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Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Wednesday, 20 July 2011, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Grauls (Vice President). (Belgium)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Grauls (Belgium), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The Meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

General discussion on humanitarian affairs
(continued)

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (E/2011/117-A/66/81 and E/2011/L.33)
(Item 5 of the agenda) (continued)

1. **Ms. Davidovich** (Israel) said that, following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, an Israel Defence Forces team made up of doctors, search and rescue operations specialists and communications technicians had been sent for two weeks to the Minamisanriku region to assist the population. In 2010, Israel had itself benefited from assistance during huge wildfires at Mount Carmel.

2. Through its assistance, Israel sought to address the long-term impact of humanitarian disasters. For example, as part of its effort in Haiti, three days after the earthquake had killed and injured numerous people in that country, Israel had swiftly built and then operated a field hospital in Port-au-Prince and subsequently remained engaged to assist in Haiti's recovery, building capacity and strengthening its resilience. Working with the Haitian authorities, Israel had also built a trauma unit at the Justinian Hospital in Cap-Haïtien, providing the necessary medical equipment and specialized training for staff.

3. **Mr. Wannamethee** (Thailand) reiterated Thailand's strong adherence to the guiding principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality in the provision of humanitarian assistance and said that the Thai delegation subscribed to the statement issued on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It was crucial to the United Nations and its partners to respond effectively to increasing humanitarian needs and to place more emphasis on strengthening capacity and preparedness. The complex humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters of 2010 were a reminder that national efforts needed further support at the regional and international levels. It would be a good idea to see how regional organizations could strengthen preparedness and response mechanisms to adapt to increasing humanitarian needs. For its part, Thailand had proactively taken steps to strengthen disaster resilience at the regional level and had contributed

US\$10 million in 2005 to establish the Tsunami Regional Trust Fund, which had recently expanded to cover other types of disaster. In addition, Thailand was working closely with other member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to ensure implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response.

4. Thailand noted with satisfaction that major improvements had been made in mechanisms for financing humanitarian assistance, but it was particularly concerned at the selective and inconsistent nature of emergency preparedness financing. It hoped that other arrangements could be studied to remedy that state of affairs. Thailand expressed concern at the increasing number of attacks against humanitarian personnel in recent years and called for additional measures to ensure the security of United Nations personnel in the field. It stressed that responding to humanitarian crises was not a short-term step. Rather, it required long-term engagement and support for the sustained recovery of the population affected. On the issue of displaced persons, Thailand pointed out that, in the current economic context, it was untenable simply to ignore the principle of international responsibility and burden-sharing.

5. **Mr. Brazhnikov** (Russian Federation) said that one of the priorities of the international community was improvement of measures aimed at strengthening national, regional and global capacities for reliable forecasting of hazardous events, preparedness and early warning systems. It was important to build disaster prevention and mitigation systems into development plans, in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action and sustainable development objectives.

6. In 2008, a National Crisis Management Centre had been established in the Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies, and Mitigation of Consequences of Natural Disasters. Located in Moscow, the Centre's mission was to gather and process data on any meteorological phenomena and emergency situations that may arise and analyze them in real time. The Russian Federation advocated establishing in different countries a global network of similar national centres to facilitate swift dissemination of information on natural hazards and disasters as they arise, with all useful information being transmitted to the Emergency Relief Coordination Centre of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Geneva. The Coordination Centre could, in turn, pass

on the information to the governments of countries concerned that lacked sufficient forecasting and prevention capacity.

7. The Russian Federation attached great importance to the efforts of a number of countries in developing and strengthening their local and national humanitarian response capacities. It was in favour of improving global disaster response mechanisms through the strengthening of existing United Nations response and coordination tools, that is to say, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team, the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre and United Nations Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination. In addition, the Russian Federation considered that the United Nations Consolidated Appeal Process should continue to be one of the principal vehicles for mobilizing voluntary contributions. It also appreciated the revolving Central Emergency Response Fund, to which it had contributed US\$4 million over the past two years.

8. The Russian Federation had ascertained that the notion of the acceptability of humanitarian aid was gradually being taken into account in United Nations practice. For the Russian Federation this meant, above all, briefing local populations regarding the activities and parameters of a humanitarian operation, conducting negotiations with parties in conflict and governments concerned concerning access by humanitarian personnel, and promoting the mission of protecting the population.

