



General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 December 2011

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 70 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 November 2011

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/66/L.7 and Add.1)]

66/9. Emergency humanitarian assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama

The General Assembly,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on emergency humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Deeply disturbed by the loss of life that brought grief to so many families in Central America and by just how many people were affected by the Pacific tropical depression E-12 and the intense rainfall in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama from 10 to 19 October 2011,

Aware of the extensive material damage to crops, housing, basic infrastructure and tourist and other areas, which, inter alia, poses a severe threat to the food security of the people of Central America, particularly the poorest families, and of the adverse effects on economic activity and trade in the isthmus,

Also aware that the geography of Central American countries makes them especially vulnerable to the adverse effects of meteorological phenomena associated with climate change and other factors which, in recent years, have given rise to new risk scenarios, plunging the most vulnerable populations deeper into poverty and undermining efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals and promote more sustainable development for the people of Central America,

Recognizing the efforts of the Central American Governments to minimize loss of life and provide speedy assistance to the stricken population,

Considering the Declaration of Comalapa adopted at the special summit of Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Central American Integration System, held in San Salvador on 25 October 2011,

Also considering the enormous effort needed to rebuild the stricken areas and to address the serious situation left in the wake of a natural disaster which, over nine days, produced some of the heaviest rains ever seen in Central America, with twice the amount of rain recorded during hurricane Mitch in 1998, and that this effort will require the broad, coordinated and sustained support of the international community,



1. *Expresses its solidarity with and support for* the Governments and peoples of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the members of the international community that have already provided timely assistance for rescue and aid efforts targeted at the stricken population, in particular, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, and commends the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance;
3. *Acknowledges* the efforts and progress made by Central American countries in strengthening their disaster-preparedness capacity, emphasizes the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction, and encourages the international community to continue to cooperate with the affected Governments towards this end;
4. *Appeals* to all Member States and all organs and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the international financial and development institutions, to continue to cooperate with Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama in their relief, rehabilitation and humanitarian assistance efforts and in rebuilding the region;
5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to support and assist national and regional capacity-building in the areas of natural disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation and risk management in the above-mentioned countries according to needs and in the specialized institution of the Central American Integration System, the Coordination Centre for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution and progress made in relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the stricken countries.

*58th plenary meeting
11 November 2011*