



General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/43/L.37/Rev.1
24 November 1988

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-third session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 86

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Austria, China, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece,
Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, Poland,
Tunisia* and Turkey: revised draft resolution

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Considering that natural disasters, particularly in the past two decades, have adversely affected the lives of at least eight hundred million people and caused considerable damage to infrastructure and property world wide, especially in developing countries,

Recalling that in 1988 many countries suffered severe natural disasters, such as the extensive floods in the Sudan and Bangladesh, typhoons in the Philippines, hurricanes in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, locust infestations mainly in Africa and in several regions of the developing world, and recognizing the pressing need for reducing the impact of natural disasters for all people, in particular those in developing countries,

Recognizing the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international co-operation in the study of natural disasters and in the development of techniques to mitigate risks arising therefrom, as well as for providing assistance and co-ordinating disaster relief, preparedness and prevention,

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

Recalling its resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987, by which it decided to designate the 1990s as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, would pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disaster reduction,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/51 of 26 July 1988 entitled "Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations: Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator",

Noting with appreciation the progress that has been made in the preparations for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction within the United Nations system as well as in Member States since the adoption of its resolution 42/169,

Welcoming the establishment by the Secretary-General of the international ad hoc group of experts on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Convinced that concerted international action for the reduction of natural disasters over the course of the 1990s would give genuine impetus to a series of concrete measures at the national, regional and international levels,

Welcoming the fact that national committees for natural disaster reduction have been established in some countries and that preparations for establishing such committees are under way in other countries,

1. Takes note with interest of the progress report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; 1/

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the progress made by the international ad hoc group of experts on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in the preparations for the Decade;

3. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, made in paragraph 5 of resolution 42/169, to develop an appropriate framework of action at all levels for attaining the objective and goals referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of that resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen further co-ordination within the United Nations system for the better preparation of the Decade;

5. Calls upon all Governments to prepare further for participating during the Decade in concerted international action for natural disaster reduction through, as appropriate, establishing national committees in co-operation with the relevant scientific and technological communities;

6. Further calls upon Governments to keep the Secretary-General informed of their countries' plans and of assistance that can be provided so that the United Nations may become an international centre for the exchange of information and the co-ordination of international efforts concerning activities in support of the objective and goals of the Decade, thus enabling each Member State to benefit from the experience of other countries;

7. Emphasizes the importance of technical co-operation among developing countries as well as mutual assistance in the transfer of technology, and encourages the international community to play a prominent role as promoter and catalyst of technical and scientific co-operation among developing countries in the field of natural disaster reduction;

8. Expresses its appreciation to those countries that have provided or pledged voluntary contributions for the preparation of the report to the Assembly at its forty-fourth session pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 42/169, and calls upon other countries and international organizations and other organizations to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose also;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the international ad hoc group of experts on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction in its future work, the increasingly serious problems of locust infestation and floods;

10. Requests the Secretary General to incorporate in the report to be submitted pursuant to paragraph 5 of resolution 42/169 a definition of the catalytic and facilitating role of the United Nations system, including that described in paragraph 6 of the present resolution, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council as requested in that resolution.
