

*Noting with deep concern* the grave effects in the countries concerned, particularly Ethiopia, of successive years of drought and the resulting shortage of foodstuffs, livestock, fodder and water,

*Deeply concerned* at the intensity and the permanent and expanding nature of the drought in the subregion,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the measures already taken by the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, to ensure the speediest and most effective relief aid for the victims of drought in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda;

2. *Reiterates* its appeal to all States and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations to make generous contributions to assist the affected populations financially, materially and technically;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-ordination with the countries concerned, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the competent specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system:

(a) To extend all necessary assistance to the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda in establishing, within the context of their national development programmes, detailed policies for dealing with drought as a recurring phenomenon;

(b) To mobilize international assistance for the affected population in the countries concerned;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give high priority in their programmes of work to the East African subregion, and to apprise the Economic and Social Council annually, at its second regular session, of the status of this question;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to keep the situation under review and to apprise the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session of the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

*40th plenary meeting  
28 July 1983*

#### **1983/47. Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was established, and 36/225 of 17 December 1981, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the mandate of the Office and, *inter alia*, called for the strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 37/144 of 17 December 1982, in which the Assembly recognized that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it was essential to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the United Nations system as a whole,

*Recognizing* that, as a result of those resolutions and other relevant resolutions and decisions, there is now in place a workable system to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate relief activities carried out by the United Nations system, in co-operation with Governments and voluntary agencies,

*Noting* that the operation of that system has been much improved but that there remains a need for its full application,

*Noting further with appreciation* the effective responses of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to recent major disasters,

*Recognizing* that shortage of resources has been a constraint on an effective response of the United Nations to disaster situations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations,<sup>7</sup> which is complemented by his report on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;<sup>8</sup>

2. *Notes with particular interest* the observations and conclusions of the Secretary-General relating to the transportation, more rapid delivery and distribution of relief supplies, reconstruction and rehabilitation, and the need for evaluation procedures to assess the way in which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the international community as a whole have dealt with the mobilization and provision of disaster relief in particular cases;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of disaster preparedness and prevention activities, and calls upon the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, Governments and agencies involved to ensure that due priority attention is given to them;

4. *Reaffirms* the sovereignty of individual Member States, recognizes the primary role of each State in caring for the victims of disasters occurring in its territory, and stresses that all relief operations should be carried out and co-ordinated in a manner consistent with the priorities and needs of the countries concerned;

5. *Stresses* that the material and other assistance provided by the international community should be appropriate to the particular needs of the populations of disaster-affected areas;

6. *Repeats* its call to all Governments and competent organs and organizations to co-operate with the Of-

<sup>7</sup> A/38/202-E/1983/94

<sup>8</sup> A/38/201-E/1983/69

office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and to improve in particular their flow of information on relief assistance, action, plans and needs;

7. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to continue and improve further the flow of information to Governments, organizations and agencies concerned, so that a more complete picture of relief activities, assistance received and further requirements may be provided to all concerned;

8. *Recommends* that the General Assembly should authorize the Secretary-General to permit the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to respond, within existing resources, to requests for emergency disaster assistance up to a total of \$600,000 in any one year;

9. *Appeals* to Governments to consider the possibility of urgent voluntary contributions, channelled directly or through the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, to enable the Office to cover, *inter alia*, unforeseen expenses in connection with disaster relief operations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments and appropriate agencies, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984, specific proposals to follow up conclusions and problems identified in his comprehensive report, taking into account the views and observations expressed during the second regular session of 1983 of the Council.

*40th plenary meeting  
28 July 1983*

#### 1983/48. Marine affairs

##### *The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its long-standing interest in marine affairs and its numerous resolutions on various aspects of the subject dating from 1966,

*Recalling also* its resolution 1980/68 of 25 July 1980, in response to which the Secretary-General has submitted to the Council a note entitled "Marine affairs: economic and technical developments",<sup>9</sup>

*Taking note* of the adoption by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea at its eleventh session of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea<sup>10</sup> and the related resolutions,<sup>11</sup> as well as the resolution entitled "Development of national marine science, technology and ocean service infrastructures",<sup>12</sup> and of General Assembly resolution 37/66 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly, *inter alia*, welcomed the adoption of the Convention and the related resolutions and approved the assumption by

the Secretary-General of the responsibilities entrusted to him under the Convention and the related resolutions,

*Taking note also* of the recommendations, decisions and observations made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-third session concerning the cross-organizational programme analysis of activities in marine affairs and the new major programme in marine affairs, particularly the Committee's recommendation that the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly should adopt the new programme, as revised, for inclusion as chapter 25 in the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989,<sup>13</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that the present activities of the Secretary-General relating to marine affairs already contribute to a large extent to the fulfilment of his responsibilities and the exercise of his functions resulting from the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the related resolutions,

*Believing firmly* that the growing needs of Member States, particularly developing countries, for information, advice and assistance regarding legal, economic and technical aspects of marine affairs warrant an appropriate and commensurate effort on the part of the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system to respond to those needs,

1. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, each within its sphere of competence, and with due regard for the efficient co-ordination of activities on a system-wide basis, to continue to make their respective programmes of activities fully responsive to the growing needs of Member States in the field of marine affairs, particularly in the light of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the related resolutions;

2. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination regarding the new major programme in marine affairs, as revised;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue, within existing budgetary resources, and taking into account the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its resumed twenty-third session with regard to the relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1984-1985, the programme of activities, including the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and data, dealing with:

(a) Planning and management, with a view to the national development and utilization of the resources of coastal areas and exclusive economic zones;

(b) Economic and technical issues related to the development of marine mineral resources in connection with the role of non-renewable resources and their impact on the economies of developing countries, as well as on the world economy;

<sup>9</sup> E/1983/97.

<sup>10</sup> *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII, document A/CONF.62/122.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, document A/CONF.62/121, annex I.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, annex VI.

<sup>13</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/38/38)*, part one, paras. 14-19 and 138.