9. On the issue of use of the military in the context of an international response to a disaster, the Russian Federation upheld the principle of respect for national sovereignty during humanitarian operations and it considered that use of the military should remain a last resort measure. Furthermore, the mission and functions of the military contingents involved and the criteria governing their withdrawal should be clearly defined in consultation with the government concerned, while civilian bodies should continue to be responsible for overall coordination.

10. **Mr. Garcia** (Philippines) said that the Philippine delegation supported the statement issued on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Philippines was one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Over the past 20 years, nearly one third of the natural disasters in Southeast Asia had occurred in the

Philippines. Thus, the Philippines had benefited from humanitarian assistance, but the country also delivered it: in the recent past, it had sent relief teams to Myanmar, Pakistan, Haiti and Japan.

11. The Philippines had adopted the cluster approach for its disaster response preparedness system and welcomed the key role that the OCHA played in facilitating relations between the Philippine Government and the humanitarian organizations. The country had also built disaster risk reduction into its national and local plans and programs. At the local level, where resilience mechanisms had to be most effective, the Philippines had a large number of risk mitigation “champions”, including the municipality of San Francisco, the Albay and Cebu provinces and Makati City. The Philippines supported the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ revolving Central Emergency Response Fund through modest contributions and it hoped that more countries, nongovernmental organizations and private sector entities would acknowledge the quality of the work done by the OCHA and international humanitarian organizations. The Philippines and other nations in the region were now being recognized as new contributors to international humanitarian action, thanks to their experience, experts, and benchmark practices. The Philippines had signed the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, the first regionally binding legal framework for disaster risk reduction and prevention.

12. Given the major impact of climate change and other environmental factors on natural disasters, it was necessary to perfect and promote synergies between adaptation to climate change activities, on the one hand, and disaster risk reduction and prevention activities, on the other, as the Philippines had begun to do. Finally, the Philippines joined the call to urge Member States to strengthen efforts to address sexual and other forms of gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies.

13. **Mr. Holubov** (Ukraine) said that the Ukraine subscribed to the statement issued by Poland on behalf of the European Union and resolutely supported the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General’s report (E/2011/117). Ukraine had noted progress in promoting a coordinated approach in international humanitarian response to disasters. Despite the global economic slowdown, that response to disasters and emergencies was still effective. Ukraine had

contributed to those international efforts both bilaterally and through United Nations mechanisms. Given the global economic crisis, the international community needed to focus on disaster risk reduction and preparedness and on overcoming the vulnerability of populations and territories. Mr. Holubov availed himself of the opportunity to thank participants of the Chernobyl Pledging Conference for funds raised for the completion of the new environmentally safe compound over the destroyed reactor. Ukraine commended General Assembly resolution 65/131 on the Chernobyl disaster and the United Nations' focus on addressing social and economic issues related to Chernobyl by creating favourable conditions for the development of local communities.

14. **Mr. Drummond Cançado Trindade** (Observer for Brazil) thanked the Secretary-General for his report and emphasized that Brazil particularly supported its emphasis on funding for emergency response and preparedness. The international community should further support efforts to strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of national and local authorities, civil society and affected communities. Relevant organizations and bodies should work in a mutually supportive manner to strengthen national emergency preparedness initiatives. Donors and international organizations should streamline their procedures and mechanisms for financing national disaster preparedness efforts.

15. Regional initiatives were equally important. Much had been done in the region to strengthen cooperation, particularly within the framework of MERCOSUR and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States. A supportive relationship between humanitarian assistance and sustainable development was critical to reduce needs. To that end, it was best to stimulate the domestic economy through local procurement or cash-for-work schemes. The Member States and the United Nations system should make sure that humanitarian planning and delivery should be informed by longer term development objectives. All the Member States were obliged to honour their obligations under international and human rights law. In that respect, attention was drawn to recent arms deliveries at the same time as a humanitarian operation was underway. Finally, taking into consideration the need to establish humanitarian partnerships open to all, the OCHA and its Inter-agency Standing Committee should step up its

communication and cooperation with developing countries, in order to draw on their experience with emergency response. Likewise, developing countries should be brought into debates on humanitarian assistance.

