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## GENERAL ASSEMBLY - TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

### RESOLUTION No. 2315 (XXVI). Assistance in case of natural disaster and other disaster situations

*The General Assembly,*

*Bearing in mind* that throughout history natural disasters and emergency situations have inflicted heavy loss of life and property, affecting every people and every country,

*Aware of and concerned* about the suffering caused by natural disasters and the serious economic and social consequences for all, especially the developing countries,

*Also aware of the varying needs of nations experiencing such disorders, which present new challenges for international co-operation,*

*Concerned about the ability of the international community to come to the aid of countries in a disaster situation,*

*Recalling its resolutions 2034 (XX) of 7 December 1965, 2435 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2503 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 2717 (XXV) of 15 December 1970, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1533 (XLIX) of 23 July 1970 and 1546 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970 on assistance in cases of natural disaster,*

*Expressing appreciation of the Secretary-General's comprehensive report<sup>21</sup> and of its perceptive examination of all aspects of the question, and taking note of the relevant passage in his statement to the Economic and Social Council on 5 July 1971,<sup>22</sup>*

*Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1512 (LI) of 23 July 1971 on assistance in cases of natural disaster and other emergency situations,*

*Noting the study, annexed to the Secretary-General's report, on the legal status of disaster relief units made available through the United Nations,<sup>23</sup>*

*Mindful of the need to strengthen and make more effective the collective efforts of the international community, and particularly the United Nations system, in the field of international disaster assistance,*

*Bearing in mind that assistance provided at the request of the stricken countries, without prejudice to their individual country programmes under the United Nations Development Programme, can be an effective contribution to the reconstruction and development of the stricken areas,*

*Bearing in mind also that the possible response of the International Bank for Reconstruction and*

*Development and other credit organizations and development agencies to a request from the Governments concerned for complementary assistance to the stricken areas, without prejudice to the assistance provided by those organizations for the normal development programmes of the stricken countries, can be an important element in the reconstruction and development of those areas,*

*Noting the competence of the United Nations and its related agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme to render assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations,*

*Noting further the key role which the resident representatives of the United Nations Development Programme could play at the country level,*

*Recognizing the vital role in international relief played by the International Red Cross and other voluntary societies,*

*Recognizing further the necessity to ensure prompt, effective and efficient response to a Government's need for assistance, at the time of a natural disaster or other disaster situation, that will bring to bear the resources of the United Nations system, prospective donor countries and voluntary agencies,*

1. *Calls upon the Secretary-General to appoint a Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, who will report directly to him and who will be authorized, on his behalf:*

(a) *To establish and maintain the closest co-operation with all organizations concerned and to make all feasible advance arrangements with them for the purpose of ensuring the most effective assistance;*

(b) *To mobilize, direct and co-ordinate the relief activities of the various organizations of the United Nations system in response to a request for disaster assistance from a stricken State;*

(c) *To co-ordinate United Nations assistance with assistance given by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular by the International Red Cross;*

(d) *To receive, on behalf of the Secretary-General, contributions offered to him for disaster relief assistance to be carried out by the United Nations, its agencies and programmes for particular emergency situations;*

(e) *To assist the Government of the stricken country to assess its relief and other needs and to evaluate the priority of those needs, to disseminate that information to prospective donors and others concerned, and to serve as a clearing-house for*

<sup>21</sup> E/1970/4.

<sup>22</sup> See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-first Session, 1971, A more info.

<sup>23</sup> E/1970/4, annex III.

assistance extended or planned by all sources of external aid;

(f) To promote the study, prevention, control and prediction of natural disasters, including the collection and dissemination of information concerning technological developments;

(g) To assist in providing advice to Governments on pre-disaster planning in association with relevant voluntary organizations, particularly with the League of Red Cross Societies, and to draw upon United Nations resources available for such purposes;

(h) To acquire and disseminate information relevant to planning and co-ordinating disaster relief, including the improvement and establishment of resources in disaster-prone areas, and to prepare suggestions to ensure the most effective use of available resources;

(i) To phase out relief operations under his aegis as the stricken country moves into the stage of rehabilitation and reconstruction, but to continue to interest himself, within the framework of his responsibilities for relief, in the activities of the United Nations agencies concerned with rehabilitation and reconstruction;

(j) To prepare an annual report for the Secretary-General, to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly;

2. *Recommends* that the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator should be appointed by the Secretary-General normally for a term of five years and at a level comparable to that of an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations;

3. *Endorses* the Secretary-General's proposals for an adequate permanent office in the United Nations which may be the focal point in the United Nations system for disaster relief matters;

4. *Recommends* that that office should be headed by the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and located in Geneva, be a distinct element within the United Nations Secretariat and be augmented as necessary by short term secondments of personnel for individual emergencies;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare for the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-third session, taking into account any relevant suggestions and the experience gained by the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, a report on any further steps which may be required to enable the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator adequately to perform the functions entrusted to him under the present resolution;

6. *Further endorses* the plan for a roster of volunteers to be drawn from experienced staff members of the United Nations system and interested non-governmental organizations, who could be made available at very short notice;

7. *Recommends* that the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator should maintain contact with the Governments of States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency concerning available aid in emergency situations, such as food supplies, medicines, personnel, transportation and communications, as well as advice to countries in pre-disaster planning and preparedness;

8. *Invites* potential recipient Governments:

(a) To establish disaster contingency plans with appropriate assistance from the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

(b) To appoint a single national disaster relief co-ordinator to facilitate the receipt of international aid in times of emergency;

(c) To establish stockpiles of emergency supplies, such as tents, blankets, medicines and non-perishable food-stuffs;

(d) To make necessary arrangements for the training of administrative and relief personnel;

(e) To consider appropriate legislative or other measures to facilitate the receipt of aid, including over-flight and landing rights and necessary privileges and immunities for relief units;

(f) To improve national disaster warning systems;

9. *Invites* potential donor Governments:

(a) To respond promptly to any call by the Secretary-General or, on his behalf, by the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

(b) To consider and to continue offering on a wider basis emergency assistance in disaster situations;

(c) To inform the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in advance about the facilities and services they might be in a position to provide immediately, including where possible relief units, logistical support and means of effective communication;

10. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$200,000 for emergency assistance in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$20,000 per country in the case of any one disaster;

11. *Further invites* all organizations of the United Nations system and all other organizations involved to co-operate with the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY - THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION**  
**RESOLUTION A/RES/36/225. Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations System**  
**to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations.**

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

*Recalling its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, establishing the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the strengthening of that Office, 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, which provides, inter alia, for measures to be taken in support of the activities of the Office, and 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 on the financing of emergency relief assistance and technical co-operation activities of the Office,*

*Recalling also its resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976 on financial arrangements for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,*

*Recalling further the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,<sup>1</sup>*

*Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries containing the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, in particular the section concerning disaster preparedness for least developed countries,<sup>2</sup>*

*Deeply concerned about the increasing number of natural disasters and other disaster situations, the economic burden borne by disaster-stricken and affected countries, particularly the developing countries, and the disruption thereby caused to their development process,*

*Also recalling its resolution 35/107 of 5 December 1980,*

*Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/43 of 23 July 1980 regarding international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in natural disaster and other disaster situations,*

*Fully cognizant of the sovereign interests and rights of affected countries and of the primacy of their role in caring for the victims of natural and other disaster situations,*

*Anxious that the international community should respond speedily and effectively to calls for emergency humanitarian assistance,*

*Recognizing that the quality and appropriateness of material and other assistance provided by the international community should meet the particular needs of the populations of disaster-affected areas,*

*Recognizing the contribution made by the United Nations system to the relief of suffering and provision of humanitarian relief in natural disasters and other disaster situations,*

*Recognizing that the primary responsibility of administration, relief operations and disaster preparedness lies with the affected countries and that the major part of the material assistance and human effort in disaster relief comes from the Governments of those countries,*

*Recognizing also the importance in international relief of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations,*

*Recognizing further that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it is essential to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the United Nations system as a whole in order to enable it to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations speedily, efficiently and effectively, and thereby ensure prompt delivery of concerted relief,*

*Recognizing that a major constraint for the United Nations system to respond effectively to natural disasters and other disaster situations has been the shortage of resources,*

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General and other reports on international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations, as well as on measures for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations<sup>3</sup> and of the statement made by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator before the Second Committee on 5 November 1981,<sup>4</sup>

2. Reaffirms the sovereignty of individual Member States, recognizes the primary role of each State in caring for the victims of disasters occurring in its territory and stresses that all relief operations should be carried out and co-ordinated in a manner consistent with the priorities and needs of the countries concerned;

3. Reaffirms the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, established by the General Assembly in resolution 2816 (XXVI) as the focal point of the United Nations system for disaster relief co-ordination and calls for strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office;

4. Endorses the approaches outlined by the Secretary-General in his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the role of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the various phases of disaster assistance;<sup>5</sup>

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary steps to strengthen the management operations of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

6. Stresses the need to take full advantage of information provided by existing early warning monitoring systems that have been developed to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system in responding to

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

<sup>2</sup> A/C.2/L.4/22 and Add.1, part one, para. 53

<sup>3</sup> See A/36/259, A/36/73, E/1981/15 and Corr.1, annex, and decision 1981/2 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

<sup>4</sup> See A/C.2/36/SR.23

<sup>5</sup> A/36/73/Add.1

natural disasters and other disaster situations and to coordinate, as far as feasible and useful, all the relevant early warning systems. To this effect, the capability of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in information collection and dissemination should be further strengthened and improved.

7. Urges the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, and other appropriate organs, to co-operate closely in their respective areas of competence, with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in disaster relief activities and other disaster situations, to respond effectively to the needs of the victims, and to comply promptly with the requests of disaster-affected countries.

8. Decides that, in response to a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken state, as necessary, and in particular in disaster-prone countries, the United Nations resident co-ordinator shall, with the full concurrence, consent and participation of the Government, convene meetings of the concerned organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to plan, monitor and take immediate action to provide assistance; the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations may be invited to participate in such meetings with the approval of the host country;

9. Decides that following a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken state and whenever required to act effectively with complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude, the Secretary-General or his representative, who would normally be the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, shall convene meetings of the concerned organizations of the United Nations system in order to develop a concerted relief programme and conduct ad hoc consultations with the heads or representatives of the agencies concerned with disaster-relief questions, with a view to ensuring speedy and efficient delivery of goods and services to the disaster-stricken areas; these ad hoc consultations should draw on information provided by the Government concerned, as well as on the assessments of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the resident co-ordinator and representatives of other United Nations organizations in the countries concerned, to take into account advice offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations in the field; all agencies with responsibilities for natural disasters and other disaster situations should be involved at the appropriate level in such consultations.

10. Decides that, once it has been determined — on the basis of the above-mentioned information and consultations — that an exceptional or complex natural disaster or other disaster situations requiring system-wide action exist, then the Secretary-General shall designate, at the international level, a lead entity from among the United Nations organizations, agencies and bodies, including the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and at the country level, the appropriate entity of the United Nations system to carry out relief operations, taking into account the specific requirements of the situation and in consultation with the host Government, and calls on all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate closely with one another in their relief operations.

11. Instructs the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to examine annually the role of the lead entity and participating organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in complex disaster situations taking into account decision 1981/2 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, on the deliberations of the Committee;

12. Strongly calls upon all States to respond promptly and expeditiously to the Secretary-General's appeals for contributions to meet natural disasters and other disaster situations;

13. Reiterates, in particular, its appeal in resolution 15/107 for increased contributions to the trust fund of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, in particular to the subaccount for humanitarian emergency relief;

14. Stresses in this regard the need to strengthen operational capacity and the human, material and financial resources available to individual agencies and organizations, in order to enable them to play their respective roles more promptly, efficiently and effectively in natural disasters and other disaster situations;

15. Requests all States to ensure a full flow of information to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, especially regarding relief actions, and also to provide the United Nations system with the necessary personnel and logistical support;

16. Urges Governments in disaster-prone countries to explore further, with the assistance of the donors, appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, the possibility of improving storage, communication and transportation facilities as well as measures to ensure disaster preparedness and prevention;

