

SPECIAL QUESTIONS

1611 (LI). Measures to be taken following the natural disasters in Colombia and Chile

The Economic and Social Council,

Considering that areas of Colombia and Chile have recently suffered the effects of natural disasters which have caused considerable loss of human life and property and serious damage to the economies of both countries,

Bearing in mind that assistance to Members of the United Nations which have suffered major natural disasters is in keeping with the concept of international solidarity embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Expresses* to the people and Governments of Colombia and Chile its heartfelt condolences for the loss of life and devastation sustained as a result of the recent natural disasters;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ask the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Administrator of that Programme, the specialized agencies, more especially the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and also the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the World Food Programme, to devote the largest possible volume of resources, within their respective programmes, to meeting assistance requests from the Governments of Colombia and Chile relating to reconstruction work contemplated in their initial emergency programmes;

3. *Conveys its desire* to the Governing Council and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme that they should consider favourably such requests for assistance within the purview of that Programme as may be submitted by the Governments of Colombia and Chile in connexion with their special medium-term and long-term programmes of rehabilitation.

*1787th plenary meeting,
21 July 1971.*

1612 (LI). Assistance in cases of natural disaster and other emergency situations

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that throughout history natural disasters and emergency situations have inflicted heavy loss of life and property, affecting every people and every country,

Aware of the varying needs of nations experiencing such disorders, which present new challenges for international co-operation,

Concerned over the ability of the international community to come to the aid of countries in a disaster situation,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2435 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968 and 2717 (XXV) of 15 December 1970 on assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Expressing appreciation for the Secretary-General's comprehensive report,⁹³ and for its perceptive examination of all aspects of the question and taking note of the relevant passage in his statement to the Council on 5 July 1971,⁹⁴

Noting the study, annexed to the Secretary-General's report, on the legal status of disaster relief units made available through the United Nations,⁹⁵

Mindful of recent steps taken to improve evolving procedures in the United Nations system, voluntary agencies and individual Governments in the field of international disaster assistance,

Bearing in mind that assistance to meet the requests of the stricken countries without prejudice to their individual country programmes under the United Nations Development Programme can be an effective contribution to the rehabilitation and development of the stricken areas,

Bearing in mind also that the possible response of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other credit organizations and development agencies to a request from the Governments concerned for complementary assistance for the stricken areas, without prejudice to the assistance provided by these organizations for the normal development programmes of the stricken countries, can be an important element in the reconstruction and development of the stricken areas,

Noting the competence of the United Nations and its agencies, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, to render assistance in disasters and other emergency situations,

Noting further the key role which the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme should play at the country level,

Recognizing the vital roles in international relief of the International Red Cross and other voluntary societies,

Recognizing further the necessity to ensure prompt, effective and efficient response to a Government's need for assistance at the time of a natural disaster or other emergency situation, that will bring to bear the resources

⁹³ E/4994.

⁹⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-first Session, 1773rd meeting, para. 42.*

⁹⁵ E/4994, annex III.