

## Chapter II

### ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

#### A. Date and place of the Conference

1. The World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction was held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/188 of 21 December 1993. During that period the Conference held five plenary meetings.

#### B. Attendance

2. The following States were represented at the Conference:

Afghanistan	Egypt
Algeria	El Salvador
Angola	Ethiopia
Antigua and Barbuda	Fiji
Argentina	Finland
Armenia	France
Australia	Gabon
Austria	Gambia
Azerbaijan	Georgia
Bahamas	Germany
Bangladesh	Ghana
Barbados	Greece
Belarus	Grenada
Belgium	Guatemala
Benin	Guinea
Bhutan	Guinea-Bissau
Bolivia	Holy See
Botswana	Honduras
Brazil	Hungary
Bulgaria	India
Burkina Faso	Indonesia
Burundi	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cambodia	Ireland
Cameroon	Italy
Canada	Jamaica
Central African Republic	Japan
Chile	Kazakhstan
China	Kenya
Colombia	Kyrgyzstan
Congo	Lebanon
Cook Islands	Lesotho
Costa Rica	Liberia
Côte d'Ivoire	Luxembourg
Croatia	Madagascar
Cuba	Malawi
Czech Republic	Malaysia
Denmark	Maldives
Djibouti	Marshall Islands
Dominica	Mauritius
Ecuador	Mexico



Micronesia (Federated States of)  
 Monaco  
 Mongolia  
 Morocco  
 Mozambique  
 Myanmar  
 Namibia  
 Nepal  
 Netherlands  
 New Zealand  
 Nicaragua  
 Niger  
 Nigeria  
 Norway  
 Pakistan  
 Panama  
 Papua New Guinea  
 Paraguay  
 Peru  
 Philippines  
 Poland  
 Portugal  
 Republic of Korea  
 Republic of Moldova  
 Romania  
 Russian Federation  
 Rwanda  
 Saint Kitts and Nevis  
 Saint Lucia  
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
 Samoa  
 Saudi Arabia  
 Senegal  
 Seychelles  
 Sierra Leone  
 Slovakia

Slovenia  
 Solomon Islands  
 South Africa  
 Spain  
 Sri Lanka  
 Sudan  
 Swaziland  
 Sweden  
 Switzerland  
 Syrian Arab Republic  
 Thailand  
 The former Yugoslav Republic  
     of Macedonia  
 Togo  
 Tonga  
 Trinidad and Tobago  
 Tunisia  
 Turkey  
 Turkmenistan  
 Tuvalu  
 Uganda  
 Ukraine  
 United Arab Emirates  
 United Kingdom of Great Britain  
     and Northern Ireland  
 United Republic of Tanzania  
 United States of America  
 Uruguay  
 Uzbekistan  
 Vanuatu  
 Venezuela  
 Viet Nam  
 Zaire  
 Zambia  
 Zimbabwe

3. The following associate members of the regional commissions were represented by observers:

British Virgin Islands  
 Niue  
 Palau

4. The secretariats of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were represented.

5. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented:

United Nations Children's Fund  
 United Nations Development Programme  
 United Nations Environment Programme  
 United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)  
 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
 United Nations Population Fund



United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the  
Near East  
United Nations University  
United Nations Institute for Training and Research  
United Nations Volunteers

6. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
World Health Organization  
World Bank  
World Meteorological Organization  
International Fund for Agricultural Development  
United Nations Industrial Development Organization

7. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers:

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment  
Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee  
Asian Development Bank  
Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre  
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency  
Central American Parliament  
Council of Europe  
European Community  
Inter-American Defense Board  
Inter-American Development Bank  
Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development  
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO  
International Civil Defence Organization  
International Maritime Satellite Organization  
International Organization for Migration  
League of Arab States  
Organization of African Unity  
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development  
Organization of American States  
Pan American Health Organization  
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation  
South African Development Community

8. The following other organization was represented:

National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America

9. A list of non-governmental organizations that participated in the Conference is included in annex III to the present report.

#### C. Opening of the Conference

10. The Conference was declared open by the representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.



11. The Conference heard a video presentation by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

12. The Conference heard an address by His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan.

13. The Conference also heard addresses by His Excellency Mr. Yoneo Hirata, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Tsutomu Hata, Prime Minister of Japan, and by His Excellency Dr. Hidenobu Takahide, Mayor of the City of Yokohama.