17. Also urges the international community to assist disaster-prone countries, upon their request, with the establishment of effective national early-warning systems, the development of contingency plans for disaster and the strengthening of measurement capacity for relief requirements and for distribution and monitoring of relief supplies;

18. Calls upon organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to establish emergency units or local points if they are not already in existence;

19. Reaffirms the need for the international community to respond fully to requests for emergency and humanitarian assistance, in particular through increased financial contributions for affected developing countries, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>2</sup> as well as those of the trust fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary progress report concerning the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, and a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1983.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY - THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION  
RESOLUTION A/RES/37/144. SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 36/225 of 19 December 1981, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and called for the strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office,

Recalling also its resolution 35/107 of 3 December 1980, by which it reaffirmed the necessity of ensuring a continued sound financial basis for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and extended until 31 December 1983 the term of the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 3243 (XXX) of 29 November 1974 and modified under its resolutions 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 and 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and by its decision 33/429 of 19 December 1978,

Recalling further its resolution 34/55 of 29 November 1979, by which it requested an increase in emergency disaster assistance, with a normal ceiling of \$30,000 per country in the case of any one disaster,

Deeply concerned about the additional economic burden placed upon the developing countries and by the increasing number of natural disasters and other disaster situations, as well as the disruption caused to their development process,

Recognizing the contribution made by the United Nations system to the relief of suffering and provision of humanitarian relief in natural disasters and other disaster situations,

Recognizing also that the primary responsibilities of administration, relief operations and disaster preparedness lie with the affected countries and that the major part of the material assistance and human effort in disaster relief comes from the Governments of those countries,

Recognizing further the importance of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations,

Recognizing that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it is essential to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the United Nations system as a whole in order to enable the Office to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations speedily, efficiently and effectively, thereby ensuring prompt delivery of concerned relief,

Recognizing that a major constraint on an effective response of the United Nations to natural disasters and other disaster situations has been the shortage of resources,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator<sup>1</sup> and of the statement made by the Co-ordinator before the Second Committee on 2 November 1982;<sup>2</sup>

2. Takes note of the progress made by the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in making improvements in the management operations of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and in establishing modalities for the implementation of the procedures, outlined in General Assembly resolution 36/225 and decision 1982/1 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, for dealing with requests for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken State and for dealing with complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude;

3. Takes note of the appreciation expressed by the Governments of Chad and Lebanon for the activities undertaken by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in those two countries, and requests him to continue his action in response to needs as they arise,

4. Requests the Secretary-General to facilitate, where necessary, rapid appointment of temporary staff and procurement of supplies by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in order to permit a timely response to requests for emergency assistance;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to raise the normal maximum of \$30,000 to \$50,000, the additional \$20,000 to come from voluntary sources, to permit the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to respond with grants to requests for emergency disaster assistance up to a total of \$600,000 in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster,

6. Authorizes the Secretary-General to permit the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to mobilize additional voluntary resources to meet the needs presented by complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude;

7. Decides to maintain as from 1 January 1984 the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and its sub-account;

8. Reiterates, in particular, the appeals made in its resolutions 35/107 and 36/225 for increased contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 3243 (XXX) and modified as indicated in the second preambular paragraph and in paragraph 7 above;

9. Endorses the measures taken by the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to implement General Assembly resolution 36/225 and calls upon the Secretary-General, who will normally be represented by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, to consult with the concerned agencies of the United Nations system in order to develop concerted relief programmes as a basis for united appeals for funds to be launched by the Co-ordinator on behalf of the Secretary-General;

10. Reiterates its desire further to strengthen and improve the capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to take full advantage of information provided by existing early-warning systems and to co-ordinate, to the extent feasible and useful, all

<sup>1</sup> A/37/235 and Corr. 1.

<sup>2</sup> See A/C.2/37/SR.27, paras. 1-9.

relevant early-warning systems, taking into account new technological developments in this field, including communications.

11. Urges all Governments and relevant organs and organizations to co-operate with the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and to improve in particular their flow of information on relief assistance, action and plans;

12. Calls upon the specialized agencies and other constituent organizations of the United Nations system, in order to minimize wasteful duplication of resources, to co-ordinate, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 36/223, their efforts at all stages of the response of the international community to natural disasters and other disaster situations;

13. Reaffirms its belief that the strengthening and reinforcing of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator offers the most efficient and economic means of effectively co-ordinating the relief activities of the United Nations system as a whole in the interests of the survivors of disasters, and requests the Secretary-General to assign a higher priority to strengthening, preferably within the means at his disposal, the financial and manpower resources of the Office;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 36/223, including a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983.

109th Plenary Meeting  
17 December 1982

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DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST FOR USE BY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVESThe Government and national agencies

1. Does the government have a disaster contingency plan?  
Can you obtain a copy? (Send one to UNDRO too.)
2. Does the government have a disaster relief organization?
3. If so, list
  - a. Name, office and home address and telephone numbers of its director.
  - b. Within the organization, who are the senior officials responsible (name, office and home phone for each) for the following functions:
    - Survey of casualties, damage and assessment of needs
    - Food
    - Water
    - Medical assistance
    - Shelter and other relief supplies
    - Co-ordination and liaison with international community (United Nations, embassies, voluntary agencies)
    - Records and reporting
    - Logistics and transport services
    - Communications
    - Security
  - c. Does the organization have a permanent disaster co-ordination centre? If so, list address and phone number(s). Is it accessible during emergencies to foreign donor officials?
4. If there is no governmental disaster organization, which official of the host government is normally made responsible for relief operations?  
Title, name of present incumbent, office and home addresses and phone numbers.



5. List local relief organizations such as Red Cross, Caritas, etc., giving addresses, telephone numbers and names of leaders. Are these agencies effective in disaster situations? Do they dispose of funds and relief supplies?

#### The United Nations

6. List the UN Specialized Agencies in country with resources and personnel potentially effective in emergency situations. Include names of senior representatives, addresses, home and office telephone numbers.
7. List the nature and quantity of normal amounts of in-country supplies and transport maintained by UN agencies. Include addresses of warehouses, etc., as well as names, addresses and telephone numbers of responsible officers.
8. Does the UN country team have its own co-ordination centre which in an emergency can be used as an information and reference point by donor governments, international organizations and voluntary agencies?
9. Has the UN country team reached understandings in advance with the host government, with embassies of donor governments, international organizations and voluntary agencies on such matters as co-ordination, collaboration and information sharing, including the link between the government's co-ordination centre and the United Nations/donors centre? Is there a joint committee?

