

high-level segment to the consideration of the implementation of the New Agenda;

(c) In 1996 the General Assembly will conduct a mid-term review of the implementation of the New Agenda;

(d) In 1998 the Economic and Social Council will devote part of its high-level segment to the implementation of the New Agenda;

(e) In the year 2000 the General Assembly will conduct the final review and assessment of the implementation of the New Agenda.

44. For the mid-term review in 1996 and the final review and assessment in the year 2000, the General Assembly will take the necessary measures, including, if required, the establishment of an ad hoc committee for the preparation of these reviews.

45. The Secretary-General, taking into account the relevant inputs from relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other competent bodies, will provide an analytical assessment of the implementation of the New Agenda and make concrete recommendations thereon to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, according to the arrangements outlined in paragraph 43 above.

46. The assessment and recommendations of the Organization of African Unity on the implementation of the New Agenda will also be submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

47. The Secretary-General will ensure appropriate and adequate support for the follow-up process, including the continuation of the effective public information activities and mobilization of efforts to raise international awareness of the economic crisis in Africa.

48. The ongoing initiatives aimed at assisting Africa in its development efforts should be encouraged. In this regard, consultative groups such as the Global Coalition for Africa should assist in rallying international support for the implementation of the New Agenda. The Global Coalition for Africa may be invited to attend the meetings of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council devoted to the New Agenda for Africa.

46/181. International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵⁴

Reaffirming in all its terms its resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, which contains the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Recalling its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, by which it declared the decade beginning in 1990 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having examined the three interim reports of the Secretary-General prepared in pursuance of its resolution 43/47,¹³⁴

Bearing in mind the report of the Working Group of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries on Decolonization, adopted by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Accra from 2 to 7 September 1991,¹³⁵

Bearing in mind also the important contribution of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, in particular through the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peo-

ples and other relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;

2. *Declares* that the ultimate goal of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is the free exercise of the right to self-determination by the peoples of each and every remaining Non-Self-Governing Territory in accordance with resolution 1514 (XV) and all other relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly;

3. *Declares* that exercise of the right to self-determination should be carried out freely and without outside pressure, in a form reflecting authentic interests and aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories and with the United Nations playing an appropriate role;

4. *Adopts* the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, dated 13 December 1991, to serve as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;¹³⁶

5. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system and other governmental and non-governmental organizations actively to support and participate in the implementation of the plan of action.

*78th plenary meeting
19 December 1991*

46/182. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and its subsequent resolutions and decisions on humanitarian assistance, including its resolution 45/100 of 14 December 1990,

Recalling also its resolution 44/236 of 22 December 1989, the annex to which contains the International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Deeply concerned about the suffering of the victims of disasters and emergency situations, the loss in human lives, the flow of refugees, the mass displacement of people and the material destruction,

Mindful of the need to strengthen further and make more effective the collective efforts of the international community, in particular the United Nations system, in providing humanitarian assistance,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the capacity, experience and coordination arrangements in the United Nations system for humanitarian assistance,¹³⁷

1. *Adopts* the text contained in the annex to the present resolution for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*78th plenary meeting
19 December 1991*

ANNEX

I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Humanitarian assistance is of cardinal importance for the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies.

2. Humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality.

3. The sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of an appeal by the affected country.

4. Each State has the responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its territory. Hence, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory.

5. The magnitude and duration of many emergencies may be beyond the response capacity of many affected countries. International cooperation to address emergency situations and to strengthen the response capacity of affected countries is thus of great importance. Such cooperation should be provided in accordance with international law and national laws. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working impartially and with strictly humanitarian motives should continue to make a significant contribution in supplementing national efforts.

6. States whose populations are in need of humanitarian assistance are called upon to facilitate the work of these organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines, shelter and health care, for which access to victims is essential.

7. States in proximity to emergencies are urged to participate closely with the affected countries in international efforts, with a view to facilitating, to the extent possible, the transit of humanitarian assistance.

8. Special attention should be given to disaster prevention and preparedness by the Governments concerned, as well as by the international community.

9. There is a clear relationship between emergency, rehabilitation and development. In order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance should be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development. Thus, emergency measures should be seen as a step towards long-term development.

10. Economic growth and sustainable development are essential for prevention of and preparedness against natural disasters and other emergencies. Many emergencies reflect the underlying crisis in development facing developing countries. Humanitarian assistance should therefore be accompanied by a renewal of commitment to economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries. In this context, adequate resources must be made available to address their development problems.