16. **Mr. Akram** (Pakistan) said that Pakistan subscribed to the statement issued by Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and supported the recommendations put forward in the Secretary-General's report, while regretting that it failed to address the matter of accountability, which ensured the judicious and effective employment of humanitarian resources. Pakistan therefore noted with satisfaction that this aspect had been taken into account in the draft resolution under review (E/2011/L.33), which requests the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to ensure application of the principle that they are accountable to the Member States, especially the countries concerned, in delivering humanitarian aid. More needed to be done to ensure respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the national unity of affected states as overarching parameters for the coordination of humanitarian assistance; consent, consultation and participation of the affected states; attention to national priorities in the assessment of needs and the need to draw a clear distinction between States endowed with robust institutional emergency response mechanisms and those that lack them; strengthening of the capacities of at-risk countries through a preparedness process managed by the State; use of other means, such as stepped-up local procurement of resources and hiring of local skills; and, above all, restoration of livelihoods.

17. In addition, monitoring mechanisms should take into account each country's facts and circumstances. It was also worth stressing that politicizing humanitarian responses harmed the affected population. Pakistan's recent experience had induced it to put in place the necessary frameworks in terms of institutions, infrastructure and legislation. The country was continuing its assistance to Afghan refugees, in a spirit of international cooperation and burden-sharing. Pakistan placed on record its condemnation of increased violence against humanitarian workers and reiterated its resolve to support all measures aimed at protecting them.

18. **Mr. Turk** (Estonia) said that Estonia subscribed to the statement issued by Poland on behalf of the European Union. He drew attention to three essential

elements that were also highlighted in the Secretary-General report: with respect to accountability, it was worth bearing in mind that the primary objective of humanitarian response was to assist the beneficiaries, hence the necessity of including them in planning activities. The introduction of a gender equality index in the 2011 consolidated appeal process was a huge step toward a needs-based humanitarian response system. In addition, the increased need for financing and for expanding the number of donors meant that there was an ever greater need to reach out more to underscore the added value of a multilateral humanitarian system. Estonia undertook to continue its efforts along those lines with new donors, especially in the framework of sound humanitarian response principles and practices. More attention should also be paid to strengthening partnerships with the private sector in order to gain from its skills and knowledge. Finally, it was essential to change mindsets and to shift from a reactive to a proactive approach, while stepping up disaster preparedness. Estonia intended to increase its support for disaster preparedness in developing countries and to continue to share its experience, expertise and knowledge in that field with the countries of Eastern Europe, working together with national governments and international organizations.

19. **Ms. Mishra** (India) said that, given the increasing frequency of natural disasters across the globe, the United Nations and, in particular, the OCHA continued to play a useful role 20 years after the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/182. However, it was necessary to strengthen coordination and delivery of international humanitarian assistance. India valued the multilateral setting and the voluntary and impartial nature of humanitarian assistance and reiterated its commitment to the guiding principles set forth in resolution 46/182, including the provision that humanitarian assistance be provided with the consent of the affected States and, in principle, in response to a request from them. Global management of humanitarian crises required the adoption of effective policies geared to risk reduction and disaster preparedness, built into development policies. In that process, communities, civil society and the private sector all had important roles to play. Supporting local and national recovery at an early stage provided new opportunities for sustained development. In a globalized world, each country had capacities, national resources, experience and knowledge that could be used in partnerships and by the international

community. That was why the United Nations should attach high priority to establishing mechanisms designed to support those capacities and to disseminating best practices in this field. India had contributed \$29 million to United Nations humanitarian assistance. It also extended financial support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), to the Central Emergency Response Fund, and to OCHA activities in Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

20. **Mr. Asadov** (Azerbaijan) underscored the need to strengthen national and local capacities in affected communities, given that they are the first responders in the field. In addition, new measures should be adopted with regard to international mechanisms for financing humanitarian assistance, in order to bring that financing into line with coordinated assessment of needs and to strengthen the structures needed to execute humanitarian activities.

21. The Republic of Azerbaijan cooperated effectively with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) and OCHA. Faced with the serious humanitarian consequences of an international armed conflict and equipped with considerable experience of humanitarian relief operations, Azerbaijan had used the benefits of its socio-economic policy to rejoin the ranks of the leading donor countries in emergency situations and was actively engaged in a number of countries. The Republic of Azerbaijan urged other States to increase their contribution to humanitarian assistance in order to keep up with growing needs and overcome new challenges.

