

Economic and Social Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*96th plenary meeting  
11 December 1987*

#### 42/167. World Tourism Organization

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 32/156 and 32/157 of 19 December 1977, 33/122 of 19 December 1978 and 34/134 of 14 December 1979 concerning the World Tourism Organization, and, in particular, resolution 40/172 of 17 December 1985 in which it requested the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization to submit to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Manila Declaration<sup>8</sup> and the Acapulco Document<sup>9</sup> on World Tourism,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization,<sup>10</sup>

*Requests* the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the further implementation of resolution 40/172.

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#### 42/168. Fortieth anniversary of the World Health Organization

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/76 of 8 July 1987,

*Noting* that the World Health Organization intends to celebrate its fortieth anniversary during 1988 in accordance with World Health Assembly resolution WHA40.36, of 15 May 1987,<sup>11</sup>

*Noting also* that the World Health Organization will use the occasion of its fortieth anniversary as a global opportunity to inform and mobilize all concerned with a view to achieving the goal of health for all by the year 2000 in an atmosphere of goodwill, consensus and mutual respect,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the important achievements of the World Health Organization in fulfilling its constitutional mandate to direct and co-ordinate international health work,

*Decides* to observe, at its forty-third session, the fortieth anniversary of the World Health Organization in a manner befitting its achievements and future role in international health.

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#### 42/169. International decade for natural disaster reduction

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 3345 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which it requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to provide facilities for co-ordinated multidisciplinary research also at the regional level aimed at synthesizing, integrating and advancing existing knowledge on the interrelationships between population, resources, environment and development, in order to assist Member States, particularly the developing countries, and the organizations of the United Nations system in their efforts to cope with the complex and multidimensional problems related to this field in the context of social and economic development,

*Noting with appreciation* the important contribution made by the World Commission on Environment and Development, as reflected in its report,<sup>12</sup> which calls for new national and international approaches in dealing with the various factors affecting the environment, including natural disasters,

*Considering* that natural disasters, such as earthquakes, windstorms (cyclones, hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons), tsunamis, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, wildfires and other calamities of natural origin, have claimed about 3 million lives worldwide in the past two decades, adversely affected the lives of at least 800 million more people and resulted in immediate damages exceeding \$23 billion,

*Considering also* that, among disasters of natural origin, drought and desertification are resulting in enormous damage, particularly in Africa, where the recent drought threatened the lives of more than 20 million people and uprooted millions of others,

*Recognizing* that the effects of such disasters may damage very severely the fragile economic infrastructure of developing countries, especially the least developed, landlocked and island developing countries, and thus hamper their development process,

*Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, particularly the section concerning natural disasters and the merits of proposals that have been made to stimulate international study, planning and preparations on this subject over the next decade under the auspices of the United Nations,<sup>13</sup>

*Also taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the existing mechanisms and arrangements within the United Nations system for disaster and emergency assistance and co-ordination,<sup>14</sup>

*Recognizing* the responsibility of the United Nations system for promoting international co-operation in the study of natural disasters of geophysical origin and in the development of techniques to mitigate risks arising therefrom, as well as for co-ordinating disaster relief, preparedness and prevention, including prediction and early warning,

*Convinced* that concerted international action for the reduction of natural disasters over the course of the 1990s would give genuine impetus to a series of concrete measures at the national, regional and international levels,

*Recognizing* that the primary responsibility for defining the general goals and directions of efforts undertaken in

<sup>8</sup> A/36/236, annex, appendix I.

<sup>9</sup> A/38/182-E/1983/66, annex, appendix.

<sup>10</sup> A/42/227-E/1987/65.

<sup>11</sup> See *World Health Organization, Fortieth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 4-15 May 1987. Resolutions and Decisions, Annexes (WHA40/1987/REC/1)*.

<sup>12</sup> See A/42/427, annex.

<sup>13</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/42/1)*, sect. II.

<sup>14</sup> A/42/657.

the framework of an international decade for natural disaster reduction and for implementing the measures that would result from the activities of the decade lies with the Governments of the countries concerned,

*Considering* that the concept of a global programme for natural disaster reduction is predicated on collaborative efforts among culturally and economically diverse nations, together with relevant organizations of the United Nations system and concerned national and international non-governmental organizations, including scientific and technological institutions,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of reducing the impact of natural disasters for all people, and in particular for developing countries;

2. *Recognizes further* that scientific and technical understanding of the causes and impact of natural disasters and of ways to reduce both human and property losses has progressed to such an extent that a concerted effort to assemble, disseminate and apply this knowledge through national, regional and world-wide programmes could have very positive effects in this regard, particularly for developing countries;

3. *Decides* to designate the 1990s as a decade in which the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, will pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of natural disaster reduction, and to take a decision at its forty-third session on the content and modalities of United Nations participation therein after having considered the report of the Secretary-General referred to in paragraph 9 of the present resolution;

4. *Decides* that the objective of this decade is to reduce through concerted international actions, especially in developing countries, loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters, such as earthquakes, windstorms (cyclones, hurricanes, tornadoes, typhoons), tsunamis, floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, wildfires and other calamities of natural origin, such as grasshopper and locust infestations, and that its goals 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 establishment, when needed, of early warning systems;

(b) To devise appropriate guidelines and strategies for applying existing 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 information related to measures for the assessment, prediction, prevention 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 hazards and locations, and to evaluate the effectiveness of those programmes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the appropriate organizations of the United Nations system and relevant scientific, technical, academic and other non-governmental organizations, to develop an appropriate framework for attaining the objective and goals referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 above and to submit a re-

port thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session through the Economic and Social Council;

6. *Recommends* that, if necessary, extrabudgetary resources be provided for the preparation of the above-mentioned report and considers that, for this purpose, voluntary contributions from countries, international organizations and other organizations are highly desirable;

7. *Calls upon* all Governments to participate during the decade in concerted international action for the reduction of natural disasters and, as appropriate, to establish national committees, in co-operation with the relevant scientific and technological communities, with a view to surveying available mechanisms and facilities for the reduction of natural hazards, assessing the particular requirements of their respective countries or regions in order to add to, improve or update existing mechanisms and facilities and develop a strategy to attain the desired goals;

8. *Further calls upon* Governments to keep the Secretary-General informed of their countries' plans and of assistance that can be provided so that the United Nations may become an international centre for the exchange of information, the storing of documents and the co-ordination of international efforts concerning the activities in support of the objective and goals referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 above, thus enabling each Member State to benefit from the experience of other countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on progress made in the preparations outlined above with particular emphasis on defining the catalytic and facilitating role envisaged for the United Nations system.

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#### **42/170. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213 in the economic and social fields**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

*Recalling* its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and 41/213 of 19 December 1986 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations, both of which are elements of a common process,

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council decisions 1987/112 of 6 February 1987 on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields and 1987/180 of 8 July 1987 on enhancing the co-ordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system.

*Bearing in mind* the importance of the full implementation of all aspects of its resolution 41/213,

1. *Stresses* the common interest of all countries in the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations in the economic and social fields which are of particular importance to the developing countries;

2. *Affirms* that its resolution 41/213 should continue to be implemented in the economic and social fields at the intergovernmental and Secretariat levels in a timely, orderly, integrated and well co-ordinated manner in order to enhance the quality and strengthen the implementation of development-oriented programmes and activities of the United Nations in those fields;