11. Contributions for humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way which is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development.

12. The United Nations has a central and unique role to play in providing leadership and coordinating the efforts of the international community to support the affected countries. The United Nations should ensure the prompt and smooth delivery of relief assistance in full respect of the above-mentioned principles, bearing in mind also relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and 45/100 of 14 December 1990. The United Nations system needs to be adapted and strengthened to meet present and future challenges in an effective and coherent manner. It should be provided with resources commensurate with future requirements. The inadequacy of such resources has been one of the major constraints in the effective response of the United Nations to emergencies.

II. PREVENTION

13. The international community should adequately assist developing countries in strengthening their capacity in disaster prevention and mitigation, both at the national and regional levels, for example, in establishing and enhancing integrated programmes in this regard.

14. In order to reduce the impact of disasters there should be increased awareness of the need for establishing disaster mitigation strategies, particularly in disaster-prone countries. There should be greater exchange and

dissemination of existing and new technical information related to the assessment, prediction and mitigation of disasters. As called for in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, efforts should be intensified to develop measures for prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and similar emergencies through programmes of technical assistance and modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, relevant technology.

15. The disaster management training programme recently initiated by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme should be strengthened and broadened.

16. Organizations of the United Nations system involved in the funding and the provision of assistance relevant to the prevention of emergencies should be provided with sufficient and readily available resources.

17. The international community is urged to provide the necessary support and resources to programmes and activities undertaken to further the goals and objectives of the Decade.

III. PREPAREDNESS

18. International relief assistance should supplement national efforts to improve the capacities of developing countries to mitigate the effects of natural disasters expeditiously and effectively and to cope efficiently with all emergencies. The United Nations should enhance its efforts to assist developing countries to strengthen their capacity to respond to disasters, at the national and regional levels, as appropriate.

Early warning

19. On the basis of existing mandates and drawing upon monitoring arrangements available within the system, the United Nations should intensify efforts, building upon the existing capacities of relevant organizations and entities of the United Nations, for the systematic pooling, analysis and dissemination of early-warning information on natural disasters and other emergencies. In this context, the United Nations should consider making use as appropriate of the early-warning capacities of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

20. Early-warning information should be made available in an unrestricted and timely manner to all interested Governments and concerned authorities, in particular of affected or disaster-prone countries. The capacity of disaster-prone countries to receive, use and disseminate this information should be strengthened. In this connection, the international community is urged to assist these countries upon request with the establishment and enhancement of national early-warning systems.

IV. STAND-BY CAPACITY

(a) *Contingency funding arrangements*

21. Organizations and entities of the United Nations system should continue to respond to requests for emergency assistance within their respective mandates. Reserve and other contingency funding arrangements of these organizations and entities should be examined by their respective governing bodies to strengthen further their operational capacities for rapid and coordinated response to emergencies.

22. In addition, there is a need for a complementary central funding mechanism to ensure the provision of adequate resources for use in the initial phase of emergencies that require a system-wide response.

23. To that end, the Secretary-General should establish under his authority a central emergency revolving fund as a cash-flow mechanism to ensure the rapid and coordinated response of the organizations of the system.

24. This fund should be put into operation with an amount of 50 million United States dollars. The fund should be financed by voluntary contributions. Consultations among potential donors should be held to this end. To achieve this target, the Secretary-General should launch an appeal to potential donors and convene a meeting of those donors in the first quarter of 1992 to secure contributions to the fund on an assured, broad-based and additional basis.

25. Resources should be advanced to the operational organizations of the system on the understanding that they would reimburse the fund in the first instance from the voluntary contributions received in response to consolidated appeals.

26. The operation of the fund should be reviewed after two years.

(b) *Additional measures for rapid response*

27. The United Nations should, building upon the existing capacities of relevant organizations, establish a central register of all specialized personnel and teams of technical specialists, as well as relief supplies, equipment and services available within the United Nations system and from Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, that can be called upon at short notice by the United Nations.

28. The United Nations should continue to make appropriate arrangements with interested Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to enable it to have more expeditious access, when necessary, to their emergency relief capacities, including food reserves, emergency stockpiles and personnel, as well as logistic support. In the context of the annual report to the General Assembly mentioned in paragraph 35 (f) below, the Secretary-General is requested to report on progress in this regard.

29. Special emergency rules and procedures should be developed by the United Nations to enable all organizations to disburse quickly emergency funds, and to procure emergency supplies and equipment, as well as to recruit emergency staff.

