

conomic Commission for Latin America in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme,¹⁵

Also bearing in mind the report on the ninth extraordinary session of the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America,¹⁶

Recognizing the urgency and importance of implementing the measures which the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America unanimously recommended in resolution 343 (AC.67) of 22 October 1974, entitled "International co-operation to deal with the natural disaster which occurred in Honduras during the period 18 to 20 September 1974",

1. *Conveys* to the people and Government of Honduras its feeling of solidarity in the face of the tragedy they have suffered;

2. *Endorses* resolution 343 (AC.67), adopted by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America at its ninth extraordinary session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the international organizations of the United Nations system to ensure the dedicated and prompt execution of the recommendations contained in resolution 343 (AC.67).

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29 November 1974

3243 (XXIX). Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which it created the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and established its primary functions of co-ordinating disaster relief, especially through its role as an information clearing-house, and of assisting in disaster prevention and preparedness,

Endorsing Economic and Social Council resolution 1891 (LVII) of 31 July 1974, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to investigate the feasibility of measures to strengthen the disaster prevention, pre-disaster planning and co-ordinating roles of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and to submit his findings to the Council at its fifty-ninth session, and in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly, at its twenty-ninth session, should reconsider the proposals of the Secretary-General for additional staff resources,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in cases of natural disaster and other disaster situations,¹⁷ and of the statement made to the Second Committee by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator on the activities of his Office,¹⁸

Noting in particular the statements in the Secretary-General's report that, while some progress has been made in the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in establishing its assigned func-

tion of mobilizing and co-ordinating relief, the lack of staff and facilities, combined with the frequency, duration and simultaneity of disaster situations, has seriously impaired the effectiveness of the Office in discharging these and other responsibilities,

Concerned that lack of adequate co-ordination on a world-wide basis results, in some cases, in lapses in meeting priority needs and, in others, in costly duplication and in the supply of unneeded assistance,

Convinced that the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator is in a unique position, given adequate staff and facilities, to provide a world-wide system of mobilizing and co-ordinating disaster relief, including the collection and dissemination of information on disaster assessment, priority needs and donor assistance,

Convinced further that this capability should be strengthened, as a matter of priority and urgency and without prejudice to the disaster prevention and disaster preparedness roles assigned to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Convinced that disaster prevention and pre-disaster planning should form an integral part of the international development policy of Governments and of international organizations,

1. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to provide sufficient staff, equipment and facilities to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to provide an efficient and effective world-wide service of mobilizing and co-ordinating disaster relief, including particularly the collection and dissemination of information on disaster assessment, priority needs and donor assistance;

2. *Decides* that the additional costs of providing this strengthened capability should be met by voluntary contributions during the first year, commencing as soon as possible, and during the biennium 1976-1977, at which time the method of financing for succeeding periods shall be subject to review in the light of experience, with the understanding that the additional resources made available under the terms of the present resolution should be concentrated on strengthening the co-ordinating capability of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, but without prejudice to any improvements that can be made in the roles of that Office in disaster prevention and in pre-disaster planning within the resources otherwise available to it;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures, drawing upon the aforementioned voluntary funds, to prepare a plan and budget for this increased capability, and to proceed with its immediate implementation;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as called for in Economic and Social Council resolution 1891 (LVII), to continue to investigate the feasibility of measures to strengthen the United Nations machinery with regard to disaster prevention and pre-disaster planning;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-ninth session and to the General Assembly at its thirtieth session.

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¹⁵ E/CEPAL/AC.67/2 and Corr.1 and 2.

¹⁶ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 9A (E/5608/Add.1).

¹⁷ A/9637.

¹⁸ Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-ninth Session, Second Committee, 1620th meeting, paras. 1-7.