#### External Donors

10. List embassies, international organizations and voluntary agencies which are usually participants in disaster relief. Note particularly those engaged in economic assistance/development programmes and where their projects are located: and which have personnel possessing skills useful in disasters; e.g. engineers, doctors, nurses, procurement staff, etc. Include names of responsible officers with addresses and phone numbers.

#### In-Country Resources

11. Compile data on the location and availability of relief supplies and services. Medical, shelter and food supplies can often be obtained commercially or from government store-houses, either locally or in neighbouring countries.

#### Health

- (i) Hospitals, clinics, other health facilities, public or private. Names, addresses, phone numbers of responsible officials; number of beds, ambulances, availability of any special equipment; number of doctors, trained nurses, and nurses' aides.

- (ii) Medical supplies, with particular reference to wide-spectrum antibiotics, anti-diarrhoeal medicines, fracture supplies and surgical equipment. Names, locations, telephone numbers of government or private medical supply storehouses; pharmaceutical companies or associations; laboratories for vaccines or anti-venom serums.

#### Food

- (i) Resources: Location and telephone numbers of grain silos, food storage sheds or warehouses, commercial importers, food wholesalers, markets. WFP and other donor food stocks in-country.
- (ii) Supplementary data: food habits and customs; population estimates of cities, towns, provinces; average family size; prepare sample ration card for use by host country officials, if ration systems not already established practice.

#### Transport

- (i) Roads: Obtain a reliable road map, if available, and identify essential roads with best alternative routings. Where bridge load-capacities may be a limiting factor on truck traffic, mark them on the map.
- (ii) Government and private truck fleets (with contact information) available either on loan from government or on commercial contract.
- (iii) Railways: track gauge, loading gauges, daily capacities on various lines.
- (iv) Ports: harbour depths, quay lengths, cargo-handling equipment, size of covered and open storage areas.
- (v) Airports and air strips: length, width and surface of runways for each, load classification number and largest type aircraft able to be accepted; fuel availability, both avgas and jet fuel; cargo-handling equipment availability.
- (vi) Water-craft available either on loan or on contract for rescue work and relief supply deliveries.

#### Construction Equipment

- (i) Names, addresses, telephone numbers of road construction and building contractors. Include for each approximate availabilities of bulldozers, drag-lines, hoists, cranes, hydraulic jacks, portable generators, pumps, etc.

- (ii) Names, location and telephone numbers of government sources, i.e. Ministry of Public Works, Defense, etc.

Other I Aster Relief Supplies

- (i) Names, addresses, telephone numbers of producers, large wholesale and retail outlets for tents, tarpaulins, polyethylene sheeting, construction materials (roofing, cement, lumber, etc.), blankets, sandbags; indicate usual stock levels normally on inventory.
- (ii) Quantities of above supplies which may be maintained in government stocks.

Additional Communications

- (i) Possible resources: Embassy radios, police headquarters and stations, fire stations, military stations, telephone and telegraph offices, Red Cross headquarters, ham radio operators.
- (ii) Supplementary data: Address and telephone numbers for each contact; kind of equipment and frequencies for each; identify frequencies which can be allocated at once to incoming relief teams and for augmenting UN communications.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR UNDRO STAFF AND OTHER PERSONNEL DURING  
RELIEF OPERATIONS

Experience has shown that the task of one or more UNDRO staff members assisting the Resident Representative in his work of damage assessment and local co-ordination of relief can be facilitated if responsibility for administrative support is assumed by the UNDP office. The actual requirements will vary not only with the number of visiting staff (the UNDRO staff may be supplemented by others from headquarters of specialized agencies), but also with the location of the disaster. Accommodation and communication problems in particular will be very different where the capital city has been affected (e.g. Managua, Nicaragua and Guatemala) and where the disaster area is many hundreds of miles from the capital (e.g. Irian Jaya, Indonesia). Similarly, a UNDP office may be severely limited in the assistance it can offer where it has responsibility for more than one country and the disaster occurs in the second (e.g. some West Indies and South Pacific UNDP offices). The list of basic necessities must therefore be regarded as indicative rather than definitive.

Personal administration

- (a) Roof
- (b) Bed
- (c) Feeding
- (d) Toilet and hygiene facilities
- (e) Heating where necessary

Office administration

- (a) Roof
- (b) Desk
- (c) Typewriter
- (d) Stationery
- \* / (e) Clerk/Typist
- (f) Interpreter

Communications

- (a) Telephone at office and, if possible, at team accommodation
- \*\* / (b) Radio - Net 1: To UNDRO
- Net 2: To UNDP in capital
- Net 3: To Liaison Office at local Co-ordinating Committee
- UNDRO officer (expert mobile or static in disaster area)

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\* / Whenever possible, a clerk/typist will be provided by UNDRO.

\*\* / UNDRO will provide communications equipment and operators. The UNDP office will however be asked to obtain whatever governmental permission may be necessary to operate the sets.

/...

(c) Operators      Net 1 - 1  
                     Net 2 - 2  
                     Net 3 - Nil

Transport

FWD Land Rover or similar vehicle for:

- (a) Mission leader and, if team numbers require, vehicles also for
- (b) Experts/liaison officers, and
- (c) Administration/message carrying.

