established for UNDP Resident Representatives when on agency visits in Geneva - especially those newly assigned to disaster-prone countries. Similarly, the Director of the UNDRO Liaison Office in New York would meet with UNDP Resident Representatives visiting UNDP headquarters. Whenever possible, the briefing procedures would be extended to Deputy UNDP Resident Representatives.

25. The task force agreed that the normal procedure for dispatching an UNDRO delegate to the field would be for UNDRO to consult with the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative. In cases of major sudden disasters, the concurrence of the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative would be assumed unless the Resident Representative informed UNDRO to the contrary. Under these circumstances, UNDRO would notify the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative in advance of the delegate's arrival.

26. In order to provide additional and specialized assistance to the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative following a disaster, within the UNDP Office the UNDRO delegate would normally report directly to the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative; assistance needed by him could come from any part of the UNDP office. The delegate's interaction with the government, local governmental and non-governmental donor representatives, and United Nations system offices would always occur in the name of the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative.

27. For the purpose of making full use of information held in respective data bases, UNDP and UNDRO agreed to exploit further the on-line electronic information system between the two organizations - both between headquarters, and between headquarters and the field. Similarly, the data bases or networks of other organizations should be linked, exploited and developed to the common benefit (see section III).

28. The task force considered the systematic secondment of staff between UNDP and UNDRO as desirable to strengthen understanding of respective policies, procedures and practices. This should include assignments of UNDRO staff to field offices in disaster-prone countries and of UNDP staff to UNDRO.

29. In order to ensure maximum exchange of information on disaster-related matters, UNDRO will liaise direct with UNDP Regional Bureaux concerning arrangements for its participation in regional meetings of UNDP Resident Representatives. Whenever possible, advantage would be taken of such occasions for UNDRO to bring together, before or after the regional meeting, UNDP Resident Representatives of disaster-prone countries for consultation on disaster-related matters. Participation of UNDRO in global meetings of UNDP Resident Representatives will continue to be arranged directly between the two organizations.

30. The task force considered that the present guidelines (UNDP/PROG/FIELD/110/Rev.1 of 12 October 1983) should be replaced to provide clearer and more comprehensive guidance to UNDP staff with respect to disaster management. It was agreed that new guidelines would be issued and included within the UNDP Programme and Project Manual, and notably in a UNDP/UNDRO Disaster Management Manual to be prepared (see para. 49).

3. Substantive issues

(a) Relief

31. The task force reviewed existing instructions and practices concerning relief co-ordination in the field and reached agreement that these practices and arrangements should be considerably reinforced to reflect co-ordination responsibilities and quality of response.

32. The chief responsibility for the co-ordination of both national relief and international relief within a country rests with the Government of that country. The United Nations Resident Co-ordinator provides co-ordination support activities that complement the Government's efforts, either in consultation with, or in direct support of, the focal point in the Government for disaster relief.

33. The task force, in reviewing the experience of the two organizations, concluded that qualitative improvements to international disaster response could be brought about through greater rigour in exercising the existing procedures. In particular, the task force urged that UNDRO appeals or requests for international assistance should be based on sound and regularly adjusted assessments of needs (derived from information provided by the Government, United Nations organizations and other agencies); tighter and more accurate reporting of these needs; and systematic and up-to-date recording of contributions, balanced off against relief requirements.

(i) Assessment of disaster impact and relief needs

34. The task force highlighted the importance of sound assessments regularly revised on the basis of evolving relief needs as a basis for effective national and international response. In this connection, the task force recommended that there be a consolidated assessment of relief needs comprised of the assessments made by organizations of the United Nations system, and others as appropriate, of areas of their specific concern. This consolidated assessment should provide the international community with a clear, rapid and consistent picture of the priority components of the needs. The focal point for the co-ordination of this consolidated assessment is the United Nations Resident Co-ordinator. Inputs from other organizations of the United Nations system should be provided, for example, from FAO for agriculture and overall food supply/demand, from WHO for health, from UNICEF for drinking water supply, shelter, nutrition and supplementary feeding, from WFP for emergency food and logistics, from UNHCR where refugees are a component of a larger emergency within the scope of this report, from UNESCO for physical structural assessments after earthquakes, and from the Government, as well as from donors and non-governmental organizations.

