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Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Bolivia* and Japan: draft resolution

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 9 December 1987 and 43/202 of 20 December 1988 on natural disaster reduction, 44/236 of 22 December 1989 in which, inter alia, it proclaims the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Reaffirming the necessity for the international community to demonstrate the strong political determination required to mobilize and use existing scientific and technical knowledge to mitigate natural disasters, bearing in mind in particular the needs of developing countries,

Taking note with satisfaction that more than 70 Governments have informed the Secretary-General that they have established national committees as focal points for the purpose of attaining the objective and goals of the Decade,

Reconfirming the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international co-operation in order to mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and co-ordinate disaster relief, preparedness and prevention,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

Noting the establishment of the Trust Fund for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, expressing appreciation to those countries that have so far contributed, or pledged voluntary contributions, to the Fund and, at the same time, expressing concern that the resources available for the activities of the Decade in the United Nations are insufficient in relation to the requirements,

Noting with deep concern that organizational arrangements have not been fully established and implemented in accordance with section D of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, annexed to resolution 44/236,

Taking note of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the Decade, 1/

Taking note also of the relevant conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination held on 25 and 26 October 1990,

1. Urges the international community to implement fully the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction annexed to resolution 44/236, and in particular,

(a) Invites Member States that have not yet done so to establish national committees;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to, inter alia, complete organizational arrangements in accordance with section D of the International Framework of Action;

(c) Appeals to the international community - in particular, to donor countries - for urgent financial contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade;

2. Reaffirms the important role played by the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation as the focal point for oversight and co-ordination of the programmes and activities of the United Nations system on the Decade, in accordance with section C of the International Framework of Action and his mandate, as set out in its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977;

3. Reaffirms further the need for the secretariat of the Decade to work in close association with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, bearing in mind the specific responsibilities and functions in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness entrusted to that Office by its resolution 2816 (XXI) of 14 December 1971;

4. Stresses the need for the Decade secretariat to work closely with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, while providing substantive and secretariat support to the Special High-Level Council, the Scientific and Technical Committee and to other related activities, and to report

to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation through the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to assist, in co-operation with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, in the formulation and implementation, during the Decade, of public information programmes aimed at raising awareness of disaster prevention among the general public;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session ways and means to enhance the capacity to implement the programmes and activities of the Decade.
