

to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda the technical assistance needed to finalize the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the proposed intergovernmental body;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the appropriate specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to extend all necessary assistance to those countries in their efforts to combat the effects of drought on the basis of the recommendations of various multi-agency missions;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the appropriate specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, to assist the Governments of the region, at their request, in establishing or improving national machinery to combat the effects of drought and other natural disasters, to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1985, of the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fortieth session.

*103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984*

39/206. Implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3054 (XXVIII) of 17 October 1973, 3253 (XXIX) of 4 December 1974, 3512 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, 31/180 of 21 December 1976, 32/159 of 19 December 1977, 33/133 of 19 December 1978, 34/16 of 9 November 1979, 35/86 of 5 December 1980, 36/203 of 17 December 1981, 37/165 of 17 December 1982 and 38/225 of 20 December 1983,

Taking note of decision 84/28 of 29 June 1984 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme¹²⁴ concerning the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region,

Deeply concerned by the tragic consequences of a disastrous and persistent drought involving a substantial decrease in food and agricultural production in the Sudano-Sahelian countries,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in helping to combat the effects of drought and to implement the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme adopted by the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, as well as in mobilizing the necessary resources for financing priority projects,

Also noting with satisfaction the collaboration between the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and the Club du Sahel and urging that this collaboration be continued and strengthened,

Welcoming the inclusion in the agenda of its thirty-ninth session of the items entitled "Countries stricken by desertification and drought" and "Critical economic situation in Africa",

Bearing in mind the statements made by many delegations during the current session of the General Assembly

in which they emphasized the continuing and increasing seriousness of the drought and desertification in the Sudano-Sahelian countries and in other regions of Africa and their devastating impact on the economic and social situation,

Considering that, owing to the nature and magnitude of the needs of the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, the solidarity action taken by the international community to support the recovery and economic development efforts of those countries should be continued and intensified,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region,¹²⁵

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals that have contributed to the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region;

3. *Requests* all Governments to increase the resources of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office by making voluntary contributions on the occasion of the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, as well as through other, in particular bilateral, channels so as to enable it to respond more fully to the priority requirements of the Governments of States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel;

4. *Requests* the international community to support the implementation of the Second-Generation Programme of the States members of the Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel, *inter alia*, by providing more assistance in all its forms for carrying out the following activities:

(a) Development projects already formulated and approved by the Governments;

(b) Regional projects to combat desertification;

(c) Surveys needed for establishing development potentials at national and regional levels;

(d) Strengthening and/or establishing national and sub-regional research and training institutes designed to find solutions to the problems confronting the Sahelian countries;

(e) Strengthening of national and subregional capacity for planning, management and evaluation of integrated development activities;

5. *Requests* all Governments and all organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to give special attention to the increasingly critical food situation in the countries of the Sahel;

6. *Welcomes* the results achieved by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, through the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office, in assisting the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel to implement their medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme;

7. *Reaffirms* the role of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office in co-ordinating United Nations efforts to help the countries of the Sahel to implement their recovery and rehabilitation programme;

¹²⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1984, Supplement No. 10 (E/1984/20)*, annex I.

¹²⁵ A/39/211-E/1984/58 and Add.1

8. *Invites* the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office to continue to strengthen its co-operation with the States members of the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel and with the Committee itself, with a view to expediting implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region, and in particular to help those countries to formulate and implement national medium-term and long-term plans to combat desertification and drought, with a view to achieving food self-sufficiency;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the General Assembly, through the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the medium-term and long-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region.

103rd plenary meeting
17 December 1984

39/207. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was established, 36/225 of 17 December 1981, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Office and strengthened its capacity, and 38/202 of 20 December 1983, in which it, *inter alia*, noted with interest the steps taken to strengthen the capacity of the Office, and of the United Nations system as a whole, to respond to disasters, and called for a further report on the matter to be submitted to the Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/60 of 26 July 1984,

Noting with appreciation the effective response of the Office of the Co-ordinator and of the international community to recent major and continuing disaster situations,

Recognizing that shortage of resources continues to hamper the full achievement of the aim of rapid and effective response to the needs of countries affected by disasters and that, if this shortage is to be overcome, further efforts will be required by the international community to provide both funds and assistance in kind,

Considering that all possible new and innovative approaches should be examined with a view to improving further the rapid delivery of emergency relief,

Noting the wealth of expertise and training facilities that exists and that could be drawn upon by disaster-prone developing countries,

Recalling the importance attached in the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries¹²⁶ to the reduction of losses caused by disasters of all kinds and the creation of infrastructures which would be beneficial in this regard,

Convinced of the absolute necessity of maintaining a sound financial basis, in accordance with repeated requests by the General Assembly, to ensure the continuation of the work of the Office of the Co-ordinator at its present level as a minimum,

Appreciating the contributions made by donors in supporting international relief operations, including those made to the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,¹²⁷ as well as his report on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations,¹²⁸ called for in paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 38/202, and of the statement made by the Co-ordinator on 5 November 1984;¹²⁹

2. *Recognizes* that information is one of the essential elements for the fulfilment of the mandate of the Office of the Co-ordinator as the focal point of the United Nations system for disaster relief co-ordination, and emphasizes the importance of improving the flow and quality of information during disaster relief operations so that a more complete picture of relief channels and activities, assistance received and unmet requirements may be available to all concerned;

3. *Stresses*, in this regard, the primary importance of inter-agency assessment missions organized by the Office of the Co-ordinator with the participation of the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system and other relief bodies in order to ensure the effective co-ordination of disaster relief activities, assistance and requirements;

4. *Recognizes* the value of united appeals, launched after the joint development with the agencies concerned of concerted relief programmes based upon the findings of inter-agency assessment missions, to be sent at the invitation of the Government concerned, as a most effective tool for co-ordination and urges Governments to continue to respond to such appeals accordingly;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to modify existing United Nations procurement procedures, as necessary, to permit, on the part of the Office of the Co-ordinator, a timely and more effective response to the special and immediate requirements of countries exposed to disasters or facing an emergency situation;

6. *Calls upon* those contributing assistance in kind to provide, when appropriate, special grants to cover the costs of transport and distribution of the assistance to and within the affected country;

7. *Requests* the Office of the Co-ordinator to study, in co-operation with the parties concerned, the most appropriate steps to ensure the ready availability of relief supplies and transport equipment;

8. *Urges* Governments to increase their efforts to reduce delays in the provision of food assistance in response to natural disasters and other disaster situations;

9. *Recommends* that as the Co-ordinator phases out his emergency co-ordination responsibility in a given country, he should contribute to ensuring the necessary transition to the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase by passing on relevant data to competent organs and agencies of the United Nations system;

10. *Calls upon* Governments and international relief organizations to put at the disposal of the Co-ordinator the names and specializations of qualified disaster personnel available, in case of need, for inter-agency assessment missions, the execution of relief programmes or other disaster mitigation activities, and to inform him of existing dis-

¹²⁶ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.1.8), part one, sect. A.

¹²⁷ A/39/267-E/1984/96 and Corr.1.

¹²⁸ A/39/267-E/1984/96/Add.1 and 2.

¹²⁹ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Second Committee, 34th meeting, paras. 1-8.