

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit,³¹ and of the comments of the Secretary-General thereon,³² which, *inter alia*, support the new directions of the United Nations University and its broader intellectual concerns as reflected in its medium-term perspective (1982-1987) under the following five themes:

- (a) Peace, security, conflict resolution and global transformation;
- (b) Global economy;
- (c) Hunger, poverty, resources and the environment;
- (d) Human and social development and coexistence of peoples, cultures and social systems;
- (e) Science and technology and their social and ethical implications;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* that, with the adoption of the medium-term perspective, a renewed emphasis has been placed on the multidisciplinary and integrative approach to the search for solutions to urgent global problems, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations University;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* that, in keeping with its philosophy of continuity with change, the United Nations University has maintained its momentum in the original programmes and enlarged on the foundations built in the early years;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that research, post-graduate training and the dissemination of knowledge will be covered under the medium-term perspective as a single programme of the United Nations University with subprogrammes responding to the five themes;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the increasing co-operative activities of the United Nations University with the United Nations, its organs and agencies, particularly United Nations research and training institutions, and urges the University to continue to strengthen its co-operation, and the co-ordination of its activities, with those institutions and the appropriate organizational units of the United Nations Secretariat, as well as its collaboration with international academic and scientific organizations;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations University to explore and expand innovative, fruitful and varied institutional relationships in accordance with its Charter, to assist in the effective implementation of the medium-term perspective and achieve wider outreach and increased decentralization, ensuring the continuing growth of vigorous academic and scientific communities everywhere and particularly in the developing countries;

7. *Welcomes* the increased attention being given by the United Nations University to the activities related to the dissemination of knowledge, including its own research findings, referred to in its Charter and, as a consequence, the promotion of a more informed awareness of global problems among all sectors and levels of the world community through the use of the new information and communications technology now available;

8. *Recognizes* that, over the medium term, the United Nations University needs to build up its Endowment Fund and other contributions in order to increase its core income;

9. *Earnestly appeals* to all Member States to take cognizance of the important developments at the United Nations University and to contribute urgently and generously to its Endowment Fund and, additionally or alternatively, to make operating contributions to the University to enable it to fulfil effectively its global mandate.

109th plenary meeting
17 December 1982

37/144. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 36/225 of 17 December 1981, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and called for the strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office,

Recalling also its resolution 35/107 of 5 December 1980, by which it reaffirmed the necessity of ensuring a continued sound financial basis for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and extended until 31 December 1983 the term of the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 and modified under its resolutions 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 and 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 and by its decision 33/429 of 19 December 1978,

Recalling further its resolution 34/55 of 29 November 1979, by which it requested an increase in emergency disaster assistance, with a normal ceiling of \$30,000 per country in the case of any one disaster,

Deeply concerned about the additional economic burden placed upon the developing countries by the increasing number of natural disasters and other disaster situations, as well as the disruption caused to their development process,

Recognizing the contribution made by the United Nations system to the relief of suffering and provision of humanitarian assistance in natural disasters and other disaster situations,

Recognizing also that the primary responsibilities of administration, relief operations and disaster preparedness lie with the affected countries and that the major part of the material assistance and human effort in disaster relief comes from the Governments of those countries,

Recognizing further the importance of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations,

Recognizing that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it is essential to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the United Nations system as a whole in order to enable the Office to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations speedily, efficiently and effectively, thereby ensuring prompt delivery of concerted relief,

Recognizing that a major constraint on an effective response of the United Nations to natural disasters and other disaster situations has been the shortage of resources,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator³³ and of the statement made by the Co-ordinator before the Second Committee on 2 November 1982;³⁴

2. *Takes note* of the progress made by the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination in initiating improvements in the management operations of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and in establishing modalities for the implementation of the procedures, outlined in General Assembly resolution 36/225 and decision 1982/1 of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, for dealing with requests for disaster relief

³² A/37/111/Add.1.

³³ A/37/235 and Corr.1.

³⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Second Committee, 27th meeting, paras. 1-4.

from a disaster-stricken State and for dealing with complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude;

3. *Takes note* of the appreciation expressed by the Governments of Chad and Lebanon for the activities undertaken by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in those two countries, and requests him to continue his action in response to needs as they arise;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate, when necessary, rapid appointment of temporary staff and procurement of supplies by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in order to permit a timely response to requests for emergency assistance;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to raise the normal maximum of \$30,000 to \$50,000, the additional \$20,000 to come from voluntary sources, to permit the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to respond with grants to requests for emergency disaster assistance up to a total of \$600,000 in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster;

6. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to permit the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to mobilize additional voluntary resources to meet the needs presented by complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude;

7. *Decides* to maintain, as from 1 January 1984, the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and its sub-accounts;

8. *Reiterates*, in particular, the appeals made in its resolutions 35/107 and 36/225 for increased contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to its resolution 3243 (XXIX) and modified as indicated in the second preambular paragraph and in paragraph 7 above;

9. *Endorses* the measures taken by the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to implement General Assembly resolution 36/225 and calls upon the Secretary-General, who will normally be represented by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, to consult with the concerned agencies of the United Nations system in order to develop concerted relief programmes as a basis for united appeals for funds to be launched by the Co-ordinator on behalf of the Secretary-General;

10. *Reiterates its desire* further to strengthen and improve the capability of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to take full advantage of information provided by existing early-warning systems and to co-ordinate, to the extent feasible and useful, all relevant early-warning systems, taking into account new technological developments in this field, including communications;

11. *Urges* all Governments and relevant organs and organizations to co-operate with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and to improve in particular their flow of information on relief assistance, actions and plans;

12. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies and other constituent organizations of the United Nations system, in order to eliminate wasteful duplication of resources, to co-ordinate, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 36/225, their efforts at all stages of the response of the international community to natural disasters and other disaster situations;

13. *Reaffirms* its belief that the strengthening and reinforcing of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator offers the most efficient and economic means of effectively co-ordinating the relief activities of the United Nations system as a whole in the interest of the survivors of disasters, and requests the Secretary-General to assign a higher priority to strengthening, preferably within the means at his disposal, the financial and manpower resources of the Office;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 36/225, including a report on the implementation of the present resolution, to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1983.

*109th plenary meeting
17 December 1982*

37/145. Assistance for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the Central African Republic

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/87 of 5 December 1980 and 36/206 of 17 December 1981, in which it affirmed the urgent need for international action to assist the Government of the Central African Republic in its reconstruction, rehabilitation and development efforts and invited the international community to provide sufficient resources to carry out the programme of assistance to the Central African Republic,

Noting the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation of the Central African Republic before the General Assembly on 13 October 1982,³⁵ in which he described the serious economic and financial problems of the country and observed that the situation had not improved, owing to the insufficiency of financial resources, and that external assistance continued to be essential,

Noting also the statement made by the representative of the Central African Republic before the Second Committee on 4 November 1982,³⁶ according to which the response of the international community to the urgent appeal of the General Assembly had not been adequate to meet the needs of the situation,

Bearing in mind that the Central African Republic is landlocked and is classified as one of the least developed countries,

Recalling the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,³⁷ which called for increased aid to these countries,

Particularly concerned that the Government of the Central African Republic is unable to provide the population with adequate health, educational and other essential social and public services because of an acute shortage of financial and material resources,

Noting with satisfaction the considerable efforts exerted by the Government and people of the Central African Republic for national reconstruction, rehabilitation and development despite the limitations confronting them,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,³⁸ to which is annexed the report of the mission which was present in the Central African Republic during the period from 13 to 17 June 1982 to carry out a study of the economic situation and the progress being made in organizing and carrying out the special economic assistance programme for that country, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/206,

Noting that, according to that report, the budgetary situation of the Central African Republic continues to make

³⁵ *Ibid.*, *Plenary Meetings*, 29th meeting, paras. 21-52.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, *Second Committee*, 31st meeting, paras. 22-30.

³⁷ *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.

³⁸ A/37/131.