

ANNEX

Together with the National Committees or entities the different UN-Organizations are cooperating within the framework set up by the Decade. Only a few should be mentioned:

High Level Council

A Special High Level Council consisting of a few internationally prominent persons to promote public awareness and mobilize support for the Decade from public and private sectors.

Scientific and Technical Committee

It is composed of experts appointed by the Secretary-General on the basis of personal capacities and qualifications which will be responsible for developing overall programmes addressing priorities and gaps identified at the national level, for evaluating activities carried out during the Decade

IDNDR-Secretariat

A small secretariat established in close association with UNDRO at Geneva to be responsible for substantive and secretarial support to the international mechanisms and for day-to-day co-ordination of activities.

UNDRO United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

The United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation's creation at the start of the 1970s stemmed from concern for the losses and suffering of disaster victims around the world. The aims and purposes of the Decade are congruent with an essential part of UNDRO's *raison d'être*. The IDNDR-Secretariat is in close association established with UNDRO.

WMO World Meteorological Organization

WMO conducts projects which have a direct bearing on the aspirations of the Decade. Approximately 70 per cent of WMO activities are closely related to the main targets of the Decade. WMO is the United Nations specialized agency dealing with meteorology, climatology and hydrology

WHO World Health Organi- zation

The scope and magnitude of natural disasters is often measured by the number of casualties and human suffering. The special interest of WHO in the Decade lies in medical training and education tailored to the specific needs of disasters.

PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WFP
World Food Program-
me

The WFP was participating since many years in work for food and other projects which can be assessed as measures to mitigate the adverse effects of natural events. In 1989 the World Food Programme was involved in totally 155 projects.

UNDP
United Nations Deve-
lopment Programme

The immediate consequences of natural disasters - material losses and human suffering - very often overshadow the long-term effects of such devastating events on national economies. As the largest multilateral organization in the area of technical co-operation, UNDP has ongoing programmes in more than 150 countries which have a direct bearing on the aspirations for the Decade.

UNESCO
United Nations Edu-
cational, Scientific
and Cultural Organi-
zation

As early as 1960, UNESCO had recognized the scientific and technical possibilities for reducing the consequences of natural disasters. Since that time, UNESCO has been involved in several pro-

grammes closely related to the main targets of the Decade.

UNEP
United Nations Envi-
ronment Programme

The medium-term environment programme of UNEP describes the intended contributions to the Decade. They embrace policies and programmes to reduce the risk potential of hazardous events and means for better disaster preparedness. Furthermore, the risk assessment of natural events, regional and local capacity-building for early warning systems and the development of a general disaster preparedness, are key elements in the programme.

World Bank

The World Bank, the largest intergovernmental financing institution also incorporates aims for disaster reduction into its international co-operation activities. Workshops to examine the link between disasters, environment and development have been conducted in 1989 and 1990. The environmental guidelines of the World Bank for project planning contain explicit recommendations for disaster response.

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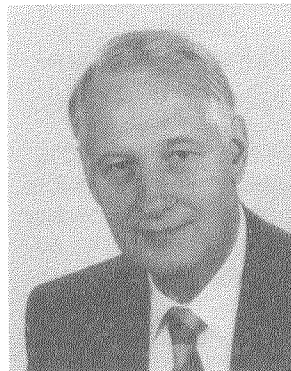
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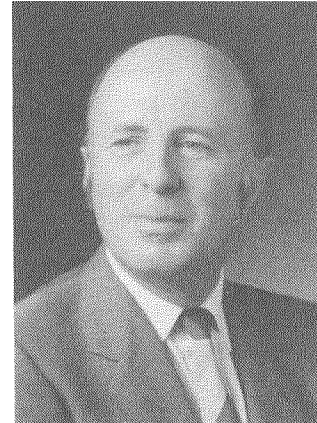
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ANNEX

