

**43/8. Emergency assistance to the Sudan**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions 35/56 of 5 December 1980, the annex to which contains the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade, and 42/169 of 11 December 1987 on an international decade for natural disaster reduction,

Recalling also the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries,<sup>15</sup> in particular the section concerning disaster assistance for least developed countries,

Deeply concerned by the extensive and unprecedented damage and devastation in the Sudan caused by torrential rain and floods in August 1988,

Extremely concerned about the destruction of hundreds of thousands of buildings and dwellings and by the fact that large sectors of the nation's infrastructure have been completely disrupted, in particular, roads, railway lines, water supplies, electricity supplies, hospitals and health centres, schools and other public utilities and communication systems,

Considering that over 120,000 hectares of cultivated land and over 7,000 small farmers' schemes were inundated, and about 600 villages and islands have completely disappeared and thereby over 1.5 million persons were left without shelter or food,

Fully cognizant of the economic difficulties already faced by the Sudan, particularly resulting from its high level of indebtedness and compounded further by a massive influx of refugees and 2 million displaced persons,

Recognizing that the Sudan has shouldered the major part of the burden in dealing with the disasters, but that, the magnitude of devastation and damage is far beyond the means and abilities of the Sudan alone to rectify,

Reaffirming the need for the international community to respond fully to requests for emergency humanitarian assistance as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction of a least developed country, facing grave and compounded disaster situations,

Noting with appreciation the response to date of various countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in emergency relief operations,

Noting that the Secretary-General has sent an inter-agency mission to the Sudan to assess emergency conditions and that a United Nations Development Programme/World Bank multi-donor flood recovery programme mission is currently in the Sudan, at the request of its Government, to assess the impact of floods and to prepare a two-year reconstruction programme,

1. Expresses its solidarity with the Government and people of the Sudan in facing the complex disaster situations;

2. Expresses its gratitude to the States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that rendered support and assistance to the Government of the Sudan in its relief and rehabilitation efforts;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for the steps he has taken to co-ordinate and mobilize relief and rehabilitation efforts;

4. Calls upon all States to contribute generously and respond urgently and effectively to the needs of relief operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Government of the Sudan, to co-ordinate efforts of the United Nations system to help the Sudan in its emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, to mobilize resources for the implementation of those programmes and to keep the international community informed of those needs;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1989 of his efforts and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

33rd plenary meeting  
18 October 1988

**43/9. Short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions to the problems of natural disasters in Bangladesh**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 40/231 of 17 December 1985 following the disastrous cyclone that struck Bangladesh in 1985,

Recalling also its resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987 on an international decade for natural disaster reduction,

Noting with concern the devastating consequences of the recent floods in Bangladesh, the worst in living memory, that have caused significant loss of life, unprecedented human suffering to tens of millions of stranded and homeless people subjected to hunger and water-borne disease and incalculable damage to crops, livestock, communications and infrastructure,

Taking note of the statement made on 10 October 1988 by the representative of Bangladesh,<sup>16</sup> in which he elaborated the details of these concerns,

Deeply conscious of the macro-economic impact of such calamities, which constitutes an insurmountable burden on the economy and development plans of a least developed country like Bangladesh, causing irrecoverable setback in growth and necessitating extremely difficult adjustment, and that the cost of damage inflicted by such catastrophes often exceeds the net inflow of development assistance,

Recognizing the strenuous efforts of the Government and people of Bangladesh to save lives, to alleviate the suffering and hardship suffered by the victims of the floods and to initiate urgent recovery measures, including immediate relief and rehabilitation measures,

Recognizing also that the magnitude of the damage and devastation is beyond the ability of Bangladesh alone to rectify or to meet, requiring national efforts to be supplemented by sustained international financial and technical assistance over the long term,

Emphasizing in this connection the importance of measures noted in the report of the Secretary-General on special economic and disaster relief assistance to Bangladesh, submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-first session,<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Plenary Meetings, 25th meeting.