## ALPHABETICAL INDEX

	<u>Paragraph Reference</u>
<b>A</b>	
Accidents or well-being of UN personnel	50-51
Action plan of country team	15(b)
Administrative Committee on Co-ordination	40
Decision 1981/2	
Decision 1982/1	
Advance warnings	
need for public education re	64
Res. Rep. responsibilities after	28
Aircraft	
overflight, landing and refueling arrangements	54
provided by governments or donors	44
Airlines	
free transport for relief personnel/supplies	44
Appeals by governments	27, 34
by the Secretary-General	40
Assessment of damage and needs	30, 35, 36
assistance from donors and voluntary organizations	36
country team's responsibilities	15(c), 35-38
Assistance, financial (see under F)	
<b>B</b>	
Building codes, techniques and standards	59, 63-64
<b>C</b>	
Cables to UNDRO and their classification	29
Cash contributions from governments and other donors	
Res. Rep. recommendations	49
Charter aircraft provided by governments or donors	44
Communications	
from UNDRO	39, 42
to UNDRO (see "Reports to UNDRO")	29, 30, 34, 45, 56
UNDP office as relay station	55
Complex disasters - definition and designation of	31, 40
Contributions, Res. Rep. request to government for	56

Paragraph Reference

Co-ordination Centre	
Geneva	39
local	19
Co-ordination with LICROSS on requests to donors	42
Country programmes	
importance of Res. Rep. in formulating, to use	
technical co-operation for prevention	65
incorporating preparedness in	11
IPF funding for prevention in	68
priority to prevention and mitigation	61
Country team	14-17
action plan	15(b)
assessment of damage and needs	35-38
assistance from diplomatic missions/voluntary	
agencies,	14
post-disaster	36
pre-disaster	18
benefits of co-operation	37
composition	14
number of meetings	17
preparedness role	14-19
purposes	15-16
rehabilitation/reconstruction and prevention	16, 57-59, 60-70
reinforcement by UNDRO	21
relationship to government, post-disaster	35
relationship to government, pre-disaster	17
Res. Rep. preparations for	11
updating of information	17
Cyclones	
advance warnings	64
UNDRO/WMO co-operation	59
D	
Developing countries	
impact of natural disasters on	61
importance of prevention/mitigation projects	
in country and inter-country programmes	61
Development assistance programmes, use of for	
prevention	67
Development, impact of natural disasters on	61
Disabled persons - treatment and rehabilitation of	38

Paragraph Reference

Disasters	
definitions of "natural" disasters and "other disaster situations"	3
impact on development	61
prediction of natural disasters	60
prevention/mitigation of	60-70
study of natural disasters	60
Disaster Officer	
Res. Rep. appointment of, as focal point	13
role, duties and training	13
Donor countries	
assistance in assessment of damage and needs	36
cash contributions from	49
prior commitment by	18
provision of aircraft for relief supplies	44
representation in country team	19
UNDRO communication with (situation reports)	42
UNDRO requests to, co-ordinated with LICROSS	32
UNDRO responsibilities to	48
Donor sources	42
E Earthquakes	
mitigation of disasters from	62
UNDRO/UNESCO co-operation	69
Emergency phase	
duration of, transition to rehabilitation/reconstruction stage	57-58
Emergency relief assistance, distinct from assistance for reconstruction	27
Enquiries regarding persons	51-52
Epidemics, UNDRO/WHO co-operation	69
Estimates of damage and needs	30, 35
F FAO/WFP	
food assistance	34
programmes for rehabilitation/reconstruction	58
Films of disaster and/or aid rendered	53
Financial assistance from UN sources	46-49
Res. Rep. reports required on	48



	<u>Paragraph Reference</u>
Floods	
advance warnings	64
mitigation of disasters from	62
UNDRO/WMO co-operation	69
Focal point in UNDP for disaster matters (Disaster Officer)	13
Focal point of Res. Rep. in formulating country programmes to use technical co-operation for prevention	65
G Government	
donor governments (see "Donor countries")	
investment in pre-disaster works, economic benefits from	67
liaison with, during disasters	15(c)
liaison with, for prevention	66
liaison with, pre-disaster	11
requests to foreign embassies	30 (10)
requests to UN for assistance	34
requests to UN for financial assistance	34, 45-48
H High-risk areas	
need to inform public about	64
prevention in	62-63
reconstruction in	65
training construction workers re	64
Hurricanes, advance warning re	64
I IAEA	3
IBRD programmes for rehabilitation/reconstruction	58
IMO	3
Intergovernmental organizations, UNDRO communication with	42
Investment (by governments/funding agencies) in pre-disaster works, economic benefits from	67
IPF financing for prevention in country programmes	68

	Paragraph Reference
L Land-use legislation	59, 63
Lead entity, designation of	31
duties of, at international level	40
at national level	31
League of Red Cross Societies	
UNDRO co-ordination with, on requests to donors	42
Local co-ordination centre	19
M Memoranda of Understanding	
function	14
UNDRO with various agencies	3, 14
O OPI photographs of disaster relief supplies	53
P Personnel (UN), accidents or well-being of	50-51
Phase-out of relief operations	57-58
Photographs of disaster relief supplies	53
Physical planning	59, 63, 65
Planning for reconstruction	59
Prediction of natural disasters	60
Preparedness	
definition	8
responsibility for	9
Res. Rep.'s pre-disaster duties	11, 12-19
role of country team	14-16
role of government	9-10
state of national	15(a) Annex II
Prevention	60-70
decrease in property/production losses by	
investment in	67
definition	8
development assistance programmes for	67
funding of	67, 64
in high-risk areas	62-64
IPF funding for, in country programme	68
location of potential disaster areas	62
measures during reconstruction	16, 59, 63-65
primary responsibility for	9, 69
priority to, in country/inter-country programmes	61

/...

Paragraph Reference

responsibility of specialized agencies/ international financing bodies for executing/ financing projects	67
Res. Rep. contact with government and research/ educational institutions	66
Res. Rep. importance in formulating country programme to use technical co-operation for prevention	65
role of development assistance programmes	67
UNDRO as clearing house for scientific/ technological info	60
UNDRO's responsibilities	60, 69
Procurement of relief supplies	54
Publicity	53
 R Red Cross tracing service	 51
Rehabilitation and reconstruction	57-59
data on long-term requirements of	59
government appeals for assistance	27
prevention measures during	17, 59, 63-65
role of country team	16
transition to, from emergency phase	58
UNDRO responsibility in	57-58
Relief operations, phase-out of	57-58
Relief supplies (and personnel)	
arrival arrangements	30 (14.-15.), 45
availability	30
photographs of	53
procurement and transport of	30, 54
free air transport for	44.
requirements	30
Res. Rep. to report arrival of, to UNDRO	45
specifications	30
UNDRO communications to Res. Rep. concerning	43
Reports to UNDRO (by cable, telephone or telex)	29, 30, 34
frequency	30, 34
necessary contents	30
occasions when required	
accidents or well-being of UN personnel	50-51
arrival and arrangements for control and use of relief supplies	45
contributions by governments	56
plans/projects for rehabilitation/reconstruction	59
projects or research developments in prevention/ mitigation	66, 69

/...

