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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Report of the Second Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed OULD SID'AHMED (Mauritania)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee continued its consideration of agenda item 72 at its 44th, 47th and 48th meetings, on 27 November, 10 and 11 December 1981. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/36/SR.44, 47 and 48).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/36/L.122 and A/C.2/36/L.150

2. The Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.122) submitted by the Chairman of the Committee, entitled "Expression of appreciation to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting that the incumbent United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator will shortly be relinquishing his duties,

"Recognizing the role he has played in organizing and guiding the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the performance of his functions,

"Deeply appreciative of the contribution he has made in creating and further developing that Office and his unrelenting efforts to alleviate human suffering through the special humanitarian tasks entrusted to him,

"1. Expresses its sincere appreciation to Mr. Faruk N. Berkol for the dedicated manner he has discharged the responsibilities of his office;

"2. Extends its best wishes to him for his future undertakings and well-being."

3. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the representative of Pakistan, on behalf of Egypt, Kenya, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Sudan and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.150) entitled "Expression of appreciation to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator". Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Madagascar, Somalia and Yugoslavia joined as sponsors of the resolution.
4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.150 (see para. 24, draft resolution I), in the light of which draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.122 was withdrawn.

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117 and Rev.3

5. At the 44th meeting, on 22 November, the representative of Kenya introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.117) entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies", on behalf of Kenya, Pakistan and the Sudan. Subsequently, Chad, Lebanon and the Gambia joined as sponsors of the draft resolution, which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, establishing the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the strengthening of that Office, 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, which provides, inter alia, for measures to be taken in support of the activities of the Office, and 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 on the financing of emergency relief assistance and technical co-operation activities of the Office,

"Recalling also its resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976 on financial arrangements for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

"Recalling further the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 1/

"Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries containing the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 2/

"Gravely concerned at the economic burden borne by disaster-stricken countries particularly the developing countries, and the disruption thereby caused to their development process,

"Also recalling its resolution 35/107 of 5 December 1980,

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1/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

2/ A/CONF.104/22 and Add.1.

"Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/43 of 23 July 1980 regarding international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations,

"Deeply concerned about the increasing number of emergency situations, the burden they impose on affected countries, in particular developing countries, and the disruption they cause in the development process,

"Fully cognizant of the sovereign interests and rights of affected countries and of the primacy of their role in caring for the victims of natural and "man-made" disasters,

"Anxious that the international community should respond speedily and effectively to calls for emergency humanitarian assistance,

"Reaffirming that the quality and appropriateness of material and other assistance provided by the international community should meet the particular needs of the diverse populations of disaster-affected areas,

"Recognizing the contribution made by the United Nations system to the relief of suffering and provision of humanitarian relief in emergencies,

"Recognizing that the primary responsibility of administration, relief operations and disaster preparedness lies with the affected countries and that the major part of the material assistance and human effort in disaster relief comes from the Governments of those countries,

"Recognizing also the importance in international relief of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and other voluntary organizations, and the specific role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in armed conflicts,

"Recognizing further that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it is essential to strengthen the over-all capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the United Nations system as a whole in order to enable it to respond to emergencies speedily, efficiently and effectively, and thereby ensure prompt delivery of concerted relief,

"1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General and other reports on international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations, as well as on measures for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to emergencies 3/ and of the statement made by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator before the Second Committee on 5 November 1981; 4/

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3/ See A/36/259; A/36/73; E/1981/16 and Corr.1, annex; and decision 1981/2 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

4/ A/C.2/36/SR.29.