#### D. Election of the President

14. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May 1994, the Conference elected, by acclamation, as President of the Conference, His Excellency Mr. Nobutoshi Akao, Ambassador for Global Environmental Affairs and International Trade of Japan.

#### E. Adoption of the rules of procedure

15. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference adopted the provisional rules of procedure (A/CONF.172/2 and Corr.1) as recommended by the Preparatory Committee in its decision 2 of 18 March 1994.

#### F. Adoption of the agenda

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference adopted as its agenda the provisional agenda (A/CONF.172/1) as recommended by the Preparatory Committee in its decision 4. The agenda as adopted was as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
4. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Election of officers other than the President.
6. Organization of work, including the establishment of committees.
7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
  - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
  - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
8. Activities for natural disaster reduction.
9. Programmes and policies of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction:
  - (a) Regional reports;



- (b) Public- and private-sector interface.
10. Natural disaster reduction:
    - (a) Vulnerable communities;
    - (b) Hazard-resistant structures;
    - (c) Effects of disasters on modern societies;
    - (d) Interrelationships between technological and natural hazards;
    - (e) Economic aspects of disaster reduction for sustainable development;
    - (f) Warning systems;
    - (g) Drought management.
  11. Outcome of the Conference, including a plan of action for natural disaster reduction.
  12. Adoption of the Report of the Conference.

G. Election of officers other than the President

17. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference elected, by acclamation, Vice-Presidents from the following regional groups:

Asian States: Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal and Philippines;

Eastern European States: Kazakhstan, Russian Federation and Slovakia;

Latin American and Caribbean States: Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago;

Western European and other States: Australia, Finland, Germany, Italy and United States of America.

18. At the same meeting, the Conference elected, by acclamation, the following ex officio Vice-Presidents: the Chairman of the Special High-level Council, the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Chairman of the Preparatory Group of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Conference and "the Father" of the Decade, Mr. Frank Press.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Conference decided that His Excellency, Mr. Klaus E. P. Holderbaum of Germany, who had been elected Vice-President of the Conference, would also serve as Rapporteur-General of the Conference.

20. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference elected, by acclamation, Burundi, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, Vice-Presidents of the Conference, from the African States.



21. At the same meeting, the Conference elected, by acclamation, Mr. Omar Dario Cardona, National Director for Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness of Colombia, Chairman of the Main Committee.

H. Organization of work, including the establishment of committees

22. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference approved its organization of work as contained in document A/CONF.172/3.

23. At the same meeting, the Conference took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 19 of A/CONF.172/3 regarding the designation of one person from each regional group to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General to assist that official in preparing the draft report of the Conference. The Conference also took note of the recommendations concerning the report of the Conference as indicated in paragraphs 18 and 19 of document A/CONF.172/3.

24. Also at the same meeting, the Conference established an open-ended drafting group of the Main Committee. It was agreed that H.E. Mr. Daniel D. C. Don Nanjira (Kenya) would serve as Chairman of the drafting group.

25. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 27 May, the Conference approved the list of non-governmental organizations recommended by the Secretariat for accreditation as contained in document A/CONF.172/14 and Add.1.

I. Appointment of members of the Credentials Committee

26. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, in conformity with rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference, the Conference decided to establish a Credentials Committee composed of Austria, Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America.