	<u>Paragraph Reference</u>
threat or occurrence of disaster or "normal" event	29
use of assistance funds/cash contributions	48-49
Requests by government for UN assistance	34 47
Requests by government for UN financial assistance	46-48
Requests by UNDRO to donors, co-ordination with LICROSS	35, 42
Requests for information on UN personnel	50-51
Requests for information on other persons	52
Resident Co-ordinators/Resident Representatives responsibilities of	4-7
Resolutions 2816 (XXVI), 36/225, 37/144	1-3, 6, 31, 57 Annex I
 S	
Scientific/technological info on prevention, UNDRO as clearing house	60
Situation reports (UNDRO)	
to donors	42
to Res. Reps. of neighbouring countries	56
Storm surges, UNDRO/WMO co-operation re	69
 T	
Technical co-operation for prevention, importance of Res. Rep. in formulating country programme	65
Telephoning and telexing UNDRO	29
Telex facilities to be provided by Res. Rep.	55
Tracing service, Red Cross	51
Transport of relief supplies	54
free air transport for relief personnel/supplies	44
Tsunamis, UNDRO/UNESCO co-operation	69
Typhoons, advance warning	64
 U	
UN	
audit of UNDRO funds channelled through UNDP country team (see "Country team")	48
financial assistance	46-49
personnel, accidents or well-being of	50-51
Resident Co-ordinator	4, 6

	Paragraph Reference
<b>UNDP</b>	
appointment of Disaster Officer-as focal point	13
as communications relay station	55
audit of UNDRO funds channelled through UNDP	48
co-ordination of plans/projects for rehabilitation/reconstruction	58-59
emergency grant following natural disaster	47
procurement and/or transport of relief supplies	54
use of local contributions	49
<b>UNDRO</b>	
clearing house for scientific/technological info on prevention	60
communications, general	39
communications with donors	42
communications to Res. Rep. re relief supplies	43
co-ordination centre	39
financial assistance	46, 48
focal point in disaster relief matters	20
functions of	Annex I
phase-out of relief operation responsibilities	57-58
recommendations to, for assistance with research and development	67
requests to donors, co-ordination with LICROSS	35, 42
requirements governing expenditure and reports	48
responsibilities and obligations to donors, UN and UNDP	48
situation reports	42
<b>UNDRO staff</b>	
assistance to Res. Rep.	21
facilities required by	24, Annex III
expenses incurred by	24
notification of arrival	22
reinforcement of country team	21
<b>UNICEF</b>	
assistance	34
photographs of disaster relief supplies	53
programmes for rehabilitation/reconstruction	58
<b>UNIDO</b>	3
<b>V</b>	
Visas for UNDRO staff	22
Volcanic eruptions, UNDRO/UNESCO co-operation	69
Voluntary agencies	
assistance in assessment of damage and needs	36
representation in country team	14
UNDRO communication with	42

	<u>Paragraph Reference</u>
Vulnerability analyses	59
W    WFP/FAO	
food assistance	34
programmes for rehabilitation/reconstruction	58
WHO	
medical assistance	34
programmes for rehabilitation/reconstruction	58
UNDRO co-operation with, on epidemics	69
Z    Zoning laws and techniques	59, 63

JOINT UNDP/UNDRO TASK FORCE TO IMPROVE CO-OPERATION  
FOR DISASTER RESPONSE, MITIGATION AND REHABILITATION

Terms of Reference

Consequent to paragraph 21 of the Secretary-General's Report (A/42/657 of 15 October 1987) on the implementation of General Assembly Resolution 41/201:

A joint UNDP/UNDRO Task Force is established to review and improve the modalities of co-operation between UNDP and UNDRO.

The Task Force comprises representatives of the two organizations and a representative from the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation as a permanent observer. Other organizations of the System will be invited, by common agreement between UNDP and UNDRO, to join the Task Force as appropriate.

The functions of the Task Force are:

- To review co-operation between UNDP and UNDRO in disaster-related activities since 1972, in the light of UNDP/ADM/FIELD/51 issued at that time, of subsequent revisions, of their respective administrative instructions and procedures and of their joint disaster-related practices and experience to-date.

- To review co-operation between the two organizations, and the relationship they maintain with other organizations of the United Nations System which are also involved in disaster-related activities.

- On the basis of this review, to identify specific aspects of the relationship between UNDP and UNDRO; in particular, those procedures and methodologies for which improved modalities are necessary.

- To set out these improved modalities in written instructions which will replace those currently in force.

The Task Force will prepare a report of its work, containing conclusions and recommendations, which will be reflected in the documentation to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. The Task Force will be disbanded as soon as its final report is completed.



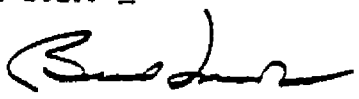
# UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



UNDP/PROG/73/Rev.1  
UNDP/PROG/FIELD/110/Rev.1  
UNDP/PROG/HQTRS/125/Rev.1

12 October 1983

To: Participating and Executing Agencies of UNDP <sup>1/</sup>  
Field Offices of UNDP  
UNDP Headquarters Staff <sup>1/</sup>

From: Bradford Morse  
Administrator 

Subject: Role of Resident Representative in respect of  
Pre-Disaster Planning and Disaster Relief

These instructions replace those issued under reference UNDP/PROG/FIELD/110 of 28 December 1979 and Add. 1 of 20 July 1982. They embody certain changes made necessary by experience, and by legislation, notably General Assembly resolutions 36/225 of 17 December 1981 and 37/144 of 17 December 1982.<sup>2/</sup>

The Document defines the extent of UNDRO's responsibilities and comprises instructions relating to disaster preparedness, action after a disaster occurs, emergency action, rehabilitation and reconstruction and disaster prevention.

