



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 75 (a)

### **Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations**

**Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Viet Nam: draft resolution**

### **White Helmets Commission: participation of volunteers in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions [50/19](#) of 28 November 1995, [52/171](#) of 16 December 1997, [54/98](#) of 8 December 1999, [56/102](#) of 14 December 2001, [58/118](#) of 17 December 2003, [61/220](#) of 20 December 2006, [64/75](#) of 7 December 2009, [67/84](#) of 13 December 2012, [69/134](#) of 12 December 2014, [70/105](#) of 10 December 2015 and [73/138](#) of 14 December 2018,

*Reaffirming also* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and reaffirming further other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

*Emphasizing* the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of



complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

*Emphasizing also* the need for close collaboration between relief and development activities in the context of humanitarian emergencies, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup>

*Recognizing* that the international community, in addressing the growing magnitude and complexity of disasters and chronic challenges, such as hunger, malnutrition and poverty, must rely on the formulation of a well-coordinated global response within the framework of the United Nations and on the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

*Underscoring* the need, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and achieve development, to better align, wherever appropriate, humanitarian and development assistance with national development priorities and strategies, and encouraging Member States, as well as the United Nations system and regional organizations in supporting the efforts of Member States, to tackle the root causes of humanitarian crises, including poverty and underdevelopment, to strengthen disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, to build the resilience of affected States, including host communities, and to reduce humanitarian needs,

*Recognizing* the progress made by Member States, the United Nations system and other international organizations with regard to disaster risk management and coordination in the provision of humanitarian assistance,

*Recognizing also* that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030<sup>2</sup> applies to the risk of small-scale and large-scale, frequent and infrequent, sudden and slow-onset disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks,

*Recognizing further* the need for the public and private sectors and civil society organizations, as well as academia and scientific and research institutions, to work more closely together and to create opportunities for collaboration, and for businesses to integrate disaster risk into their management practices,

*Reaffirming* its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

*Noting* the World Humanitarian Summit, and noting the contribution of the global, regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction,<sup>3</sup>

*Reaffirming* the importance of continued efforts by the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels,

<sup>1</sup> Resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>2</sup> Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

<sup>3</sup> See [A/71/353](#).

by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global, regional and field levels,

*Emphasizing* the importance of global, regional, national and local policies and strategies for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery in disasters and humanitarian crises, with a view to integrating a gender perspective, as well as a perspective on the needs of children, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities, in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk reduction, and reaffirming that it is essential to ensure that women are empowered to effectively and meaningfully participate in leadership and decision-making processes,

*Recognizing* that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, that the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) global pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity, multilateral cooperation, equality, equity, inclusion and non-discrimination,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, submitted in compliance with resolutions [46/182](#) and [75/127](#) of 11 December 2020,<sup>4</sup> in particular paragraph 104 of the report, in which an update is provided on collaboration between the White Helmets, an initiative of the Government of Argentina, and the United Nations, and notes that since 1994, more than 1,000 White Helmets volunteers have provided assistance in 73 countries and undertaken 340 international humanitarian missions, many in coordination with the United Nations, and strengthened links with United Nations system agencies through agreements, joint workplans, financial support and field missions;

2. *Highlights* that the White Helmets is a volunteer corps composed entirely of civilians that develops its activities on the basis of cooperation, solidarity and the participation of communities;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the White Helmets to humanitarian assistance, disaster risk management and the achievement of sustainable development;

4. *Recognizes* that the White Helmets initiative has demonstrated the potential of regional partnerships and has encouraged the participation of affected or vulnerable populations in the tasks of planning, training, mobilizing and providing an immediate response in disaster situations and complex emergencies, while integrating a gender perspective into its activities;

5. *Commends* national and international volunteers, including the White Helmets, for their contributions and their fundamental role in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

6. *Takes note* of the memorandum of understanding, signed in 2019, between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the White Helmets Commission to promote collaboration for humanitarian assistance and disaster risk management in areas of cooperation, including supporting the deployment of United Nations disaster assessment and coordination teams and the active participation as Vice-Chair of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, and such recent activities of the White Helmets as rendering medical services, logistical support and delivery of supplies in Latin America and the Caribbean, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

<sup>4</sup> [A/76/74-E/2021/54](#).

7. *Encourages* the United Nations system, including the World Health Organization, and operational partners of the United Nations, in providing psychosocial support to the disaster-affected population in emergency and disaster situations, to draw on, as appropriate, the voluntary expertise of the White Helmets, which has been successfully tested, and invites Member States to consider means of integrating the White Helmets initiative into their programme activities;

8. *Recognizes* the international humanitarian activities that the White Helmets developed in the period from 2019 to 2021 in coordination with the national authorities of disaster-affected countries and the agencies of the United Nations system and its partners in the design, preparedness, organization and deployment of humanitarian assistance, including response, recovery and reconstruction following disasters and building of resilience, and in addressing the consequences of humanitarian emergencies for migrants, in particular those in vulnerable situations;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the experience acquired, to continue to consider the use of the White Helmets initiative as a resource suitable for preventing and mitigating the effects of disasters and other humanitarian crises;

10. *Invites* Member States to consider means of supporting collaboration of the White Helmets with their programme activities and to consider making financial resources available to their special voluntary funds;

11. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the work experience acquired by the White Helmets in the international field, as recognized in various resolutions of the General Assembly, and in view of the success of coordinated actions carried out with, inter alia, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Volunteers, to suggest measures to enhance the collaboration of the White Helmets initiative with the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-ninth session in a separate section of the annual report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

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