22. **Ms. Góngora Torres** (Observer for Colombia) insisted on the need to devote more resources to recovery and reconstruction, sustainable solutions and strategies for adapting to climate change. She added that the United Nations agencies should use the resources in already constituted funds to address emergency situations more coherently and taking into account the activities carried out by the affected countries.

23. Colombia attached great importance to cooperation with the agencies and institutions of the system, as well as with other countries, in both the response and risk management phases. In order to enhance countries' resilience, humanitarian assistance had to go hand in hand with activities to promote development. In that context, the United Nations

system should promote interagency cooperation in humanitarian and development assistance in order to help countries with technical skills and technology transfers, reconstruction of the socio-economic fabric, risk analysis and evaluation, reduction of vulnerability, information and communications, institution-building, and early warning systems.

24. Humanitarian assistance had to be delivered with the consent and at the request of the affected State, with strict respect for humanitarian principles and acknowledging that the State concerned should play a paramount role in the organization, coordination and delivery of aid on its territory.

25. **Ms. Zhue Ye** (China) said that, now more than ever, the international community had to rally round, demonstrate solidarity, and act in concert. The sole purpose of humanitarian activity was to save lives and prevent and mitigate human suffering and it needed to be based on observance of the guiding principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/182, especially respect for the sovereignty of States, territorial integrity and the rights of the beneficiary countries. To ensure that humanitarian workers and their activities were well received, it was essential to abide by those principles and by the highest standards of good conduct and discipline. In that regard, China welcomed the tireless efforts of the OCHA and other humanitarian agencies, as well as the steps undertaken by the United Nations system to strengthen response capabilities at the regional, national and local levels. Nevertheless, China urged the United Nations agencies to redouble their efforts to enhance know-how and consolidate institutions through technology transfers and the exchange of data based on experience, relying on synergy to facilitate the transition from the relief to the development phase.

26. Faced with major challenges with regard to humanitarian financing, China urged the United Nations system to do everything in its power to mobilise adequate, stable and predictable contributions and expand the universe of donor countries. The Chinese Government had completed, one year ahead of schedule, the reconstruction of the regions affected by the Wenchuan earthquake. While ensuring sound management of major natural disasters in its own territory, China contributed to the efforts of the international community in that field. It attached great importance to international and regional cooperation in the field of humanitarian affairs and had actively

participated in international rescue operations at the request of disaster-affected countries and in response to appeals by the international community.

27. **Mr. Alami-Hamedane** (Morocco) said that Morocco welcomed the reduction in the number of refugees worldwide, thanks, in particular, to the success of several voluntary repatriation operations and the reinstallation of thousands of refugees. Morocco remained preoccupied that thousands of persons were deprived of their right to return to their countries of origin within the framework of sustainable solutions proposed by the HCR. That was a statutory mandate of United Nations organs, which were obliged to apply it throughout the world, even despite the reticence of the host countries. By letting those people return to their homes, the international community would have more resources available to address other more extreme situations. Morocco was also concerned at the increase in the number of internally displaced persons, which had reached alarming levels and posed new complex challenges for the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance.

28. Conflicts, especially in Africa, were not inevitable, but rather the consequence of political disputes that should be settled peacefully. In that respect, mediation by the United Nations and third-party countries had culminated in several peace and reconciliation processes, the cessation of hostilities, the return of thousands of refugees to their countries of origin, and the start of post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction processes.

29. While Africa was the region most afflicted by armed conflicts, Asia remained the part of the world hardest hit by climate change-related natural disasters. The countries of both regions therefore faced overwhelming budgetary burdens that forced them to cut government outlays for development. It was therefore time to rethink, in a concerted manner, early warning and response mechanisms for emergency assistance and how best to coordinate it.

30. Worried by the number of attacks on United Nations humanitarian personnel, Morocco supported the initiatives aimed at guaranteeing, in consultation and coordination with the States concerned, the delivery of humanitarian assistance under adequate security conditions. The Moroccan delegation drew attention to the need to safeguard full observance of international humanitarian law and of each party's

responsibilities; to enhance emergency preparedness and natural disaster mitigation capacities in the different players involved; to broaden information, communication and coordination between humanitarian and development personnel; and to put in place new aid strategies to address the new challenges, taking advantage of new technology and applying innovative mechanisms.

