



30 August 1999

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: **United Nations Staff Relief Committee for Turkey**

1. On 17 August 1999, an earthquake struck north-western Turkey, devastating the towns at the epicentre, namely Izmit, Gölçük, Yalova and Adapazari near Istanbul. The quake, 7.8 on the Richter scale, left more than 12,000 dead, thousands of persons buried under rubble and 200,000 persons without homes. The survivors are in dire need of medical attention, clothing, tents and other necessities such as clean water. Economic losses in this, the most industrialized region of the country, are estimated at tens of billions of United States dollars.

2. International relief agencies have generously responded for immediate rescue and relief. However, survivors will need support and care in the coming months. With this in mind, the United Nations staff at Headquarters, with the approval of the Secretary-General and the support of the Staff Committee, have formed the United Nations Staff Relief Committee for Turkey to appeal for funds to alleviate the suffering of the victims. The Committee is comprised of: Sema Gurun, Chairperson; Irma Martensson, Treasurer; Denis Sheridan, Secretary and Coordinator; and Maria Almeida, Aliye Çelik, Willard Hass, Imad Hassanin, Özdinç Mustafa and Carolyn Schuler Uluç, members.

3. Collection of contributions will start on Thursday, 2 September 1999. An account has also been established by the Treasurer at the United Nations Federal Credit Union, where staff can make direct deposits until 1 October 1999 to the following account:

United Nations Staff Relief for Turkey
Account No. 170214

4. Staff who are overseas and would like to contribute can do so by sending a wire transfer to the account number given above, using ABA#: 2260-7860-9.

5. Contributions will be donated through an appropriate and directly involved relief agency.

* Expiration date of the present circular: 30 September 1999.