

2. A substantial increase in the number of qualified women holding responsible posts at the executive and policy-making levels, including those related to over-all development planning.

2717 (XXV). Assistance in cases of natural disaster

The General Assembly,

Concerned about the grave human and material losses suffered by countries which have recently been stricken by natural disasters,

Aware also of the serious consequences of such disasters on the economic and social development of countries, particularly the developing countries,

Expressing its appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Red Cross, other voluntary organizations, the United Nations system and bilateral aid, and once again emphasizing the necessity of strengthening the international machinery for providing adequate assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Mindful of the principles laid down in the Declaration of Principles for International Humanitarian Relief to the Civilian Population in Disaster Situations, contained in resolution XXVI adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross held at Istanbul in 1969,⁴⁴

Recalling its resolutions 2034 (XX) of 7 December 1965, 2435 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2608 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 2643 (XXV) of 20 November 1970 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1533 (XLIX) of 23 July 1970 and 1546 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970 concerning assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Aware that the assistance envisaged in cases of natural disaster in resolution 2435 (XXIII) is inadequate for relief in calamities of major magnitude,

Having considered with interest and appreciation the interim report of the Secretary-General on assistance in cases of natural disaster⁴⁵ and the report of the Secretary-General's personal representative on United Nations assistance to Peru,⁴⁶

Noting the request made by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session to the Secretary-General to give early consideration to the strengthening of staff arrangements within the United Nations Secretariat to deal with natural disasters, and the steps already taken towards the implementation of this request, including the designation of a focal point in the Secretariat,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen and co-ordinate effectively the efforts of the United Nations family of organizations in disaster relief as well as other assistance directed through the United Nations system,

Considering that additional measures are necessary to enable the United Nations system to play an effective and more significant role in meeting the needs of States, especially the developing countries, in relation to natural disasters, epidemics, famines and similar emergency situations,

Also bearing in mind that immediate relief assistance at the international level should be followed by con-

certed action for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the disaster areas,

Recalling the request made to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in its resolution 2435 (XXIII) to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of that resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-first session and to the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session,

1. *Renews its appeals* to States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies to consider and to continue offering on a wider basis, through the United Nations, bilateral arrangements or other appropriate organizations, emergency assistance to meet natural disasters, including stand-by disaster relief units or the earmarking of similar units for service in foreign countries;

2. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies to communicate information to the Secretary-General on the kind of facilities and services they might be in a position to provide immediately, if they so decided, in response to a request from him to participate in emergency relief operations, including, where possible, the number and type of vehicles or other means of delivering supplies to disaster areas by air, sea and land;

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General to submit in his comprehensive report the study called for in paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 2435 (XXIII) concerning the legal status of disaster relief units made available through the United Nations;

4. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include in his comprehensive report, in addition to those studies and reports he has been invited to submit by the General Assembly in resolution 2435 (XXIII) and by the Economic and Social Council in paragraphs 10 and 11 of resolution 1546 (XLIX), his conclusions and recommendations on:

(a) The capacity of the different organizations of the United Nations system to contribute assistance in connexion with natural disasters;

(b) The areas where this assistance might be increased or made more effective;

(c) The most appropriate means to strengthen further the capacity of the United Nations relating to natural disasters, including organizational arrangements for the permanent office in the United Nations Secretariat responsible for the co-ordination of action relating to natural disasters, epidemics, famines and similar emergency situations and the resources required therefor;

5. *Further invites* the Secretary-General, in pursuance of paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 above, to submit recommendations in particular on:

(a) Ways and means of ensuring better mobilization and co-ordination of the assistance to be provided through the United Nations, the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the League of Red Cross Societies and other non-governmental organizations;

(b) Pre-disaster planning at the national and international levels, including the definition of machinery and contingency arrangements capable of coping immediately with disaster situations;

(c) The stockpiling of emergency supplies, including medicines, non-perishable food-stuffs, blankets, tents and clothing, and the earmarking of other facilities such as logistical equipment and helicopters;

⁴⁴ *International Review of the Red Cross*, No. 104 (November 1969), p. 632.

⁴⁵ E/4853 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

⁴⁶ E/L.1356.

