

Having heard with satisfaction the introductory statement made in the Third Committee by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,⁷³ in particular his reference to the need for concerted global action to combat natural disasters,

Noting with satisfaction the action taken by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator during the past year,

1. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General, as an interim measure, to draw on the Working Capital Fund in the amount of \$45,000 for 1974 and \$60,000 for 1975 for assistance to Governments, at their request, in co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system and the League of Red Cross Societies, where appropriate, in the elaboration of national preparations to meet natural disasters;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to explore various means, including support from the United Nations Development Programme, of making adequate provision for this purpose in the future;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States and all organizations concerned with disaster-related matters to continue to give the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator their full co-operation and support.

2202nd plenary meeting
14 December 1973

3153 (XXVIII). Aid to the Sudano-Sahelian populations threatened with famine

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972 and 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973,

Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1759 (LIV) of 18 May 1973 and 1797 (LV) of 11 July 1973,

Welcoming the spirit of solidarity shown both by countries and regional agencies as well as by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of

the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator⁷⁴ and of the relevant part of the report of the Economic and Social Council,⁷⁵

Noting with concern the observation by the representative of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations drawing attention to the fact that the state of emergency resulting from the drought will continue in 1974 and that donors should therefore give serious consideration to renewed requests for outside assistance and to the timely dispatch of relief aid,

Taking note also of the joint appeal made on 26 November 1973 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for aid to the countries affected by the drought in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

1. *Expresses its deep sympathy* to the peoples and Governments of the Sudano-Sahelian region;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue to take all necessary steps to provide the most effective possible material and financial assistance, in co-operation with the organs and agencies concerned, to those countries in the Sudano-Sahelian region which request such assistance;

3. *Appeals once again* to the Governments of Member States, to United Nations organs and programmes and to the specialized agencies, calling upon them, *inter alia*, to continue and consider increasing their assistance to the Sudano-Sahelian countries within the framework of the emergency relief operations, with specific reference to the joint appeal for emergency assistance made on 26 November 1973 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-ninth session on the development of the situation.

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⁷⁴ A/9063.

⁷⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/9003 and Corr.1), chap. XXIV, sect. D.*

⁷³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Third Committee, 2040th meeting, paras. 29-36.*

Other decisions

Freedom of information

(Item 64)

At its 2201st plenary meeting, on 14 December 1973, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee,⁷⁶ decided to include in the provisional agenda of its twenty-ninth session the item entitled "Freedom of information".

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-eighth Session, Annexes, agenda item 64, document A/9395, para. 6.*