

where appropriate, wider application of innovative measures, such as debt-for-equity swaps, debt swaps for the protection of nature and debt-for-development swaps, as contributions towards addressing the external debt problems of all indebted developing countries concerned;

10. *Notes* the substantial debt relief and debt reduction agreed to by the Paris Club in favour of two middle-income countries;

11. *Further stresses* the need for the continued examination, in the relevant forum, of appropriate debt-relief measures in favour of indebted low-income and lower-middle-income countries;

12. *Urges* the multilateral financial institutions to continue to provide support for debt and debt-service reduction packages with the necessary flexibility under their established guidelines, and also urges that earnest attention be given to continuing to work towards a growth-oriented solution to the problems of developing countries that are having serious debt-servicing difficulties, including those countries whose debt is mainly to official creditors or to multilateral financial institutions;

13. *Recognizes* the urgent need to continue to provide a social safety net to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in the debtor countries, in particular low-income groups, in order to ensure social and political stability;

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

*77th plenary meeting
18 December 1991*

46/149. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, in which it proclaimed the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and 45/185 of 21 December 1990,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/58 of 26 July 1991,

Reaffirming the need for the international community to demonstrate the strong political determination required to mobilize and use existing scientific and technical knowledge to mitigate natural disasters, bearing in mind, in particular, the needs of developing countries,

Welcoming the positive steps taken by approximately one hundred Governments in establishing national committees or focal points to stimulate and coordinate disaster mitigation activities for the purpose of attaining the objective and goals set for the Decade,

Reconfirming the important responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole for promoting international cooperation in order to mitigate natural disasters, provide assistance and coordinate relief, preparedness and prevention,

Welcoming the establishment of the Special High-Level Council, which completes the organizational arrangements for the Decade called for in General Assembly

resolution 44/236, and the inaugural session of the Council, held in New York on 9 and 10 October 1991, on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Expressing its appreciation to those countries that have provided generous support to the activities of the Decade through voluntary contributions, including staff secondments, the development and implementation of disaster reduction projects and the hosting of activities or meetings related to the Decade,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade, the addendum to which contains the New York Declaration of the Special High-Level Council and the first annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the Decade,¹⁹

1. *Endorses* the New York Declaration of the Special High-Level Council and encourages the members of the Council to embark actively on the implementation of their tasks, with particular attention to increasing public awareness of the potential for disaster reduction and raising support for the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction from Governments, funding organizations and the business community;

2. *Also endorses* the recommendations contained in the first annual report of the Scientific and Technical Committee on the Decade,²⁰ while recognizing that implementation by disaster-vulnerable countries of the targets set by the Committee would constitute significant progress in reducing the impact of disasters during the Decade;

3. *Further endorses* the proposal of the Scientific and Technical Committee concerning the convening in 1994 of a world conference of representatives of national committees for the Decade,²¹ which would bring together participants from a broad range of sectors of activity, including the scientific and technological sector, the business sector and the industrial sector, as well as non-governmental groups, and which would serve as a substantive contribution to the mid-term review of the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade called for in resolution 44/236;

4. *Commends* the initiatives already taken by countries exposed to disasters to reduce their vulnerability, and encourages them to continue with the adoption of national disaster mitigation policies and their implementation during the Decade in the context of their socio-economic development, taking into account the targets proposed by the Scientific and Technical Committee as a measure of progress in disaster reduction;

5. *Stresses* the benefits of regional meetings with heads of national committees, such as that organized at Guatemala City from 9 to 13 September 1991 by the Pan American Health Organization, the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Americas, the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator;

6. *Invites* Governments to accelerate communication and cooperation globally and at the regional level in order to share valuable experience and to transfer scientific and technical knowledge for disaster mitigation;

7. *Reiterates* its appeals to the international community, in particular to donor countries, for adequate funding, including contributions to the Trust Fund, for carrying out the activities of the Decade;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the activities of the Decade.

*77th plenary meeting
18 December 1991*

46/150. Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 45/190 of 21 December 1990,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, and taking note of Council resolution 1991/51 of 26 July 1991,

Taking note with appreciation of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/190, and the decisions of other international organs and organizations,

Taking note of International Atomic Energy Agency resolution GC(XXXV)/RES/553 of 20 September 1991,

Expressing continuing concern about the ongoing effects on the lives and health of people, especially children, first and foremost in the affected regions of Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic and also in other countries affected by the Chernobyl disaster,

Aware of the need to strengthen further the coordination of active efforts to carefully study, mitigate and minimize the radiological, health, socio-economic, psychological and environmental consequences of that disaster, as well as its possible long-term effects, including those resulting from transboundary contamination,

Stressing the importance of providing extensive information on all aspects of the unprecedented disaster for the purpose of avoiding similar calamities in the future,

Welcoming the growing international solidarity with the victims of Chernobyl and the large-scale efforts made by the United Nations and the organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the contribution made by Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, charity foundations, the business community, scientific bodies and individuals, in the development of cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Noting the various assessments of the radiological consequences of the Chernobyl accident, in particular the report of the International Advisory Committee²² that was presented and discussed at the conference held at Vienna from 21 to 24 May 1991, and recognizing the need for further study,

Stressing that it is essential to achieve and maintain the highest available standards of safety of nuclear power generation, including radiological protection, and to encourage cooperation to this end throughout the world and, in particular, in Central and Eastern Europe,

Noting with appreciation the activities recently initiated with the purpose of bringing forward the shutting down of the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl, and stressing the

need for technical assistance from the international community to that end,

Noting with interest the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the International Conference on the Safety of Nuclear Power, held at Vienna from 2 to 6 September 1991,²³

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/190;²⁴

2. *Welcomes* the practical measures that have been taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation for Chernobyl to strengthen coordination of international efforts in that area, *inter alia*, in the setting up of the corresponding Inter-Agency Task Force and the preparation of the Joint Plan of international cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the results of the United Nations Pledging Conference to mobilize support for extending international cooperation to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

4. *Appeals* to all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, charity foundations, the business community, scientific bodies and individuals to provide cooperation in various forms and special and other assistance, taking into account the nature of the radiation and environmental disaster and the emergency situation that has developed in the areas most affected, particularly in Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, as described in the conclusions and recommendations of the International Chernobyl Project²² in its assessment of radiological consequences and evaluation of protective measures and other relevant studies;

5. *Requests* the organs, specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system to continue the consideration of possible technical and other specialized assistance and specific actions in the areas most affected by the accident, particularly in Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, in close cooperation with the United Nations Coordinator, taking into account the Joint Plan, as introduced by the Secretary-General at the Chernobyl Pledging Conference;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the activities related to the coordination of efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in accordance with resolution 45/190;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session an item entitled "Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster".

*77th plenary meeting
18 December 1991*