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Agenda item 64

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

Bangladesh, Chile, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, Jamaica,
Madagascar, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Somalia, Tunisia,
Turkey, Yugoslavia: draft resolution

Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Recalling section II, paragraph 14, of its resolution 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, and its resolution 33/22 of 29 November 1978,

Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/59 of 3 August 1979,

Reaffirming that it is necessary to ensure a continued sound financial basis for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, as recognized by the General Assembly in its resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976,

Reaffirming also the central role of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the mobilization, direction and co-ordination of international disaster relief assistance, in accordance with the mandate established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

Recognizing the detrimental effects of natural disasters on the development programmes of developing countries, and mindful of the need to take disaster matters into consideration in the preparatory process for the new international development strategy,

Recognizing also that the funds provided in the regular budget of the Office for the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for emergency disaster relief assistance are now inadequate to respond to requests for assistance from disaster-afflicted developing countries,

Emphasizing once more the need for all involved in relief operations to implement measures to expedite international relief assistance and to remove any obstacles to its delivery,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 1/ and the oral statement made by the Co-ordinator to the Second Committee on 2 November 1979; 2/

2. Commends the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for his continued efforts on behalf of those who suffer as a result of disasters;

3. Calls upon recipient Governments to co-operate with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator by informing his Office of the relief contributions offered and received;

4. Requests the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to develop further his working arrangements with donors and recipients of relief assistance;

5. Renews its call to Governments and international organizations to provide the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator with detailed information on their current and intended relief contributions, in cash and in kind, in order to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure the provision of all necessary assistance to the survivors of disasters;

6. Invites Governments, intergovernmental agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned with relief operations to co-operate with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in his efforts to ensure the rapid and timely delivery of appropriate international relief, and to consider the adoption of appropriate legislative, administrative or operational measures to remove obstacles and expedite international relief assistance to the victims of disasters;

7. Welcomes the decision taken by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its twenty-sixth session to give consideration to the inclusion of technical co-operation activities for disaster preparedness and prevention in national and regional programmes; 3/

8. Requests that additional funds be provided in the regular budget of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator for 1980-1981 to permit the Co-ordinator to respond to at least 12 requests for emergency disaster assistance in any one year with a normal ceiling of \$30,000 per country in the case of any one disaster

9. Requests the Preparatory Committee for the New International Development Strategy to take into account, in its deliberations, matters concerning disaster relief, preparedness and prevention.

1/ A/34/190.

2/ See A/C.2/34/SR.30.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1979, Supplement No. 10 (E/1979/40), chap. XXI.

10. Urges all Governments to contribute to the trust fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, taking into particular account the financial problems of the subaccount for emergency relief, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General.