(d) The application of technology to, and scientific research for, the prevention and control of natural disasters, or a mitigation of the effects of such disasters, including arrangements to disseminate effectively to all countries the fruits of research from satellites and other sophisticated technology with a view to strengthening international co-operation to determine the causes and early manifestation of impending disasters, and the development and improvement of early warning systems;

(e) National and international programmes designed to train relief personnel;

(f) Measures to be taken in the initial emergency or post-disaster phase directed at immediate relief operations and short-term low-cost rehabilitation measures, including the deployment of mobile transportation units and the means to assess the extent of damage and the amount of assistance needed in this first phase;

(g) The study of long-term plans for the reconstruction and development of disaster areas, and the affected countries as a whole, bearing in mind the principle that the problems of reconstruction are inseparable from the problems of economic development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Red Cross Societies, where appropriate, to study and recommend in his comprehensive report, taking into account past practices, the most effective measures and means to meet requests for technical assistance by States members of the United Nations system in elaboration of their planning of national preparations to meet natural disasters, epidemics, famines and similar emergency situations;

7. *Urges* that requests submitted by Governments for assistance under General Assembly resolutions 2435 (XXIII) and 2608 (XXIV) be given prompt and appropriate response in regard to the amount and type of assistance requested;

8. *Also invites* the United Nations Development Programme to give serious consideration to the possibility of meeting requests for assistance which countries stricken by natural disasters may submit for the express purpose of the rehabilitation and development of the stricken areas without prejudice to the utilization of funds already earmarked for projects of the Programme;

9. *Further invites* the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other international credit organizations and development agencies to give serious consideration to requests for assistance from the Governments of countries affected by natural disasters relating to their programmes for reconstruction and development and without prejudice to the requests submitted by them prior to the natural disaster that are still under consideration.

*1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.*

2718 (XXV). Housing, building and planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2036 (XX) of 7 December 1965 and 2598 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,

Mindful of the dedication of the Governments, on the threshold of the 1970s, to create conditions of social justice, stability and well-being for all and to

ensure a minimum standard of living consistent with human dignity through economic and social progress and development,

Further recalling paragraph 71 of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade⁴⁷ relating to the policy measures in the housing sector,

Considering that a greater effort needs to be made to provide effective international assistance for the improvement of the situation with regard to housing and human settlements in most developing countries,

Bearing in mind that the interregional seminar on the improvement of slums and uncontrolled settlements, held at Medellín, Colombia, from 15 February to 1 March 1970, identified the problem of human settlements as one which requires national and international solutions through the adoption of a global strategy,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the problems and priorities in human settlements,⁴⁸

1. *Recommends* that Member States, with the assistance, upon request, of the United Nations bodies concerned and in the context of their over-all economic and social development planning, should formulate definite and long-term housing, building and planning policies and programmes for the improvement of human settlements, devoting particular attention to:

(a) Comprehensive measures to solve the problems of rapid urbanization, housing and uncontrolled human settlements, thereby achieving more rational urban growth patterns;

(b) Steps for a rapid and significant improvement of housing, community facilities and environmental sanitation in rural areas;

(c) The application of comprehensive planning approaches to integrate the physical, economic, social and administrative aspects for improvement of human settlements in both rural and urban areas;

(d) The evolution and application of regional planning for balanced rural and urban development, especially in developing countries;

(e) The development of the building industry and building technology, including research and training;

(f) The review, if necessary, of the legislative framework governing land tenure, the transfer of land and buildings in urban and rural areas, and the planning of over-all patterns of land use and appropriate infrastructural facilities;

2. *Further recommends* that Member States and the United Nations organizations concerned should undertake the following measures for the amelioration of conditions in the field of housing and human settlements:

(a) The elaboration by each country of its national policies and programmes for the development of housing and of a network of human settlements during the 1970s, fully integrated into national development plans, including, if necessary, the elaboration of legal, institutional and physical arrangements relating to urban and rural land use;

(b) The establishment of national and regional centres for studies in planning, designing, social and administrative aspects and experiments in low-cost housing techniques and activities, including increasing use and application of indigenous and, as appropriate, new building materials and local skills;

⁴⁷ Resolution 2626 (XXV).

⁴⁸ A/8037.