30. Disaster-prone countries should develop special emergency procedures to expedite the rapid procurement and deployment of equipment and relief supplies.

V. CONSOLIDATED APPEALS

31. For emergencies requiring a coordinated response, the Secretary-General should ensure that an initial consolidated appeal covering all concerned organizations of the system, prepared in consultation with the affected State, is issued within the shortest possible time and in any event not longer than one week. In the case of prolonged emergencies, this initial appeal should be updated and elaborated within four weeks, as more information becomes available.

32. Potential donors should adopt necessary measures to increase and expedite their contributions, including setting aside, on a stand-by basis, financial and other resources that can be disbursed quickly to the United Nations system in response to the consolidated appeals of the Secretary-General.

VI. COORDINATION, COOPERATION AND LEADERSHIP

(a) *Leadership of the Secretary-General*

33. The leadership role of the Secretary-General is critical and must be strengthened to ensure better preparation for, as well as rapid and coherent response to, natural disasters and other emergencies. This should be achieved through coordinated support for prevention and preparedness measures and the optimal utilization of, *inter alia*, an inter-agency standing committee, consolidated appeals, a central emergency revolving fund and a register of stand-by capacities.

34. To this end, and on the understanding that the requisite resources envisaged in paragraph 24 above would be provided, a high-level official (emergency relief coordinator) would be designated by the Secretary-General to work closely with and with direct access to him, in cooperation with the relevant organizations and entities of the system dealing with humanitarian assistance and in full respect of their mandates, without prejudice to any decisions to be taken by the General Assembly on the overall restructuring of the Secretariat of the United Nations. This high-level official should combine the functions at present carried out in the coordination of United Nations response by representatives of the Secretary-General for major and complex emergencies, as well as by the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator.

35. Under the aegis of the General Assembly and working under the direction of the Secretary-General, the high-level official would have the following responsibilities:

(a) Processing requests from affected Member States for emergency assistance requiring a coordinated response;

(b) Maintaining an overview of all emergencies through, *inter alia*, the systematic pooling and analysis of early-warning information as envisaged in paragraph 19 above, with a view to coordinating and facilitating the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system to those emergencies that require a coordinated response;

(c) Organizing, in consultation with the Government of the affected country, a joint inter-agency needs-assessment mission and preparing a consolidated appeal to be issued by the Secretary-General, to be followed

by periodic situation reports including information on all sources of external assistance;

(d) Actively facilitating, including through negotiation if needed, the access by the operational organizations to emergency areas for the rapid provision of emergency assistance by obtaining the consent of all parties concerned, through modalities such as the establishment of temporary relief corridors where needed, days and zones of tranquility and other forms;

(e) Managing, in consultation with the operational organizations concerned, the central emergency revolving fund and assisting in the mobilization of resources;

(f) Serving as a central focal point with Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerning United Nations emergency relief operations and, when appropriate and necessary, mobilizing their emergency relief capacities, including through consultations in his capacity as Chairman of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

(g) Providing consolidated information, including early warning on emergencies, to all interested Governments and concerned authorities, particularly affected and disaster-prone countries, drawing on the capacities of the organizations of the system and other available sources;

(h) Actively promoting, in close collaboration with concerned organizations, the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and reconstruction as relief operations under his aegis are phased out;

(i) Preparing an annual report for the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance, including information on the central emergency revolving fund, to be submitted to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

36. The high-level official should be supported by a secretariat based on a strengthened Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the consolidation of existing offices that deal with complex emergencies. This secretariat could be supplemented by staff seconded from concerned organizations of the system. The high-level official should work closely with organizations and entities of the United Nations system, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the International Organization for Migration and relevant non-governmental organizations. At the country level, the high-level official would maintain close contact with and provide leadership to the resident coordinators on matters relating to humanitarian assistance.

37. The Secretary-General should ensure that arrangements between the high-level official and all relevant organizations are set in place, establishing responsibilities for prompt and coordinated action in the event of emergency.

(b) *Inter-Agency Standing Committee*

38. An Inter-Agency Standing Committee serviced by a strengthened Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator should be established under the chairmanship of the high-level official with the participation of all operational organizations and with a standing invitation to the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the International Organization for Migration. Relevant non-governmental organizations can be invited to participate on an ad hoc basis. The Committee should meet as soon as possible in response to emergencies.

