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SHORT-TERM, MEDIUM-TERM AND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS
OF NATURAL DISASTERS IN BANGLADESH

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea, Iraq, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania: revised draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 40/231 of 17 December following the disastrous cyclone that struck Bangladesh in 1985,

Recalling also its resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987 on the international decade for natural disaster reduction,

Noting with concern the devastating consequences of the recent floods in Bangladesh, the worst in living memory, that have caused significant loss of life, unprecedented human suffering to tens of millions of stranded and homeless people subjected to hunger and water-borne disease and incalculable damage to crops, livestock, communications and infrastructure,

Noting the statement of the representative of Bangladesh, in which he elaborated the details of these concerns,

Deeply conscious of the macro-economic impact of such calamities, which constitutes an insurmountable burden on the economy and development plans of a least developed country like Bangladesh, causing irrecoverable set-back in growth

and necessitating extremely difficult adjustment, and that the cost of damage inflicted by such catastrophes often exceeds the net inflow of development assistance,

Recognizing the strenuous efforts of the Government and people of Bangladesh to save lives, to alleviate the suffering and hardship suffered by the victims of the flood and to initiate urgent recovery measures, including immediate relief and rehabilitation measures,

Recognizing that the magnitude of the damage and devastation is beyond the individual ability of Bangladesh to rectify or to meet, requiring national efforts to be supplemented by sustained international financial and technical assistance over the long term,

Emphasizing in this connection the importance of measures noted in the report of the Secretary-General on special economic and disaster relief assistance to Bangladesh, submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, 1/

Aware that Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to recurrent disasters that have the potential of becoming annual visitations of destruction far beyond its capacity either to control or to effectively mitigate,

Conscious of the fact that international assistance and investment over time are required to mitigate and prevent the consequences of such disasters,

Noting with appreciation the support and solidarity displayed by the countries of South Asia in assisting Bangladesh in the immediate aftermath of the floods,

Welcoming the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh, initiated at the highest level, to strengthen bilateral co-operation with concerned countries of the region through the establishment of task forces of experts to study and make recommendations for flood management and water flows and to find durable solutions to the problems in these areas,

Expressing the hope that these multiple bilateral approaches will strengthen co-operation, co-ordination and convergence of mutual interests leading to practical arrangements to promote solutions for the assessment, prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and to joint approaches for a permanent solution,

Recognizing the responsibility of the United Nations system to facilitate studies at the request of concerned Governments, including those of natural disasters of a geophysical origin, to improve capacities of countries to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, to foster scientific and engineering endeavours to close critical gaps in knowledge, to disseminate existing and new information and to develop measures for prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters through programmes of technical assistance and technology transfer,

1/ A/41/396.

Aware that considerable expertise and technical capabilities are available within the organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen preparedness and prevention capabilities of disaster-prone countries through promotion of a long-term and effective solution of the problems caused by natural disasters,

1. Expresses its gratitude to Member States, international organizations within and outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals and groups that have so generously assisted the Government of Bangladesh in its immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts;
2. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for the urgent steps he has taken to mobilize humanitarian assistance and through the appointment of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as his Special Representative to co-ordinate activities of the United Nations agencies in the field for purposeful and unified assistance by the international community;
3. Appeals to all Member States, specialized agencies in the field and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international economic and financial institutions, to respond urgently and generously in sustaining development assistance to Bangladesh, particularly in its plans and programmes for longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction;
4. Requests relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to take appropriate measures to provide assistance to Bangladesh to strengthen its capacity to assess, predict, prevent and mitigate natural disasters, particularly for disaster preparedness and prevention programmes and to implement its plans and programmes for seeking a long-term and effective solution of the problem caused by floods and other natural disasters;
5. Requests the Secretary-General through the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and in co-operation with other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, to assist the Government of Bangladesh in preparing its own feasibility plan to meet such exigencies;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