35. The task force recognized that a standard methodology for simple initial assessment of impact and definition of needs was lacking within the UNDP/UNDRO mechanism and to a certain extent within Governments themselves. It was agreed that UNDRO would develop appropriate guidelines in consultation with the concerned United Nations organizations, and taking into consideration existing methodologies. It was recommended that the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representatives share these with government counterparts.

36. The task force recognized the vital importance of sound information management at both the national and international levels in assuring effective and efficient international response to disasters. It recognized that given time and distance factors and the number of entities involved, this was a complex process. The UNDP/UNDRO mechanism can capitalize on a variety of technical and organizational means by which to rationalize the process - in particular to ensure that a single and progressively adjusted picture is available to all interested international entities and to the Government concerned, in order to decide on their respective responses. These means include information/co-ordination meetings at national and international levels, and the active use of established means of communications, telephone, facsimile, telex, radio and electronic mail. The task force recommended that opportunities and capabilities for rational and rapid information exchange should be exploited to the maximum, and the process as a whole subject to regular review, evaluation and development.

37. The task force recognized the capacity of the UNDP/UNDRO mechanism to disseminate, both at the international and at the national levels, important information that could be shared commonly among all international respondents to a disaster. UNDRO SITREPS could be the major vehicle by which to do this in an orderly and systematic way. These SITREPS, sent out rapidly to multiple addresses from Geneva, comprise sections on evaluation of a disaster situation, its impact, and assessment of damages and relief requirements of the affected population, on national and international relief activities and programmes, and on pledges and contributions. SITREPS underscore, on a continuing basis, the evolution of a situation and outstanding relief needs.

38. There are various sources of information available to UNDRO in the preparation of SITREPS, but the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative is held as the most significant contributor and the one on whom the prime responsibility for independent and comprehensive reporting remains. In this respect, the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative is expected to report immediately to UNDRO with whatever details are available. This reporting involves a judgement regarding the magnitude of a disaster and the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative's estimate of the national capacity to respond. Initial reports should follow in a regular and systematic manner. These should provide information of increasing detail and quality. Information should be given as to whether or not the Government has requested international assistance, or the launching of an international appeal, as soon as this is known.

39. Initial information from the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative to UNDRO should be followed by regular and systematic reporting. This should be based on multisectoral input from the United Nations Disaster Response Team, and other locally acquired information. To this, UNDRO at the headquarters level may add

/...

information received from additional sources, in particular United Nations system organizations. The task force emphasized the importance of UNDRO, clearly identifying in its SITREPS the source of information on the extent of damage and on needs estimates. This requires the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative to make the necessary distinctions in reporting to UNDRO. To the extent feasible, the headquarters of the specialized United Nations agencies will be consulted on the assessment reports or parts thereof in their areas of competence.*

40. The task force prescribed that, before the issuance of the SITREPS, there would be consultations between UNDRO and the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative concerning the text. UNDRO should ensure that all the interested parties are consulted to the extent feasible at the international level, and receive situation reports. For his/her part, the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative, at the national level, should ensure that copies of the SITREPS are passed to the Government and to the locally represented international community for the purpose of contributing to local co-ordination. The task force recommended that there be a standardized format for the SITREPS. This format should be provided to UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representatives for field reporting to UNDRO headquarters. Guidelines to this effect would be included in the UNDP Programme and Project Manual.

(ii) Disaster-related grants

41. The task force distinguished the following types of UNDP and UNDRO disaster-related grants. For UNDRO, this consisted of (a) grants from UNDRO's own resources, and (b) grants channelled through UNDRO. For UNDP, there are three types: (a) from the special programme resources for relief, (b) from the special programme resources for reconstruction, and (c) third-party grants channelled through UNDP.

42. The task force recognized that uncertainties concerning the allocation of grants from UNDRO's own resources had possibly led to less than optimum use of these limited resources. As far as UNDRO is concerned, these grants from the United Nations Regular Budget would be made only following a request for international assistance and after endorsement by the UNDP/UNDRO Resident Representative. For its part, UNDP will at least match the UNDRO grants from UNDP's own resources and consult with UNDRO on making its own relief-related grants. With respect to reconstruction grants, UNDP will consult with UNDRO on the disaster mitigation component of reconstruction projects. The modalities for the execution of third-party grants would depend on the terms agreed to with donors.

(b) Mitigation

43. The task force recognized the importance of disaster mitigation in the developmental process in disaster-prone countries, whereby investments in disaster mitigation measures can bring about significant reductions in the adverse

* One agency asked that agency field assessments be cleared by respective headquarters.