(c) *Country-level coordination*

39. Within the overall framework described above and in support of the efforts of the affected countries, the resident coordinator should normally coordinate the humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system at the country level. He/She should facilitate the preparedness of the United Nations system and assist in a speedy transition from relief to development. He/She should promote the use of all locally or regionally available relief capacities. The resident coordinator should chair an emergency operations group of field representatives and experts from the system.

VII. CONTINUUM FROM RELIEF TO REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT

40. Emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development. Development assistance organizations of the United Nations system should be involved at an early stage and should collaborate closely with those responsible for emergency relief and recovery, within their existing mandates.

41. International cooperation and support for rehabilitation and reconstruction should continue with sustained intensity after the initial relief

stage. The rehabilitation phase should be used as an opportunity to restructure and improve facilities and services destroyed by emergencies in order to enable them to withstand the impact of future emergencies.

42. International cooperation should be accelerated for the development of developing countries, thereby contributing to reducing the occurrence and impact of future disasters and emergencies.

46/219. Operational activities of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of its resolutions 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970, 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975, 32/197 of 20 December 1977, 42/196 of 11 December 1987, 44/211 of 22 December 1989, S-18/3 of 1 May 1990 and 45/199 of 21 December 1990,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening the operational activities for development of the United Nations system in accordance with the above-mentioned resolutions,

Reaffirming that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, *inter alia*, their universality, their voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and multilateralism, and their ability to respond to the needs and concerns of the developing countries, at their request and in accordance with their development plans, priorities and objectives,

Noting with concern that progress in implementing parts of its resolution 44/211 has been disappointing and stressing the need for more vigorous efforts to implement the resolution in areas in which the implementation has been unsatisfactory,

Recognizing the need to give guidance to the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation in the preparation of the report for the next triennial policy review of operational activities,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation on operational activities of the United Nations system;¹³⁸

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of its resolution 44/211 and the need for coordinated and full implementation of the resolution by the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, taking into account the interrelationships among issues;

3. *Also reaffirms* the principal responsibility of Governments in managing programmes and projects supported by the United Nations system;

4. *Takes note* of decision 91/32 on support costs successor arrangements, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on 25 June 1991;¹³⁹

5. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular donor countries, for a real and significant increase in resources for operational activities for development on a continuous, predictable and assured basis and urges all countries to increase their voluntary contributions for operational activities for development;

6. *Urges* developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries¹³³ and present levels of contribution, to substantially increase their official development assist-

ance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

7. *Takes note* of decision 91/27 on national execution, adopted by the Governing Council of the Programme on 21 June 1991;¹³⁹

8. *Stresses* that the national execution modality should be the norm for programmes and projects funded by the United Nations system, taking into account the needs and capacities of developing countries;

9. *Also stresses* the principal responsibility of developing countries in determining their capacity to execute programmes and projects funded by the United Nations system;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to simplify the rules and procedures for national execution within the framework of enhanced accountability, particularly in order to minimize the administrative burden of Governments and the costs of managing projects and programmes;

11. *Also calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to assist developing countries, at their request, in developing their multi-sectoral, sectoral and subsectoral strategies, which should provide a framework for coordinated and coherent programming, and stresses the need to enhance the coherence of the response of the United Nations system to these strategies;

12. *Reaffirms* the continued validity of the resident coordinator system as detailed in the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and the urgent need to strengthen the effectiveness of the resident coordinator system;

13. *Also reaffirms* the need to improve cooperation between individual agencies at the field level;

14. *Calls upon* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to utilize existing capacities to enhance the participation of nationals in projects and programmes;

15. *Welcomes* the proposal of the Director-General to undertake a feasibility study on a coordinated strategy of training for United Nations staff members and national officials involved in operational activities and requests him to submit the study, with his recommendations, to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

16. *Urges* the agencies of the United Nations system to continue and expand, within existing resources, their joint training programmes for United Nations country teams and urges that these programmes be expanded to the country level and include Government officials;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of the triennial policy review of operational activities to be undertaken by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, which should build on and, where necessary, elaborate further the elements of its resolution 44/211;

18. *Requests* the Director-General to include in his triennial policy review a report on the implementation of resolution 44/211 and recommendations on programming with particular emphasis on the following:

(a) The harmonization and adaptation of the programme cycles of all funding agencies of the United Nations system to the planning periods of national Governments, and further consideration to the introduction of budgetary cycles on a rolling-cycle basis;

(b) The simplification of procedures relating to project