"2. Reaffirms the mandate of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, established by the Assembly in resolution 2816 (XXVI) as the responsible entity of the United Nations system for disaster relief co-ordination and calls for its strengthening, particularly in the area of information collection and dissemination;

"3. Endorses the approaches outlined by the Secretary-General in his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the role of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the various phases of disaster assistance;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary steps to strengthen the management operations of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

"5. 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 national authorities concerned;

"6. Stresses the need to take full advantage of information provided by existing early warning monitoring systems that have been developed to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system in responding to emergencies and to co-ordinate, as far as feasible and useful, all the relevant early warning systems;

"7. Strongly urges the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, as well as other appropriate bodies, to co-operate closely with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in disaster relief activities and emergency situations and to comply promptly with the requests of disaster-affected countries;

"8. Decides that, as necessary, and in particular, in disaster-prone countries, the United Nations resident co-ordinator shall, with the prior consent and full participation of the Governments, convene meetings of the concerned United Nations agencies to plan, monitor and take action. The International Committee of the Red Cross and other appropriate voluntary agencies may be invited to participate in such meetings;

"9. Decides that, whenever required, to deal effectively with complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude, the Secretary-General or his representative, who should normally be the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, shall convene meetings of the concerned organizations of the United Nations system in order to develop a concerted relief programme and

conduct ad hoc consultations with the heads of representatives of the agencies concerned with disaster relief questions, with a view to ensuring a speedy and efficient delivery of goods and services to the disaster-stricken areas. These ad hoc consultations should draw on information provided by the Government concerned, as well as on the assessments of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the resident co-ordinator and representatives of other United Nations organizations in the countries concerned, and take into account advice offered by the Red Cross and voluntary organizations in the field. All agencies with responsibilities for emergency assistance should be involved at executive level in such consultations;

"10. Decides that, once it has been determined - on the basis of the above information and consultations - that an exceptional or compound emergency situation requiring system-wide action exists, then the Secretary-General shall designate, at the international level, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as the lead entity for co-ordination within the United Nations system and, at the country level, the appropriate entity to carry out relief operations, taking into account the specific requirements of the situation;

"11. Strongly calls upon Member States to respond positively and expeditiously to the Secretary-General's appeals for contributions to meet emergency situations;

"12. Reiterates, in particular, its appeal in resolution 35/107 for increased contributions to the trust fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, which should be utilized solely for emergency relief;

"13. Stresses in this regard the need to strengthen the human, material and financial resources available to individual agencies in order to enable them to play their respective roles more promptly, efficiently and effectively in disaster and emergency situations;

"14. Requests Member States to ensure a full flow of information to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, especially regarding relief actions, and also to provide the United Nations system with the necessary personnel and logistical support;

"15. Urges Governments in disaster-prone countries to explore further, with the assistance of the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, the possibility of improving storage facilities and transportation access facilities;

"16. Urges also the international community to assist disaster-prone countries, upon their request, with the establishment of effective national early-warning systems, the development of contingency plans for disasters and the strengthening of assessment capacity for relief requirements and, where necessary and appropriate, for distribution and monitoring of relief supplies;

"17. Calls upon organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to establish emergency units or focal points if they are not already in existence;

"18. Reaffirms the need for the international community to respond fully to requests for emergency and humanitarian assistance, in particular through increased financial contributions for affected developing countries, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, as well as those of the trust fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

"19. Requests the Secretary-General to provide a preliminary progress report concerning the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, and a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1983."

6. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the representative of Kenya, on behalf of the sponsors, joined by Bangladesh, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Gambia, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Morocco, Oman, the Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Yemen and Zimbabwe, introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3), entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations", which he orally revised as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 9, after the second word in the first line, the words "in response to a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken state and" were inserted and the words "in response to a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken state" in the fifth and sixth lines were deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 8, after the second word in the first line, the words "following a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken State and" were inserted and the words "in response to a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken State" in the eighth and ninth lines were deleted.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics introduced amendments (A/C.2/36/L.149) to draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.113/Rev.3 and withdrew the amendments previously before the Committee (A/C.2/36/L.147) as they had been incorporated in document A/C.2/36/L.149. The amendment read as follows:

"I. Incumbular paragraphs:

"1. Replace the title of the draft resolution with the following:

Improving the effectiveness of the United Nations system in responding to natural disasters:

"2. In the eleventh preambular paragraph, delete the words 'and other disaster situations';