Great Natural Desasters 1900-1990

1900	Hurricane	USA	6.000 casualties
1902	Volcanic eruption	Martinique	29.000 casualties
1902	Volcanic eruption	Guatemala	6.000 casualties
1906	Typhoon	Hong Kong	10.000 casualties
1906	Earthquake	Taiwan	6.000 casualties
1906	Earthquake/Fire	USA	1.500 casualties
1908	Earthquake	Italy	75.000 casualties
1911	Volcanic eruption	Philippines	1.300 casualties
1915	Earthquake	Italien	30.000 casualties
1916	Land slide	Italy	10.000 casualties
1919	Volcanic eruption	Indonesia	5.200 casualties
1920	Earthquake/Land slide	China	200.000 casualties
1923	Earthquake/Fire	Japan	143.000 casualties
1928	Hurricane Flood	USA	2.000 casualties
1930	Volcanic eruption	Indonesia	1.400 casualties
1932	Earthquake	China	70.000 casualties
1933	Tsunami	Japan	3.000 casualties
1935	Earthquake	India	60.000 casualties
1938	Hurricane	USA	.600 casualties
1939	Earthquake/Tsunami	Chile	30.000 casualties
1945	Flood Land slide	Japan	1.200 casualties
1946	Tsunami	Japan	1.400 casualties
1948	Earthquake	USSR	100.000 casualties
1949	Flood	China	57.000 casualties
1949	Earthquake/Flood	USSR	ca 18.000 casualties
1951	Volcanic eruption	Papua NG	2.900 casualties
1953	Flood	North sea	1.800 casualties
1954	Flood	China	40.000 casualties
1959	Typhoon	Japan	4.600 casualties
1960	Earthquake	Maroc	12.000 casualties
1962	Land slide	Peru	ca 4.500 casualties
1962	Earthquake	Iran	12.000 casualties
1963	Tropical storm	Bangladesh	17.000 casualties
1963	Volcanic eruption	Indonesia	1.200 casualties
1963	Land slide	Italy	2.000 casualties
1965	Tropical storm	Bangladesh	22.000 casualties
1965	Tropical storm	Bangladesh	30.000 casualties
1965	Tropical storm	Bangladesh	10.000 casualties
1968	Earthquake	Iran	12.000 casualties
1970	Earthquake/Land slide	Peru	70.000 casualties
1970	Tropical storm	Banglad.	ca 400.000 casualties
1971	Tropical storm	India	ca 17.000 casualties
1976	Earthquake	China	250.000 casualties
1976	Earthquake	Guatemala	24.000 casualties
1977	Tropical storm	India	20.000 casualties
1978	Earthquake	Iran	25.000 casualties
1982	Volcanic eruption	Mexico	1.700 casualties
1985	Tropical storm	Bangladesh	10.000 casualties
1985	Earthquake	Mexico	10.000 casualties
1985	Volcanic eruption	Columbia	22.000 casualties
1987	Severe fire	China	.200 casualties
1987	Flood	Bangladesh	1.600 casualties
1988	Flood	Bangladesh	3.000 casualties
1988	Earthquake	Armenia	25.000 casualties
1990	Earthquake	Iran	36.000 casualties
1990	Earthquake	Philippines	1.660 casualties



General Assembly

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A/RES/44/236
20 March 1990

Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 12

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/44/832/Add.1)]

44/236. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987, in which it decided to designate the 1990s as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, would pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disaster reduction,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of its resolution 42/169 and its resolution 43/202 of 20 December 1988, and taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/99 of 26 July 1989, in which the Council recommended that the General Assembly take action to develop an appropriate framework for international co-operation to attain the objective and goals of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Considering that natural disasters have adversely affected the lives of a great number of people and caused considerable damage to infrastructure and property world wide, especially in developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of environmental protection for the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters,

Considering that the international community as a whole has now improved its capacity to confront this problem, and that fatalism about natural disasters is no longer justified,

