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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: OFFICE
OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the
Committee, Mr. Carlos Gianelli (Uruguay), on the basis
of informal consultations on draft resolution
A/C.2/45/L.22

Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations
Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the increasing vulnerability of countries, in particular developing countries, to natural and other sudden disasters,

Aware of the profound negative impact of such disasters on the economic and social growth of developing countries,

Recognizing the imperative need to ensure a reduction of disaster damage by the timely adoption of appropriate preventive measures and by means of a rapid and effective response when disasters occur,

Reaffirming that the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator is the focal point within the United Nations system for matters related to disaster relief and disaster mitigation,

Having taken note of the constraints and difficulties currently facing the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the discharge of its mandate as set out in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/63 of 26 July 1990 concerning the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

2. Requests, in this connection, the Secretary-General, taking into account, inter alia, the experience drawn by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, to make proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991 for the strengthening of the capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator so that it may fulfil its mandate as set out in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 in the light of an overall analysis of the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to calls for disaster mitigation and emergency relief assistance and of the role played by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in this field, which should address, inter alia, the implementation of General Assembly decision 42/433 and strengthen arrangements for the response by the United Nations to complex emergencies;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to consider, within the framework of the overall analysis described in paragraph 2, the need to adapt further, in the case of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, existing United Nations procedures concerning the procurement, transport and storage of emergency supplies, including the establishment of special warehouses as needed, in order to permit the Office to respond in a timely manner to the special and immediate requirements of countries exposed to sudden disasters;

4. Recognizes the importance for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to be in a position to provide immediately small emergency grants to countries stricken by disasters to meet their most immediate needs;

5. Notes in that respect the pressure upon existing budgetary provisions for present and future needs during the biennium 1990-1991;

6. Requests the Economic and Social Council to review the situation at its second regular session of 1991 and authorizes the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, pending that review, to continue to make available grants, not to exceed \$50,000 per disaster, to disaster-stricken countries out of the existing reserve of \$360,000 allocated for that purpose in the programme budget of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for the biennium 1990-1991;

7. Calls upon Governments and private and voluntary organizations to make generous cash contributions to the existing contingency relief fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator so as to provide it with the flexibility necessary to address specific needs created by sudden disaster situations;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the present resolution in his next biennial report on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator which will be submitted to the General Assembly on an exceptional basis at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991.