"3. In the fourteenth preambular paragraph, second and third lines, delete the words 'strengthen and' and 'capacity and' and, in the fifth line, delete the words 'and other disaster situations';

"4. Delete the last preambular paragraph;

"5. Insert a new last preambular paragraph, reading as follows:

'Conscious of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States, and also of the principle that nothing in the Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State.';

"II. Operative part:

"6. In the first foot-note to paragraph 1, delete the reference to decision 1981/2 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

"7. In paragraph 3, fourth line, delete the words 'strengthening and' and 'capacity and';

"8. Delete paragraph 4;

"9. In paragraph 5, instead of the words 'strengthen the management operations' insert the words 'improve the effectiveness';

"10. Replace paragraph 6 with the following:

'Stresses the need to take full advantage of the information systems that have been developed to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations system in responding to natural disasters';

"11. In paragraph 7, seventh line, delete the words 'and other disaster situations';

"12. Replace paragraph 8 with the following:

'Decides that in cases of natural disaster the United Nations resident co-ordinator may, at the request of the Government of a disaster-stricken country and with its full participation, convene a meeting of organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to lend assistance to the Government in assessing the scope of damage and in planning measures to provide assistance; the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations may be invited to participate in such meetings with the approval of the host country';

"13. Replace paragraph 9 with the following:

'Decides that in cases of natural disaster which require prompt response and which cannot normally be considered by the appropriate United Nations intergovernmental organs at their regular sessions, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, upon authorization of the Secretary-General and at the request of the Government of a disaster-stricken country, may convene meetings of the concerned organizations of the United Nations system with a view to mobilizing, directing and co-ordinating the relief activities of those organizations; such meetings will not impede the right of each participating agency to respond autonomously to a request for disaster relief assistance of a stricken country in accordance with procedures established by their legislative bodies; the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator shall report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council at their regular sessions on measures undertaken by such meetings in response to a request of the country concerned';

"14. Paragraph 10 should be deleted;

"15. Paragraph 11 should be reworded to read as follows:

'Invites the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to sum up the experience available in the United Nations system concerning the designation of a lead entity in the field of providing humanitarian assistance, with a view to developing the mandate of the lead entity, and to submit a report on the subject to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982 through the Committee on Programme and Co-ordination at its twenty-second session';

"16. In paragraph 12, delete the words 'and other disaster situations';

"17. The beginning of paragraph 15 should be reworded as follows:

'Requests Member States to ensure the flow of such information as they consider desirable to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator ...';

"18. In paragraph 17, delete the words 'the establishment of effective national early-warning systems';

"19. In paragraph 18, after the word 'establish', insert the words 'within the limits of available resources';

"20. In paragraph 20, first line, delete the word 'preliminary', and in the fourth and fifth lines, delete the words 'and a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1983'."



8. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that the amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 contained in document A/C.2/36/L.149, should be voted on in parts, with separate votes cast on the amendments to operative paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the draft resolution.

9. A statement in support of that proposal was made by the representative of Bulgaria. Statements against that proposal were made by the representatives of Pakistan and the Sudan.

10. Statements were also made by the representatives of the German Democratic Republic, the Sudan, Mongolia and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

11. At the 48th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee, by 84 votes to 14, with 17 abstentions, rejected the proposal to cast separate votes on parts of the amendments contained in document A/C.2/36/L.149.

12. Before the Committee took action on the amendments (A/C.2/36/L.149) in their entirety, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that all the amendments should be deleted, with the exception of those to operative paragraphs 8, 9 and 10.

13. A statement was made by the representative of Australia.

14. The Committee rejected the proposal of the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee, by 81 votes to 15, with 20 abstentions, rejected the amendments to draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3, contained in document A/C.2/36/L.149.

16. A statement in explanation of vote after the vote was made by the representative of Turkey.

17. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 as orally revised (see para. 6), by a recorded vote of 109 to 11, with 5 abstentions (see para. 24, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows: 5/

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5/ Subsequently, the representative of Angola stated that his delegation had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

In favour: Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burma, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Angola, Bulgaria, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Honduras, Mongolia, Poland, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Viet Nam.