Recognizing the necessity for the international community to demonstrate the strong political determination required to mobilize and use existing scientific and technical knowledge to mitigate natural disasters, bearing in mind in particular the needs of developing countries,

Recognizing also the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international co-operation in order to mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and co-ordinate disaster relief, preparedness and prevention,

Recalling the specific responsibilities and functions in the field of disaster prevention and preparedness entrusted to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, as set out in its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,

Bearing in mind the crucial role of professional and other non-governmental organizations, particularly scientific and technological societies, humanitarian groups and investment institutions, the participation of which in the implementation of specific programmes planned for the Decade is highly desirable,

Also bearing in mind the need for the United Nations system to pay special attention to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries in that regard,

Emphasizing that appropriate emergency planning for natural disasters and its integration in national development plans could also be very helpful in preventing other kinds of disasters, such as those of an industrial or technological nature,

Taking note, with appreciation, of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

Expressing its appreciation for the work done by the International Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, which submitted its report 2/ to the Secretary-General,

Bearing in mind the common position on natural disasters of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989, 3/

1. Proclaims the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, beginning on 1 January 1990;
2. Decides to designate the second Wednesday of October International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, to be observed annually during the Decade by the international community in a manner befitting the objective and goals of the Decade;

1/ A/44/322-E/1989/114 and Add.1 and 2.

2/ A/44/322/Add.1-E/1989/114/Add.1, annex.

3/ See A/44/551-S/20870, annex.

/...

3. Adopts the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction contained in the annex to the present resolution;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution, including the organizational arrangements made for the Decade, and on the status of existing international protocols and conventions for mutual assistance in cases of disaster;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, intergovernmental organizations, appropriate non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and competent scientific institutions in the field of disaster mitigation;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction".

85th plenary meeting
22 December 1989

ANNEX

International Framework of Action for the International
Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

A. Objective and goals

1. The objective of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction is to reduce through concerted international action, especially in developing countries, the loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes, windstorms, tsunamis, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, grasshopper and locust infestations, drought and desertification and other calamities of natural origin.

2. The goals of the Decade are:

(a) To improve the capacity of each country to mitigate the effects of natural disasters expeditiously and effectively, paying special attention to assisting developing countries in the assessment of disaster damage potential and in the establishment of early warning systems and disaster-resistant structures when and where needed;

(b) To devise appropriate guidelines and strategies for applying existing scientific and technical knowledge, taking into account the cultural and economic diversity among nations;

(c) To foster scientific and engineering endeavours aimed at closing critical gaps in knowledge in order to reduce loss of life and property;

/...

(d) To disseminate existing and new technical information related to measures for the assessment, prediction and mitigation of natural disasters;

(e) To develop measures for the assessment, prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters through programmes of technical assistance and technology transfer, demonstration projects, and education and training, tailored to specific disasters and locations, and to evaluate the effectiveness of those programmes.

B. Policy measures to be taken at the national level

3. All Governments are called upon:

(a) To formulate national disaster-mitigation programmes, as well as economic, land use and insurance policies for disaster prevention, and, particularly in developing countries, to integrate them fully into their national development programmes;

(b) To participate during the Decade in concerted international action for the reduction of natural disasters and, as appropriate, establish national committees in co-operation with the relevant scientific and technological communities and other concerned sectors with a view to attaining the objective and goals of the Decade;

(c) To encourage their local administrations to take appropriate steps to mobilize the necessary support from the public and private sectors and to contribute to the achievement of the purposes of the Decade;

(d) To keep the Secretary-General informed of the plans of their countries and of assistance that can be provided so that the United Nations may become an international centre for the exchange of information and the co-ordination of international efforts concerning activities in support of the objective and goals of the Decade, thus enabling each State to benefit from the experience of other countries;

(e) To take measures, as appropriate, to increase public awareness of damage risk probabilities and of the significance of preparedness, prevention, relief and short-term recovery activities with respect to natural disasters and to enhance community preparedness through education, training and other means, taking into account the specific role of the news media;

(f) To pay due attention to the impact of natural disasters on health care, particularly to activities to reduce the vulnerability of hospitals and health centres, as well as the impact on food storage facilities, human shelter and other social and economic infrastructures;

(g) To improve the early international availability of appropriate emergency supplies through the storage or earmarking of such supplies in disaster-prone areas.