### Chapter III

#### GENERAL DEBATE

1. The general debate, which took place at the 1st to 4th plenary meetings, from 23 to 25 May 1994, covered the activities for natural disaster reduction considered by the Conference (agenda item 8). All speakers expressed their appreciation of the efforts made by the host Government and by the Secretariat in preparing for the Conference.
2. The Conference was addressed by representatives of States, specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, programmes and offices, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.
3. At the 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Secretary-General of the Conference made an introductory statement.
4. At the 2nd plenary meeting, on 23 May, the Conference heard statements made by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of 77), Greece (on behalf of the European Union), Sri Lanka, Italy, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Egypt, China, Japan, Finland (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), the United States of America and France.
5. At the 3rd plenary meeting, on 24 May, statements were made by the representatives of Tonga (on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States), Mongolia, Austria, Nigeria, Bulgaria, Cuba, Mexico, Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau, Botswana, Nepal, Malawi, Burundi, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Poland, Slovenia, Bangladesh, the Holy See and Turkey.
6. At the same meeting, the representatives of the European Commission, the Central American Parliament and the International Civil Defence Organizations, intergovernmental organizations, made statements. The representatives of the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the United Nations Children's Fund, made statements. The Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, a non-governmental organization, also made a statement.
7. At the 4th plenary meeting, on 25 May, statements were made by the representatives of Kenya, Sierra Leone, Australia, India, Spain, the United Republic of Tanzania, Peru, Jamaica, South Africa, Colombia, Nicaragua, Monaco, Swaziland, Ghana, Romania, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Chile, Croatia, Tunisia, Gambia, the Sudan, Venezuela, Cameroon, Grenada, the Russian Federation, Viet Nam, Armenia, Georgia, Rwanda and Greece.
8. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the Chairman of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the representative of the Organization of American States, intergovernmental organizations. The representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the Interim secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Volunteers made statements. The representative of the Colombian Confederation of Non-Governmental Organizations made a statement.



## Chapter IV

### REPORT OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE

#### A. Report of the Main Committee

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 23 May 1994, the Conference approved its organization of work as set out in document A/CONF.172/3 and decided to allocate agenda item 9 (a) and (b) entitled "Programmes and policies of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: (a) Regional reports; (b) Public- and private-sector interface" to the Main Committee.

2. The Main Committee was chaired by Mr. Omar Dario Cardona (Colombia).

3. The Committee elected Egypt, Nepal, the Russian Federation and the United States of America as Vice-Chairmen, and decided that Nepal would also serve as Rapporteur.

#### 1. Regional reports

(Agenda item 9 (a))

4. The Main Committee considered agenda item 9 (a) at its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 25 and 26 May 1994, and had before it a document entitled "Reports of regional interest" (A/CONF.172/13 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2).

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 25 May, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chief for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination of the Pan American Health Organization.

6. The moderator for the panel on the African region, H.E. Mr. Anatole G. Tiendrebeogo, Minister for Environment and Tourism (Burkina Faso), made an introductory statement.

7. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Professor I. O. Nyambok, President, International Commission for Earth Sciences in Africa (Kenya); Mr. M. S. Boulahya, Director-General, African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (Algeria); Professor El Sayed El Bashir, Programme Leader, Locust Research Programme, African Association of Insect Scientists (Kenya); and Dr. Wawa Leba, Director, Department of Economic, Social and Cultural Affairs, Organization of African Unity.

8. The moderator for the panel on the Asian region, Professor Kenzo Toki of the University of Kyoto, President of the Japan Society for Natural Disaster Reduction, made an introductory statement.

9. Presentations were then made by the following panellists: Mr. Cengiz Ertuna, Chief, Water Resources Section, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; Ms. Corazon Alma G. de Leon, Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (Philippines); Mr. Shri K. B. Saxena, Additional Secretary and Central Relief Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture (India); and Ms. Jlang Li, Deputy Director of the Office



of China National Committee for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (China).

10. The Honourable Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance of Western Samoa and Chairman of the National Disaster Council, and Mr. Jeremy Collymore, Director, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency, made presentations on the special problems of the small island States of the South Pacific and Caribbean subregions.

11. Mr. Ichiro Ichikawa, Administrative Vice-Minister for the National Land Agency, Japan, made a special presentation on Japanese collaborative projects in Asian countries.

12. At its 3rd meeting, on 26 May, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the moderator for the panel on the European and Mediterranean region. Mr. Edgar Thielmann, Head of Unit, European Community Humanitarian Office.

13. Presentations were then made by the following panellists: Mr. Sergei Shoigu, Minister for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (Russian Federation); Mr. Jean-Pierre Massue, Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreements, European Council, with Mr. M. Raimondi of Centro Telerilevamento Mediterraneo Telespazio (CTM), (Italy); and Mr. Juan Pedro Lahore Lacoste-Pedelaborde, Technical Counsellor for International Relations, General Directorate, Civil Protection (Spain), with Mr. Alessandro Barisich, Civil Protection, European Commission.

14. A joint presentation was made by Mr. Harvey C. Ryland, Senior Policy Adviser to the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (United States of America), and by Mr. Raul Garcia Leal, General Director of the National System of Civil Protection (Mexico).

