

Taking note of the statement made to the Economic and Social Council by the representative of the Government of Ghana,

1. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the Government and the people of Ghana to rehabilitate returnees;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* of the action taken by the Secretary-General;

3. *Takes note* of the oral report on the multi-agency mission and endorses the recommendations of the mission;

4. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided emergency humanitarian assistance to Ghana;

5. *Urgently appeals* to all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system to contribute generously and to provide the further assistance needed to enable Ghana to pursue its economic recovery programme and its efforts to rehabilitate returnees;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To submit the report of the multi-agency mission to the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session and to disseminate it as widely as possible;

(b) To ensure that adequate financial arrangements are made for the organization of an effective programme of international assistance to Ghana and for the mobilization of international assistance;

(c) To establish a special account under the United Nations Trust Fund for Special Economic Assistance Programmes for the purpose of facilitating the channelling of contributions to Ghana in accordance with the recommendations of the multi-agency mission;

(d) To apprise the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984 of progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*40th plenary meeting,
28 July 1983*

1983/45. Assistance to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru

The Economic and Social Council,

Deeply concerned about the large-scale devastation wrought by the heavy rain and floods which have recently affected extensive areas of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru and by the drought being suffered by Bolivia and Peru,

Bearing in mind that those two climatological phenomena have caused destruction in urban and rural areas and serious damage in the agricultural, stock-raising and agro-industrial sectors,

Further bearing in mind that those sectors are important bases of the economies of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru,

Considering that the urgent problems created require programmes of assistance, rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Affirming the urgent need for prompt and concerted international action to assist the peoples and Governments of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru to cope with the emergency confronting those countries and to engage in rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Observing with satisfaction the assistance provided by Governments, the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations during the initial emergency period,

Noting with appreciation the work done by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to States and organizations that have provided assistance to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru;

2. *Appeals urgently* to all States, governmental and non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies to co-operate in financing a reconstruction and rehabilitation programme for the affected areas of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru and to participate actively in its implementation;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To take the necessary measures to assist the Governments of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru to prepare a broad programme for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the areas and sectors affected;

(b) To take appropriate steps to mobilize resources for special international assistance to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru;

(c) To apprise the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session and the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984 of progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/46. Assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 35/90 and 35/91 of 5 December 1980, 36/221 of 17 December 1981 and 37/147 of 17 December 1982 on assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda,

Having heard the statement made by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator on 11 July 1983,

Noting the statements made by representatives of the States concerned, in which the catastrophic nature of the disaster was highlighted,

Aware of the adverse effects of the drought on the economic and social development of the countries concerned, and on their agricultural and food output,

Conscious of the high costs incurred in the distribution of assistance to the remote areas of the countries concerned,

Noting with deep concern the grave effects in the countries concerned, particularly Ethiopia, of successive years of drought and the resulting shortage of foodstuffs, livestock, fodder and water,

Deeply concerned at the intensity and the permanent and expanding nature of the drought in the subregion,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the measures already taken by the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and other agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, to ensure the speediest and most effective relief aid for the victims of drought in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda;

2. *Reiterates* its appeal to all States and to international governmental and non-governmental organizations to make generous contributions to assist the affected populations financially, materially and technically;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-ordination with the countries concerned, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the competent specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system:

(a) To extend all necessary assistance to the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda in establishing, within the context of their national development programmes, detailed policies for dealing with drought as a recurring phenomenon;

(b) To mobilize international assistance for the affected population in the countries concerned;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and other organizations of the United Nations system, to give high priority in their programmes of work to the East African subregion, and to apprise the Economic and Social Council annually, at its second regular session, of the status of this question;

5. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to keep the situation under review and to apprise the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth session of the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

*40th plenary meeting
28 July 1983*

1983/47. Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was established, and 36/225 of 17 December 1981, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the mandate of the Office and, *inter alia*, called for the strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 37/144 of 17 December 1982, in which the Assembly recognized that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it was 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,

Recognizing that, as a result of those resolutions and other relevant resolutions and decisions, there is now in place a workable system to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate relief activities carried out by the United Nations system, in co-operation with Governments and voluntary agencies,

Noting that the operation of that system has been much improved but that there remains a need for its full application,

Noting further with appreciation the effective responses of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to recent major disasters,

Recognizing that shortage of resources has been a constraint on an effective response of the United Nations to disaster situations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations,⁷ which is complemented by his report on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;⁸

2. *Notes with particular interest* the observations and conclusions of the Secretary-General relating to the transportation, more rapid delivery and distribution of relief supplies, reconstruction and rehabilitation, and the need for evaluation procedures to assess the way in which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the international community as a whole have dealt with the mobilization and provision of disaster relief in particular cases;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of disaster preparedness and prevention activities, and calls upon the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, Governments and agencies involved to ensure that due priority attention is given to them;

4. *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;

5. *Stresses* that the material and other assistance provided by the international community should be appropriate to the particular needs of the populations of disaster-affected areas;

6. *Repeats* its call to all Governments and competent organs and organizations to co-operate with the Of-

⁷ A/38/202-E/1983/94

⁸ A/38/201-E/1983/69