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4. Scientific and technological institutions, financial institutions, including banks and insurance companies, and industrial enterprises, foundations and other related non-governmental organizations are encouraged to support and participate fully in the programmes and activities of the Decade prepared and implemented by the international community, including Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

C Action to be taken by the United Nations system

5. The organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system are urged to accord priority, as appropriate and in a concerted manner, to natural disaster preparedness, prevention, relief and short-term recovery, including economic damage risk assessment, in their operational activities; the Secretary-General is requested, in this regard, to ensure that adequate means are made available to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator so that it may diligently discharge its specific role and responsibilities in the field of disaster mitigation and response in conformity with its mandate, as contained in General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI).

6. The Secretary-General is requested, in close association with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, in particular through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as well as national information authorities, to assist in the formulation and implementation during the Decade of public information programmes aimed at raising public awareness of disaster prevention.

7. The United Nations resident co-ordinators and the field representatives of the United Nations system are requested to work closely and in a co-ordinated manner with Governments to achieve the objective and goals of the Decade.

8. The regional commissions are urged to play an active role in implementing the activities of the Decade, considering that natural disasters often transcend national boundaries.

9. The Secretary-General is requested to designate the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, in accordance with his mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, as the focal point for overview and co-ordination of the programmes and activities of the United Nations system referred to in the present resolution, in close co-operation with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and, as appropriate, in consultation with the Director of the secretariat of the Decade, mentioned in paragraph 14 of the present annex.

10. The Secretary-General is requested to report biennially to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the activities of the Decade.

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D. Organizational arrangements during the Decade

1. Special high-level council

11. The Secretary-General is requested to establish, with due regard to equitable geographical representation, a special high-level council, consisting of a limited number of internationally prominent persons, which would provide him with general advice with respect to the Decade, take appropriate action to promote public awareness and mobilize the necessary support from the public and private sectors.

2. Scientific and technical committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

12. The Secretary-General is requested to establish, with due regard to equitable geographical representation and covering the diversity of disaster-mitigation issues, a scientific and technical committee on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, consisting of twenty to twenty-five scientific and technical experts selected in consultation with their Governments on the basis of their personal capacities and qualifications, including experts from the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

13. The role of the committee shall be to develop overall programmes to be taken into account in bilateral and multilateral co-operation for the Decade, paying attention to priorities and gaps in technical knowledge identified at the national level, in particular by national committees, as well as to assess and evaluate the activities carried out in the course of the Decade and to make recommendations on the overall programmes in an annual report to the Secretary-General.

3. Secretariat

14. The Secretary-General is requested to establish a small secretariat, to be funded by extrabudgetary resources, as follows:

(a) The secretariat shall be established at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in close association with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, with its members drawn, as appropriate, from the international community of disaster reduction experts and other relevant experts seconded, inter alia, from competent United Nations organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations;

(b) The secretariat shall be responsible for the day-to-day co-ordination of Decade activities and shall provide substantive and secretarial support to the special high-level council and the scientific and technical committee, as well as for other related activities.

/...

E. Financial arrangements

15. It is recommended that extrabudgetary resources be provided for implementation of the activities of the Decade and, therefore, that voluntary contributions from Governments, international organizations and other sources, including the private sector, be strongly encouraged; to this end, a trust fund shall be established by the Secretary-General, who will be entrusted with its administration.

F. Review

16. The Economic and Social Council, during its second regular session of 1994, will carry out a mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction and report its findings to the General Assembly.