31. **Mr. Nore-Alam** (Bangladesh) said that, as a country frequently stricken by natural disasters, Bangladesh attached great importance to strengthening capacity-building for disaster preparedness and risk reduction, as reflected in its national adaptation strategy and plan of action for climate change. Bangladesh had worked out a national procedure for consulting with all stakeholders with a view to consolidating a set of disaster management structures, and it remained open to sharing best practices. In that regard, it was necessary to build a network for exchanging knowledge among the Member States, the United Nations system and other humanitarian assistance partners. Bangladesh urged the international community and the United Nations system to lend their support and pool their efforts in this field. The humanitarian challenges posed by climate change called for more systematic dialogue among those involved in humanitarian assistance, in the quest for solutions.

32. Sustainable, effective and innovative ways had to be found to guarantee financing for emergency humanitarian assistance. Recent humanitarian crises triggered by political conflicts had highlighted the pressing need to establish emergency response funds for the evacuation and repatriation of third country nationals caught up in conflicts. Bangladesh appreciated the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to improve coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance. At the same time, it underscored the need to consider that work in context, so as to avoid a sterile debate about the Committee's mandate and powers.

33. **Ms. Pictet-Althann** (Sovereign Order of Malta) said that the Sovereign Order of Malta worked in 120 countries, directing projects in humanitarian assistance, health care, education and training. Parallel to its emergency response operations, it conducted long-term relief programmes in the fields of re-adaptation and reconstruction, health and nutrition, the provision of means of subsistence, and disaster response planning.

In 38 African countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sovereign Order of Malta assisted victims of violence, provided emergency medical care and food for displaced populations, and helped to restore transportation infrastructure.

34. Malteser International, the international cooperation agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta, had taken part in the vaccination of more than 630,000 children in South Kivu and had helped finance construction of a nearly 400 km road - thereby enabling some 300,000 people to have access to health care - as part of a project supported by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Malteser International was also assisting the new nation of the Republic of South Sudan with the continuation of its medical personnel training programmes, by establishing several educational programmes and running itinerant health centres with medical teams, with a view to developing a viable health care system in the country.

35. Given the vast extent of the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, immediate action was needed to save lives. The Order of Malta was therefore supplying staple foods to hungry populations, especially those living in remote areas. It was also assisting the people of Haiti with health care, water supply, sanitation, and disaster risk reduction programmes, as well as revenue-generating capacity-building projects. Malteser International had also provided emergency relief following the floods in Pakistan in 2010. In Haiti, as in Pakistan, the Sovereign Order of Malta worked on improving resilience, disaster preparedness and risk reduction, in cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and local bodies. Through early warning systems and emergency plans, it sought to increased communities' preparedness for possible disasters. It had also put in place disaster management systems aimed at improving cooperation among the health services of the different regions, drawn up a map of health hazards, and provided training for government agencies and health workers in risk reduction and preparedness.

36. In Myanmar, three years after Cyclone Nargis, the Order of Malta had completed its reconstruction work and was assisting the population in disaster preparedness, by providing training in first aid and emergency relief techniques. Furthermore, local communities were participating in the construction of schools and health centres capable of withstanding natural disasters.

37. In January 2011, the Order of Malta and the French Navy had organised an international conference at headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on “Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Crisis Management”. That event had provided an opportunity to analyse the relations between the armed forces, government representatives and NGOs in the field and to focus on the consequences of parallel operations by humanitarian organisations, the media, multinational enterprises, and privately run security companies, whose objectives could appear to be incompatible. It had transpired from the discussions that, while military equipment might save lives, it was essential to maintain the independence and neutrality of humanitarian work; hence the need for greater cooperation to ensure that each party involved played its part in the service of a common objective.

38. **Mr. Chatterjee** (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - IFRC) pointed out that the Horn of Africa was experiencing famine brought about by drought and said that refugees continued to stream into camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. Southern Somalia had been particularly hard-hit by the food crisis and the United Nations had estimated that there 32% of the population required humanitarian assistance. The crisis had not come as a surprise – it had been predictable over the years, without steps being taken in time to handle it. It had been due not just to meteorological factors, but also to the conflicts raging in the region, the dismantling of the nomads’ traditional life styles, population growth, and even dependence on aid. It was time for the international community to think hard about the chronic issues that mired the complex region. Vulnerability to disasters, food insecurity and poverty was reduced where livelihoods were resilient, local coping capacities were strengthened and people were able to earn sufficient income to meet their needs. Livelihood protection, diversification, strengthening and recovery were critical aspects of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies’ work.