<sup>17</sup> A/41/396.

*Aware* that Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to recurrent disasters that have the potential of becoming annual visitations of destruction far beyond its capacity either to control or to effectively mitigate,

*Conscious* of the fact that international assistance and investment over time are required to mitigate and prevent the consequences of such disasters,

*Noting with appreciation* the support and solidarity displayed by the countries of South Asia in assisting Bangladesh in the immediate aftermath of the floods,

*Welcoming* the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh, initiated at the highest level, to strengthen bilateral co-operation with concerned countries of the region through the establishment of task forces of experts to study and make recommendations for flood management and water flows and to find durable solutions to the problems in these areas,

*Expressing the hope* that these multiple bilateral approaches will strengthen co-operation, co-ordination and convergence of mutual interests leading to practical arrangements to promote solutions for the assessment, prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and to joint approaches for a permanent solution,

*Recognizing* the responsibility of the United Nations system to facilitate studies at the request of concerned Governments, including those of natural disasters of a geographical origin, to improve capacities of countries to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, to foster scientific and engineering endeavours to close critical gaps in knowledge, to disseminate existing and new information and to develop measures for prediction, prevention and mitigation of natural disasters through programmes of technical assistance and technology transfer,

*Aware* that considerable expertise and technical capabilities are available within the organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen preparedness and prevention capabilities of disaster-prone countries through the promotion of a long-term and effective solution of the problems caused by natural disasters,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to Member States, international organizations within and outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals and groups that have so generously assisted the Government of Bangladesh in its immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts;

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the urgent steps he has taken to mobilize humanitarian assistance and, through the appointment of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator as his Special Representative, to co-ordinate activities of the United Nations agencies in the field for purposeful and unified assistance by the international community;

3. *Appeals* to all Member States, specialized agencies in the field and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international economic and financial institutions, to respond urgently and generously in sustaining development assistance to Bangladesh, particularly in its plans and programmes for longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction;

4. *Requests* relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to take appropriate measures to provide assistance to Bangladesh to strengthen its capacity to assess, predict, prevent and mitigate natural disasters, particularly assistance for disaster preparedness and prevention programmes and to implement its plans and programmes for

seeking a long-term and effective solution of the problems caused by floods and other natural disasters;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and in co-operation with other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, to assist the Government of Bangladesh in preparing its own feasibility plan to meet such exigencies;

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

33rd plenary meeting  
18 October 1988

#### 43/10. Credentials of representatives to the forty-third session of the General Assembly

##### A

*The General Assembly*

*Approves* the first report of the Credentials Committee.<sup>18</sup>

33rd plenary meeting  
18 October 1988

##### B

*The General Assembly*

*Approves* the second report of the Credentials Committee.<sup>19</sup>

76th plenary meeting  
9 December 1988

#### 43/11. Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 27 June 1986 concerning military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua: need for immediate compliance

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* Security Council resolutions 530 (1983) of 19 May 1983 and 562 (1985) of 10 May 1985, and its resolutions 41/31 of 3 November 1986 and 42/18 of 12 November 1987,

*Aware* that, under the Charter of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and that each Member undertakes to comply with the decision of the Court in any case to which it is a party,

*Considering* that Article 36, paragraph 6, of the Statute of the Court provides that "in the event of a dispute as to whether the Court has jurisdiction, the matter shall be settled by the decision of the Court",

*Taking note* of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 27 June 1986 in the case of "Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua",<sup>20</sup>

*Having considered* the events that have taken place in and against Nicaragua since the Judgment was rendered, in particular the continued financing by the United States

<sup>18</sup> A/43/715.

<sup>19</sup> A/43/715/Add.1.

<sup>20</sup> Military and Paramilitary Activities in and against Nicaragua (Nicaragua v. United States of America), Merits, Judgment, *I.C.J. Reports* 1986, p. 14.