



**General Assembly**

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/37/122  
24 May 1982

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Item 74 (b) of the preliminary list\*

**SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES  
OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE**

Assistance to drought-stricken areas in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya,  
Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its thirty-fifth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 35/90 of 5 December 1980, noted with concern the adverse effects of successive years of drought on the economic and social developments of Djibouti, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda and recommended that the Governments of the drought-stricken countries of the region should consider the establishment of an intergovernmental body with the responsibility for co-ordinating and supporting the countries' efforts to combat the effects of the drought and other disasters. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations concerned within the United Nations system, to assign the responsibility for assisting those countries in the region to the appropriate body, within the system, which would be funded from voluntary contributions. In addition, the Assembly requested a multiagency mission to go to Djibouti, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda and to assess the needs of the Government of those countries and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1981 and to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session.

2. At the same session, the General Assembly, in resolution 35/91 of 5 December 1980, also took note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Ethiopia (A/35/584) and requested him, in consultation with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1981 and to the Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the resolution and of other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Council.

\* A/37/50/Rev.1.

3. At its thirty-sixth session, the General Assembly, in resolution 36/221 of 17 December 1981, recalled its resolutions mentioned above and Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/48 of 20 July 1981 regarding assistance to the drought-stricken countries and to Kenya. The Assembly also noted the reports of the Secretary-General on assistance to Djibouti (A/36/276), Kenya (A/36/712), Somalia (A/36/275), the Sudan (A/36/277) and Uganda (A/36/274). In addition, the Assembly urged the Governments concerned to continue the consultations and to finalize the arrangements for the establishment of an intergovernmental body and invited the Secretary-General within existing resources, in close co-operation with the Administrator of UNDP, to assist those countries in the establishment of the proposed intergovernmental body. The Assembly also noted that arrangements had been made by the Secretary-General for a unit within UNDP to be created when funds were made available through voluntary contributions, and then requested the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1982, and to the Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 36/221.

4. During 1981, as compared with the previous two years, all the countries mentioned in General Assembly resolution 36/221, except Djibouti and parts of Ethiopia, have had sufficient rainfall. The situation of agriculture and livestock has been improved greatly. At least in the short term, this development has relieved some of the pressure on the food supply and on the environment.

5. In view of the limited response to the Secretary-General's appeal for voluntary contributions in General Assembly resolutions 35/90, 35/91 and 36/221, UNDP was not in a position to assist in the implementation of the various Assembly and special mission recommendations for medium-term and long-term rehabilitation, drought-policy development, fund-raising and the establishment of drought-stricken systems. In addition, no further action has been taken to establish the intergovernmental body called for in Assembly resolution 35/90, which was an important precondition for future action. Nevertheless, UNDP, through its network of field officers, has been prepared to receive and to assist in the implementation of requests from the Governments concerned.

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