The Under-Secretary-General and Disaster Relief Co-ordinator has repeatedly expressed appreciation of the active and fruitful co-operation which is taking place between Resident Representatives and his Office. Now that many Resident Representatives have been appointed U. N. Resident Co-ordinators, their responsibilities in relation to disasters have, if anything, been increased. The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and I should like to emphasize the importance we attach to the further intensification of this co-operation.

I would urge our Resident Representatives to communicate to UNDRO any observations or suggestions they may care to make, and to request any clarifications which they may seek regarding the contents of these instructions.

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<sup>1/</sup> For information only.

<sup>2/</sup> UNDP/ADM/FIELD/51/Add. 1 and 2, however, remain in force.



usefully reiterated. Firstly, while paragraph 8 of the resolution concentrates on arrangements at the country level in the post-disaster phase, it should be stressed that the effectiveness of the actions to be taken once an emergency occurs depends, to a considerable extent, on disaster preparedness and pre-disaster action (see in this connexion paragraphs 14(a) and (b) and annex III of the instructions). Secondly, the association of diplomatic missions and international voluntary agencies with the UN country team (in accordance with paragraph 17 of the "Instructions") would not only reinforce the team itself but would parallel the engagement of non-UN agencies in the consultative machinery in Geneva (paragraph 9 of the "Instructions").

Paragraphs 9 and 10 of the resolution deal with the UN system's response to complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude and should be read in conjunction with the ACC decision referred to above. In paragraph 9, reference is made to the "assessments" to be provided by the resident co-ordinator and representatives of other UN organizations in the country. These assessments should include information on both the disaster situation as it develops and the relief and other associated activities being undertaken by all concerned parties. The effective functioning of the country team, particularly if it is reinforced by local representatives of the donor community, will be particularly helpful in the preparation of these assessments. In cases where sufficient expertise, upon which the team can draw, is not locally available, the presence of one or more UNDRRO staff members might be helpful, as envisaged in paragraphs 20-23 of the Instructions. You will also note, in the same context, that paragraph 9 of the resolution calls on the Secretary-General or his representative, who would normally be the UN Disaster relief co-ordinator, to convene meetings of the concerned organizations of the UN system in order to develop a concerted relief programme. The temporary presence of an UNDRRO staff member to work under your authority and assist you in your functions as UNDRRO representative should help in harmonizing global co-ordination arrangements with country level mechanisms.

May I also draw your attention, in this connexion, to paragraphs 10-12 of the Instructions, which refer to the possibility of nominating an officer as focal point for disaster matters, in order to deal with possible competing claims on your time and attention in disaster situations. Alternatively, and particularly in cases of disaster situations of exceptional magnitude, the immediate arrival of an UNDRRO official might aid in discharging the additional workload devolving upon your office in such situations.

As far as the rest of the resolution, and particularly paragraph 14, is concerned, may I take this opportunity to remind you that UNDP and UNDRRO have the ability each to offer immediate assistance of up to \$30,000 per country per disaster. UNDRRO's budget for this purpose is limited by the General Assembly to \$360,000. Consequently no specific amounts can be offered to the Government without prior consultation (paragraph 43 of the "Instructions" refers to this subject). May I also remind you that UNDP's grants for immediate assistance are also subject to prior approval by UNDP headquarters. In the case of both UNDRRO and UNDP grants, the need for careful integration and complementarity of inputs from the two organizations is self-evident. As regards technical assistance available from UNDP for longer-term relief following natural disasters, please refer to FPM section 3841, pages 4-8.

The resolution adopted by the General Assembly and the relevant discussions in ACC point to a new phase in the development of the capacity of the UN system to cope with disaster situations. The Director-General and I believe that the field presence of the UN system has a pivotal role to play in this respect and we count on you to give your full attention to this matter.

UNITED NATIONS  
DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME




**UNEP**

UNDP/PROG/T3/Add.2  
UNDP/PROG/FIELD/110/Add.1  
UNDP/PROG/HQTRS/125/Add.1

20 July 1982

To: Resident Co-ordinators of the UN System's  
Operational Activities for Development,  
Resident Representatives of UNDP  
Participating and Executing Agencies of the UNDP <sup>1/</sup> and  
UNDP Headquarters Staff <sup>2/</sup>

From: Bradford Morse  
Administrator 

Subject: Role of Resident Representatives/Resident Co-ordinators in  
respect of Pre-Disaster Planning and Disaster Relief

The Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation and I wish to draw your attention to General Assembly resolution 36/225 on the strengthening of the capacity of the UN system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations, particularly paragraph 8 of the resolution, which outlines the steps to be taken at the country level by the resident co-ordinators in response to disaster relief requirements, and paragraphs 9 and 10, which deal with inter-alia country level arrangements in cases of complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude (a copy of the resolution is attached for ease of reference).

The provisions of General Assembly resolution 36/225 referred to above should be read in conjunction with current instructions on the role of the resident representatives in respect of pre-disaster planning and disaster relief and their responsibilities in their capacity as representatives of UNDP, as set out in document UNDP/PROG/T3, UNDP/PROG/FIELD/110, UNDP/PROG/HQTRS/125 of 28 December 1979. Expanded instructions will be issued in due course, incorporating the relevant provisions of resolution 36/225 and setting out relevant responsibilities in your respective capacities as resident representatives and resident co-ordinators. These revised instructions will also take into account the recent decision adopted by ACC on the "role of the lead entity and participating organs, organizations and bodies of the UN system in exceptional or complex disaster situations" (ACC decision 1982/1, copy attached).

Paragraph 8 of the General Assembly resolution, which envisages the convening by resident co-ordinators, "with the full concurrence, consent and participation of the government" of country level meetings "to plan, monitor and take immediate action to provide assistance", complements the provisions in document UNDP/PROG/FIELD/110 (paras. 13-19, 34-37) concerning the formation and purposes of UN country teams. Two aspects of the latter provisions might be

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<sup>1/</sup> For information only.

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UNDRO EMERGENCY TELEPHONE:

GENEVA 33.20.10

UNDRO TELEX:

GENEVA 28148

UNDRO CABLES:

UNDRO GENEVA

UNDRO can also be reached by calling the Palais des Nations main switchboard on Geneva 31.02.11 or 34.60.11.

