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## ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER\*

Note by the Secretary-General

The General Assembly has before it a report on assistance in cases of natural disaster (A/5845) which the Secretary-General submitted to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly pursuant to operative paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1049 (XXXVII) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/5883). The General Assembly also has before it resolution 1090 C (XXXIX) which the Economic and Social Council adopted at its thirty-ninth session after considering the Secretary-General's report on co-ordination of international assistance in cases of natural disaster. This resolution, which contains the text of a draft resolution which the Council recommends for adoption by the General Assembly at its twentieth session, is reproduced in the annex to this note.

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\* Item 46 of the provisional agenda.

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Thirty-ninth Session, Annexes, agenda item 4, document E/4036.

ANNEX

ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTER

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1049 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964 on assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on co-ordination of assistance in cases of natural disaster,<sup>1/</sup>

Recommends to the General Assembly at its twentieth session the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1049 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964, requesting the Secretary-General to make a study of: the types of assistance the United Nations might appropriately provide; the order of magnitude of the resources the Secretary-General might require for the purpose; and the alternative methods of providing such resources, including the establishment of a United Nations fund for assistance in cases of natural disaster, financed through voluntary contributions; and to report to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly,

Recalling that resolution 1049 (XXXVII) also requested the Secretary-General to consider possible improvements in the arrangements for co-ordinating international assistance, and to report to the Council at its thirty-ninth session,

Having considered the Secretary-General's report to the nineteenth session of the General Assembly,<sup>2/</sup> the twenty-third report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,<sup>3/</sup> the Secretary-General's report to the thirty-ninth session of the Council,<sup>4/</sup>

Noting the Secretary-General's readiness to be at the disposal of international non-governmental organizations concerned with emergency relief to assist them in pursuing the question of co-ordination,

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<sup>2/</sup> A/5845.

<sup>3/</sup> A/5859.

<sup>4/</sup> E/4036.

Further noting that, in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies, the United Nations can offer guidance and also technical assistance in formulating pre-disaster plans to countries requesting it and also assistance immediately after a disaster for drawing up comprehensive plans for rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Welcoming the Secretary-General's statement that the co-ordinating procedures set out in the twenty-eighth report of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination for the co-ordination of assistance from members of the United Nations family are working satisfactorily,

1. Invites States Members of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which have not already done so:

(a) To consider the advisability of setting up appropriate national planning and operating machinery most suited to their own conditions, designed to determine the degree and character of the relief required and to give unified direction to relief operations; and that United Nations resident representatives be suitably associated with such work;

(b) To consider setting up national Red Cross or Red Crescent societies;

2. Requests Member States, when offering emergency assistance in cases of natural disaster, to inform and to make use of the appropriate standing machinery set up in the stricken countries and to inform the Secretary-General of the type of emergency assistance that they are in a position to offer;

3. Notes with satisfaction the existing arrangements which the United Nations and the specialized agencies have for providing emergency assistance including their relationships with non-governmental organizations, particularly the League of Red Cross Societies;

4. Invites the executive heads of the organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, to continue and intensify their efforts to ensure the full co-ordination of the assistance made available by and through those organizations and programmes to countries stricken by natural disasters;

5. Approves the proposal of the Secretary-General that he be authorized to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for emergency aid in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$20,000 per country in the case of any one disaster;

6. Decides to review the experimental arrangements referred to in operative paragraph 5 above at its twenty-third session.