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Agenda item 105

NEW INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORDER

Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Central African Republic,
Chad, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Japan, Jordan,
Luxembourg, Nepal, Niger, Philippines, Portugal and Zaire:
draft resolution

Humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters
and other emergency situations

The General Assembly,

Recalling one of the goals of the United Nations Charter designed to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, intellectual or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States, and recognizing that it is the primary responsibility of each State to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergency situations occurring on its territory,

Deeply concerned by the suffering of the victims of natural disasters and other emergency situations, the loss in human lives, the destruction of property and the mass displacement of populations which result from them,

Bearing in mind that natural disasters and other emergency situations have grave consequences for the economic and social plans of all countries concerned,

Desiring that the international community should respond speedily and effectively to appeals for emergency humanitarian assistance made in particular through the Secretary-General,

Mindful of the importance of humanitarian assistance for the victims of natural disasters and other emergency situations,

Recognizing that the international community makes an essential contribution to the sustenance and protection of such victims, whose right to life and to enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international instruments relating to human rights, are endangered,

Considering that the abandonment of the victims of natural disasters and other emergency situations without humanitarian assistance constitutes a threat to human life and an offence to human dignity,

Concerned at the difficulties which victims of natural disasters and other emergency situations may experience in receiving humanitarian assistance,

Convinced that, in providing humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicine or health care, for which access to victims is essential, rapid relief will avoid a tragic increase in their number,

Aware that alongside the action of Governments and intergovernmental organizations, the speed and efficiency of this assistance often relies on the help and aid of local and non-governmental organizations working with strictly humanitarian motives,

Recalling that in the event of natural disasters and other emergency situations the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality must take precedence over every other consideration for all those involved in providing humanitarian assistance,

1. Reaffirms the importance of humanitarian assistance for the victims of disasters and other emergency situations;
2. Stresses that disasters and other emergency situations may affect the exercise by victims of their right to life and to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and instruments relating to human rights;
3. Reaffirms the sovereignty of States and their primary role in the organization, co-ordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance;
4. Stresses the essential contribution made in providing humanitarian assistance by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working with strictly humanitarian motives;

5. Invites all States affected to facilitate the work of these organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicine and health care, for which access to victims is essential;

6. Appeals therefore to all States to give their support to these organizations working to provide humanitarian assistance to the victims of natural disasters and other emergency situations;

7. Urges States in proximity to areas of disasters and other emergency situations, particularly in the case of regions which are difficult to reach, to co-operate closely in international efforts to co-ordinate humanitarian assistance with a view to authorizing the transit of international aid towards the affected areas;

8. Requests all the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with humanitarian assistance to co-operate as closely as possible with UNDRO or any other ad hoc mechanism set up by the Secretary-General in the co-ordination of aid;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Governments, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations with regard to the possibility of enhancing the effectiveness of international mechanisms and increasing the speed of assistance in the best possible conditions for the victims of disasters and other emergency situations, and to report his findings to the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly;

10. Decides to consider this question at its forty-fourth session.