Abstaining: Algeria, Argentina, Cuba, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Suriname.

18. Statements in explanation of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Brazil, Nigeria, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (on behalf of the States members of the European Community), Peru, Australia, Canada, Venezuela, China, Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Zimbabwe, the United States of America, Kuwait, Mongolia, Poland (also on behalf of Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) and Argentina.

C. Draft decision A/C.2/36/L.156

19. At the 47th meeting, on 10 December, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics orally proposed a draft decision on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 and the proposed amendments to it, contained in A/C.2/36/L.149. The draft decision (subsequently issued as A/C.2/36/L.156) read as follows:

"The General Assembly decides to transmit the text of the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations", 6/ with the amendments thereto submitted by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 7/ to its thirty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982."

20. At the 48th meeting, on 11 December, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that draft decision A/C.2/36/L.156 should be acted on by the Committee before it acted on draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3.
21. The Committee, by 88 votes to 15, with 15 abstentions, rejected the request for priority to draft decision A/C.2/36/L.156.
22. A statement was made by the representative of the German Democratic Republic.
23. The Committee decided that, as a result of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3 (see para. 17), it would take no action on draft decision A/C.2/36/L.156.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

24. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

#### DRAFT RESOLUTION I

##### Expression of appreciation to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Noting that the incumbent United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator will shortly be relinquishing his duties,

Recognizing the role he has played in organizing and guiding the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the performance of its functions,

Deeply appreciative of the contribution he has made in creating and further developing that Office and his unrelenting efforts to alleviate human suffering through the special humanitarian tasks entrusted to him,

1. Expresses its sincere appreciation to Mr. Faruk N. Berkol for the dedicated manner in which he has discharged the responsibilities of his office;
2. Extends its best wishes to him for his future undertakings and well being;

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6/ A/C.2/36/L.117/Rev.3.

7/ A/C.2/36/L.149.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which it established the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the strengthening of that Office, 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, in which it provided, inter alia, for measures to be taken in support of the activities of the Office, and 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 on the financing of emergency relief assistance and technical co-operation activities of the Office,

Recalling also its resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976 on financial arrangements for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Recalling further the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, 8/

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries containing the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, in particular the section concerning disaster assistance for least developed countries, 9/

Deeply concerned about the increasing number of natural disasters and other disaster situations, the economic burden borne by disaster-stricken and affected countries, particularly the developing countries, and the disruption thereby caused to their development process,

Also recalling its resolution 35/107 of 5 December 1980,

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/43 of 23 July 1980 regarding international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in natural disaster and other disaster situations,

Fully cognizant of the sovereign interests and rights of affected countries and of the primacy of their role in caring for the victims of natural disasters and other disaster situations,

Anxious that the international community should respond speedily and effectivly to calls for emergency humanitarian assistance,

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8/ General Assembly resolution 35/56, annex.

9/ A/CONF.104/22 and Add.1, part one, para. 59.

Recognizing that the quality and appropriateness of material and other assistance provided by the international community should meet the particular needs of the populations of disaster-affected areas,

Recognizing the contribution made by the United Nations system to the relief of suffering and provision of humanitarian relief in natural disasters and other disaster situations,

Recognizing that the primary responsibility of administration, relief operations and disaster preparedness lies with the affected countries and that the major part of the material assistance and human effort in disaster relief comes from the Governments of those countries,

Recognizing also the importance in international relief of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations,

Recognizing further that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it is 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 in order to enable the Office to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations speedily, efficiently and effectively, and thereby ensure prompt delivery of concerted relief,

Recognizing that a major constraint for the United Nations system to respond effectively to natural disasters and other disaster situations has been the shortage of resources,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General and other reports on international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations, as well as on measures for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations 10/ and of the statement made by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator before the Second Committee on 5 November 1981; 11/
2. 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;
3. Reaffirms the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, established by the General Assembly in resolution 2816 (XXVI) as the focal point of the United Nations system for disaster relief co-ordination and calls for strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office;

10/ See A/36/73 and Add.1; A/36/259; E/1981/16 and Corr.1, annex; and decision 1981/2 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination.

