



**Economic and Social  
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Substantive session of 1995  
Geneva, 26 June-28 July 1995  
Agenda item 5 (a)

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS  
OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS:  
SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Argentina\*, Austria\*, Belgium\*, Bulgaria, Czech Republic\*,  
Denmark, Finland\*, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy\*,  
Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania,  
Russian Federation, Slovakia\*, Spain\*, Sweden\*, Turkey\*,  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and Uruguay\*: draft resolution

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency  
humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular  
resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of  
14 December 1993 and 49/139 A of 20 December 1994, and the relevant agreed  
conclusions of the coordination segment of its substantive session  
of 1993, 1/

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\* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic  
and Social Council.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session,  
Supplement No. 3 (A/48/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect. A.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

Noting with concern the imbalances in the capacity of different agencies, organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system to address effectively and in a comprehensive and coordinated manner the need for preparedness and a humanitarian response, as well as prevention, rehabilitation, recovery and development,

Recognizing the need to initiate a process of review of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance,

1. Strongly encourages Governments to ensure greater coherence in the direction given to the governing bodies of relevant agencies, organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system, with the aim of improving coordination and efficiency of humanitarian assistance in the United Nations system;

2. Urges the governing bodies of relevant United Nations organizations to review, during the period 1995 to 1997, issues concerning the role and operational responsibilities as well as the operative and financial capacities of their respective organizations to respond, within their mandates, to broad and comprehensive humanitarian programmes, encompassing prevention, preparedness, humanitarian response, rehabilitation, recovery and development, taking into account the indicative agenda of issues for consideration by the governing bodies of the appropriate agencies, organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system contained in the annex to the present resolution;

3. Requests relevant agencies, organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system to include in their reports to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 a section on the progress achieved in the review of these issues;

4. Requests the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, to submit to the Council at its substantive session of 1996 a progress report on the issues identified and to further provide, at a date to be determined by the Council at that session, a comprehensive report, including options and proposals for a review of all aspects of the capacity of the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance;

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2/ A/50/203-E/1995/79.

5. Calls upon the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in this context, to convene regular, informal and open information meetings with Member States, non-member States and relevant intergovernmental and other organizations on the review of the above issues, in order to ensure that they are coherently addressed, as well as to report on outstanding issues that need to be addressed.

Annex

INDICATIVE AGENDA OF ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GOVERNING BODIES  
OF THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Consider specific measures to strengthen local capacity and coping mechanisms.  
Review the role and the operational responsibilities of each specific organization in humanitarian situations in regard to prevention, preparedness, humanitarian response, rehabilitation, recovery and development, as applicable (both as regards countries of origin and countries of asylum).  
Review the impact of the allocation of resources on the relationship between live-saving needs, prevention, preparedness and recovery.  
Promote the development of operative memoranda of understanding between different organizations to ensure interlinkages between and coherence of the operational activities of relevant actors.  
Review the operational and financial capacity of each organization to act in a timely manner and effectively in relation to its role and mandate.  
Review the practical implications for each agency of participating fully in Department of Humanitarian Affairs coordinated programming and in related consolidated appeals.  
Consider the development of strategies for comprehensive staff development, including inter-agency training modules.  
Enhance and promote administrative and other procedures which provide flexibility and facilitate rapid response.  
Review levels of delegation of authority to the field level.

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