15. An introductory statement was made by the moderator for the panel on Latin America. Mr. Stephen Bender, Chief, Natural Hazards Project, Organization of American States.

16. Presentations were then made by the following panellists: Dr. Luis Busco, Chief, Disaster Programme, Ministry of Health (Chile); the Honourable Fernando Guerrero, Deputy to the National Congress (Ecuador); Ms. Norma Zepeda, Director of Training, National Civil Defence (Nicaragua); Dr. Ciro Ugarte, General Director, Office of Disaster Preparedness, Ministry of Health (Peru); Mr. Luis Diego Morales, Executive Secretary, Centre for Coordination for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America; and Mr. Juan Manuel Uribe, National Directorate of Risk Mitigation and Disaster Preparedness (Colombia).

17. After the presentations, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia, China, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Armenia and Bolivia.

18. The Chief for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief Coordination of the Pan American Health Organization then outlined points made in the various presentations.



## 2. Public- and private-sector interface

(Agenda item 9 (b))

19. The Main Committee considered agenda item 9 (b) at its 1st meeting, on 25 May 1994, and had before it a document entitled "From disaster management to sustainable development: how the public sector, private sector and voluntary organizations can work together" (A/CONF.172/12 and Add.1).

20. An introductory statement was made by the Director, Division of Emergency and Humanitarian Action, World Health Organization.

21. Presentations were then made by the following panellists: Professor Mohammed M. Mahfouz, Chairman, Public Services Committee of the Shoura (Senate) Assembly and former Minister of Health (Egypt); Mr. Carlo Presenti, Head, National Department for Technical Services, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Italy); Ms. Julia Taft, President and Chief Executive Officer, Interaction USA; Mr. Albert Tevoedjre, President, Centre Africain de Prospectives Sociales; Ms. Marcia Faria-Miranda, Specialist, Social Marketing and Partnership Development for Disaster Management; Dr. Gerhard Berz, Head, Geoscience Research Group, Munich Reinsurance Company; and Mr. R. Natarajan, President, Union Carbide Office for Asia.

22. A presentation was also made by the commentator of the session, Mr. Kevin Lyonette, Director, Conservation Policy, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF International).

23. After the presentations, questions were posed by the representatives of India, Samoa, Canada, the Central African Republic, Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia.

24. The observer for the Civil Protection Voluntary Service-Caserta (Youth Voluntary Service of Italy), a non-governmental organization, also posed questions.

25. An expert from the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre and an expert from the European University Centre for Cultural Heritage (Ravello Centre) also posed questions.

## 3. Outcome of the Conference, including a plan of action for natural disaster reduction

(Agenda item 11)

26. The Main Committee considered item 11 at its 4th meeting, on 26 May 1994, which was chaired by Mr. Frank Press, ex officio Vice-President of the Conference.

27. At the same meeting, the Main Committee heard a report by H.E. Mr. Daniel D. C. Don Nanjira (Kenya), Chairman of the open-ended drafting group of the Main Committee, in which he introduced the draft Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation (A/CONF.172/L.2 and Corr.1) and the draft Yokohama Message (A/CONF.172/L.7).



28. Also at the same meeting, the Main Committee decided to transmit the draft Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World and the draft Yokohama Message to the Plenary of the Conference for its consideration and adoption.

29. The report of the Main Committee was issued in documents A/CONF.172/16 and 17.

#### B. Action taken by the Conference

30. At the 5th plenary meeting, on 27 May, the Conference had before it a draft resolution (A/CONF.172/L.9) entitled "Adoption of texts on natural disaster reduction", sponsored by Algeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China. Annexed to that draft resolution were the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, containing the Principles, the Strategy and the Plan of Action as well as the Yokohama Message.

31. The Conference agreed to the suggestion of the Bureau of the Conference to request the Secretariat to prepare a compendium of proposals for action which would consist of verbatim abstracts from the national statements in the plenary of proposals put forward by States. The compendium will be submitted as an addendum to the present report.

32. The Conference then adopted the draft resolution. For the final text, see chapter I of the present report, resolution 1.

33. Before the draft resolution was adopted, the representatives of Bangladesh, Morocco, Kenya, Egypt and France made statements.

34. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs made a statement of clarification.

35. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the President of the Conference made a statement.