11/ A/C.2/36/SR.29, paras. 33-40.

4. Endorses the approaches outlined by the Secretary-General in his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the role of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the various phases of disaster assistance; 12/

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary steps to strengthen the management operations of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

6. Stresses the need to take full advantage of information provided by existing early-warning monitoring systems that have been developed to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system in responding to natural disasters and other disaster situations and to co-ordinate, as far as feasible and useful, all the relevant early-warning systems, and stresses, to this effect, the capability of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in information collection and dissemination should be further strengthened and improved;

7. Urges the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and other appropriate bodies, to co-operate closely, in their respective areas of competence, with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in disaster relief activities and other disaster situations, to respond effectively to the needs of the situation and to comply promptly with the requests of disaster-affected countries;

8. Decides that, in response to a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken state and, as necessary, in particular in disaster-prone countries, the United Nations resident co-ordinator shall, with the full concurrence, consent and participation of the Government, convene meetings of the concerned organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to plan, monitor and take immediate action to provide assistance; the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations may be invited to participate in such meetings with the approval of the host country;

9. Decides that, following a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken state and whenever required to deal effectively with complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude, the Secretary-General or his representative, who would normally be the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, shall convene meetings of the concerned organizations of the United Nations system in order to develop a concerted relief programme and conduct ad hoc consultations with the heads or representatives of the agencies concerned with disaster-relief questions, with a view to ensuring speedy and efficient delivery of goods and services to the disaster-stricken areas, and decides that these ad hoc

consultations should draw on information provided by the Government concerned, as well as on the assessments of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the resident co-ordinator and representatives of other United Nations organizations in the countries concerned, and take into account advice offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations in the field; all agencies with responsibilities for natural disasters and other disaster situations should be involved at the appropriate level in such consultations;

10. Decides that, once it has been determined - on the basis of the above-mentioned information and consultations - that an exceptional or complex natural disaster or other disaster situation requiring system-wide action exists, the Secretary-General shall designate, at the international level, a lead entity from among the United Nations organizations, agencies and bodies, including the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and, at the country level, the appropriate entity of the United Nations system to carry out relief operations, taking into account the specific requirements of the situation and in consultation with the host Government, and calls on all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate closely with one another in their relief operations;

11. Invites the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to examine urgently the role of the lead entity and participating organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in complex disaster situations, taking into account decision 1981/2 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, on the deliberations of the Committee;

12. Strongly calls upon all States to respond positively and expeditiously to the Secretary-General's appeals for contributions to meet natural disasters and other disaster situations;

13. Reiterates, in particular, its appeal in resolution 35/107 for increased contributions to the trust fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, in particular to the subaccount for humanitarian emergency relief;

14. Stresses in this regard the need to strengthen the operational capacity and the human, material and financial resources available to individual agencies and organizations, in order to enable them to play their respective roles more promptly, efficiently and effectively in natural disasters and other disaster situations;

15. Requests all States to ensure a full flow of information to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, especially regarding relief actions, and also to provide the United Nations system with the necessary personnel and logistical support;

16. Urges Governments in disaster-prone countries to explore further, with the assistance of the donors, appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, the possibility of improving storage, communication and transportation facilities, as well as measures to ensure disaster preparedness and prevention;

17. Also urges the international community to assist disaster-prone countries, upon their request, with the establishment of effective national early-warning systems, the development of contingency plans for disasters and the strengthening of assessment capacity for relief requirements and for distribution and monitoring of relief supplies;

18. Calls upon organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to establish emergency units or focal points if they are not already in existence;

19. Reaffirms the need for the international community to respond fully to requests for emergency and humanitarian assistance, in particular through increased financial contributions for affected developing countries, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, 9/ as well as those of the trust fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, and a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session through the Council at its second regular session of 1983.

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