39. The current crisis had stemmed from a complex combination of economic, social, cultural and environmental factors, which climate change threatened to exacerbate. The Cancun Adaptation Framework had underscored the need for international cooperation to help developing countries to adapt to those changes, which meant increased technical

assistance and financial aid from the international community. If the goal was to halve global hunger by 2015, it would be necessary to boost production of food resistant to climate change and provide the most vulnerable with access to it.

40. It was necessary to move away from focusing solely on disaster response and start to truly include preparedness and risk reduction as an essential component of development. Targeting “development effectiveness” rather than “aid effectiveness” would make it possible to mitigate poverty, strengthen the ability of populations to fend for themselves, and combat inequalities and discrimination.

41. **Ms. Laubacher** (International Organization for Migration - IOM) said that the 20th anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/182 afforded a good opportunity to reflect on the challenges posed by recent humanitarian emergencies and to draw lessons from them for the future. As the Secretary-General’s report (E/2011/117) had reiterated, irregular migration, rapid population growth and urbanization represented grave humanitarian challenges for humanitarian organisations. Migratory movements around the Mediterranean or toward southern Africa were a source of concern, as was rapid growth in urban areas following the floods in Pakistan and the earthquake in Haiti, which were forcing humanitarian organisations to re-examine their traditional approaches. They could be faced by relatively short humanitarian crises following a natural disaster or by situations requiring a long-term response to help refugees or displaced persons. Developing countries were disproportionately predisposed to such crises, which had a lasting impact, as in Haiti where 600,000 people were still in refugee camps following the earthquake of January 2010. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) had been present on the fringes of the debate about humanitarian affairs, which had enabled it to study the changes to be made to humanitarian responses, in light of population growth and urbanisation.

42. Following the recent mass migration of people fleeing Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the IOM had had to manage a migration crisis of enormous proportions: it had directed the evacuations and worked together with the HCR, which dealt with the humanitarian aspect. That crisis had highlighted the problems of reinserting and readapting migrant workers in their countries of origin: in this case mainly countries in Sub-Saharan

Africa. Above all, it was a matter of preventing another humanitarian crisis by offering them a better socioeconomic outlook and helping communities to assimilate this population.

43. The IOM welcomed the importance given in the Secretary-General's report to proper humanitarian financing and to preparedness, disaster risk reduction and assistance with transition. The International Organization for Migration was grateful for the support it receives through the Central Emergency Response Fund, which enabled it to carry out essential work and help populations to be prepared for and to cope with disasters. In Haiti, the IOM had worked to strengthen the civil defence authorities' disaster risk management capacities and had established camp management training programmes.

44. **Mr.Ould Ahmed** (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) expressed appreciation of the work done by Ms. Amos, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The FAO considered that in order to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian response, it was critical to learn from past successes and not hesitate to adopt new approaches. The divide between humanitarian and development activities and between funding from within the United Nations and that coming from the donor community impaired the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization. Most of food security crises came from lack of support for the agricultural sector, which currently accounted for less than five per cent of official development assistance, compared to 19% in the 1980s. The famine afflicting the Horn of Africa could have been avoided through better preparedness and, in particular, early warning systems. Given today's rampant population growth and other factors, crises were likely to become more frequent. Activities tending to reconcile humanitarian and development assistance, such as preparedness activities or agriculture, were neglected in the global appeal process, despite it being well known that growth engendered by the agricultural sector was an effective means of combating food insecurity and poverty. The FAO therefore welcomed increasing interest by the international community in preparedness. The Organisation was conducting a study to analyze the financing flows earmarked for such activities in order to get a better grasp of how to improve the effectiveness and flexibility of financing mechanisms, such as the global appeal process or ordinary financing.

Strengthening institutional capacities and community resilience entailed giving more say to local institutions in development programmes, in order to lay the foundations for sustainable development.

The meeting adjourned at 5.15 p.m.