An UNDRO officer is always on duty.

All cables on disaster emergencies should be classified 'ETAT PRIORITE'. They should also be prefixed 'Most Immediate' or 'Immediate' if this is appropriate to their content.

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UNITED  
NATIONS



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/RES/39/207  
25 January 1985

Thirty-ninth session  
Agenda item 83

### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/39/793/Add.1)]

#### 39/207. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

##### The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was established, 36/225 of 17 December 1981, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Office and strengthened its capacity, and 38/202 of 20 December 1983, in which it, inter alia, noted with interest the steps taken to strengthen the capacity of the Office, and of the United Nations system as a whole, to respond to disasters, and called for a further report on the matter to be submitted to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/60 of 26 July 1984,

Noting with appreciation the effective response of the Office of the Co-ordinator and of the international community to recent major and continuing disaster situations,

Recognizing that shortage of resources continues to hamper the full achievement of the aim of rapid and effective response to the needs of countries affected by disasters and that, if this shortage is to be overcome, further efforts will be required by the international community to provide both funds and assistance in kind,

Considering that all possible new and innovative approaches should be examined with a view to improving further the rapid delivery of emergency relief,

Noting the wealth of expertise and training facilities that exists and that could be drawn upon by disaster-prone developing countries,

Recalling the importance attached in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries 1/ to the reduction of losses caused by disasters of all kinds and the creation of infrastructures which would be beneficial in this regard,

Convinced of the absolute necessity of maintaining a sound financial basis, in accordance with repeated requests by the General Assembly, to ensure the continuation of the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator at its present level as a minimum,

Appreciating the contributions made by donors in supporting international relief operations, including those made to the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 2/ as well as his report on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations, 3/ called for in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 38/202, and of the statement made by the Co-ordinator on 5 November 1984; 4/

2. Recognizes that information is one of the essential elements for the fulfilment of the mandate of the Office of the Co-ordinator as the focal point of the United Nations system for disaster relief co-ordination, and emphasizes the importance of improving the flow and quality of information during disaster relief operations so that a more complete picture of relief channels and activities, assistance received and unmet requirements may be available to all concerned;

3. Stresses, in this regard, the primary importance of inter-agency assessment missions organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator with the participation of the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system and other relief bodies in order to ensure the effective co-ordination of disaster relief activities, assistance and requirements;

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.I.8), part one, sect. A.

2/ A/39/267-E/1984/96 and Corr.1.

3/ A/39/267-E/1984/96/Add.1 and 2.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Second Committee, 34th meeting, paras. 1-8.

4. Recognizes the value of united appeals, launched after the joint development with the agencies concerned of concerted relief programmes based upon the findings of inter-agency assessment missions, to be sent at the invitation of the Government concerned, as a most effective tool for co-ordination and urges Governments to continue to respond to such appeals accordingly;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to modify existing United Nations procurement procedures, as necessary, to permit, on the part of the Office of the Co-ordinator, a timely and more effective response to the special and immediate requirements of countries exposed to disasters or facing an emergency situation;

6. Calls upon those contributing assistance in kind to provide, when appropriate, special grants to cover the costs of transport and distribution of the assistance to and within the affected country;

7. Requests the Office of the Co-ordinator to study, in co-operation with the parties concerned, the most appropriate steps to ensure the ready availability of relief supplies and transport equipment;

8. Urges Governments to increase their efforts to reduce delays in the provision of food assistance in response to natural disasters and other disaster situations;

9. Recommends that, as the Co-ordinator phases out his emergency co-ordination responsibility in a given country, he should contribute to ensuring the necessary transition to the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase by passing on relevant data to competent organs and agencies of the United Nations system;

10. Calls upon Governments and international relief organizations to put at the disposal of the Co-ordinator the names and specializations of qualified disaster personnel available, in case of need, for inter-agency assessment missions, the execution of relief programmes or other disaster mitigation activities, and to inform him of existing disaster management training capabilities and opportunities for such training which could be offered to officials from developing countries;

11. Requests the Co-ordinator to review and improve, if necessary with the assistance of specialists made available by appropriate international bodies, the internal evaluation system of the Office of the Co-ordinator in order to ensure that experience obtained from disaster relief operations is fully taken into account in the future work of the Office;

12. Recognizes the importance of disaster prevention and preparedness at the regional and national levels in mitigating the effects of disasters, appreciates the work which the Office of the Co-ordinator has performed in this area as far as the resources available in the Trust Fund of the Office have allowed, and encourages Governments to continue to draw upon the services available from the Office and other organizations concerned and to provide the necessary resources for this aspect of technical co-operation;

13. Requests the Office of the Co-ordinator to increase its fund-raising efforts through the means available to it;

14. Emphasizes the essential need for the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator to be placed and kept on a sound financial basis and requests the Secretary-General to assign a higher priority to this;

15. Reiterates in particular, its appeals to the international community in resolutions 35/107 of 5 December 1980, 36/225 of 17 December 1981, 37/144 of 17 December 1982 and 38/202 of 20 December 1983 for urgent increased contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 for the purposes set out in the reports of the Secretary-General concerning the activities of the Office of the Co-ordinator.

103rd plenary meeting  
17 December 1984





## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/RES/37/144  
3 March 1983

Thirty-seventh session  
Agenda item 74 (a)

### RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/37/702/Add.1)]

#### 37/144. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/225 of 17 December 1981, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and called for the strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office,

Recalling also its resolution 35/107 of 5 December 1980, by which it reaffirmed the necessity of ensuring a continued sound financial basis for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and extended until 31 December 1983 the term of the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 and modified under its resolutions 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 and 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and by its decision 33/429 of 19 December 1978,

Recalling further its resolution 34/55 of 29 November 1979, by which it requested an increase in emergency disaster assistance, with a normal ceiling of \$30,000 per country in the case of any one disaster,

Deeply concerned about the additional economic burden placed upon the developing countries and by the increasing number of natural disasters and other disaster situations, as well as the disruption caused to their development process,

Recognizing the contribution made by the United Nations system to the relief of suffering and provision of humanitarian relief in natural disasters and other disaster situations,

14. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 36/225, including a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983.

109th plenary meeting  
17 December 1982