

## **CONTRIBUTION TO ICSU'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1994**

**Report of the**

### **ICSU SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION (SC-IDNDR)**

**by:**

**Sir James Lighthill  
Chairman**

#### **PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT**

As with earlier Annual Reports, and for reasons related to the calendar of SC-IDNDR's work, this Report covers the period from 13 February 1994 to 12 February 1995.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The UN General Assembly, in resolutions dated December 1987 and February 1989, named the 1990s an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. Since then an efficient IDNDR Secretariat was set up in Geneva under the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

Science and technology have important parts to play in IDNDR; particularly, for improving the timeliness and reliability of forecasts of Natural Disasters — as well as for refining assessment of risk of such disasters and enhancing preparedness wherever the risk is substantial. In October 1990, ICSU's own General Assembly established SC-IDNDR as a focus for scientific and technological work aimed at achieving these goals, especially in developing countries.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Four out of the Unions in the ICSU family are represented on SC-IDNDR: IUTAM by Sir James Lighthill, IUGG by V.I. Keilis-Borok, IUGS by S. Uyeda and IGU by H. Th. Verstappen. Also, the global engineering organisations WFEO/UATI are represented by M. Leonard and A. Villeveille, and the IDNDR Secretariat by its Director, K.O. Elo; while the remaining members are R. Hamilton (USA) and E.J. Plate (Germany).

#### **MEETINGS**

The 9th Meeting of the Special Committee was held on 25 May 1994 during the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction (Yokohama, 23 to 27 May 1994). A detailed Report on the 9th Meeting, and on the World Conference as a whole, has been circulated widely within ICSU.