

No. 792

**UNITED NATIONS
(OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR)
and
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

**Memorandum of Understanding concerning collaboration.
Signed at Geneva on 21 October 1977**

Authentic text: English.

Filed and recorded by the Secretariat on 21 October 1977.

**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
(BUREAU DU COORDONNATEUR
DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES SECOURS
EN CAS DE CATASTROPHE)**

et

**ORGANISATION MÉTÉOROLOGIQUE
MONDIALE**

**Mémoire d'accord relatif à la collaboration. Signé à
Genève le 21 octobre 1977**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Classé et inscrit au répertoire par le Secrétariat le 21 octobre 1977.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING¹ BETWEEN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

1. Close and fruitful collaboration has existed between the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) since UNDRO was established in 1972. With a view to strengthening this collaboration, the Secretary-General of WMO and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator have agreed on the present Memorandum of Understanding within the framework of the Agreement between the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization² and in particular article VI of that Agreement.

2. The purposes of WMO, as laid down in its Convention,³ are as follows:

- (a) to facilitate world-wide co-operation in the establishment of networks of stations for the making of meteorological observations as well as hydrological and other geophysical observations related to meteorology, and to promote the establishment and maintenance of centres charged with the provision of meteorological and related services;
- (b) to promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for the rapid exchange of meteorological and related information;
- (c) to promote standardization of meteorological and related observations and to ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics;
- (d) to further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, agriculture and other human activities;
- (e) to promote activities in operational hydrology and to further close co-operation between meteorological and hydrological services; and
- (f) to encourage research and training in meteorology and, as appropriate, in related fields and to assist in co-ordinating the international aspects of such research and training.

3. In accordance with the above provisions, WMO is engaged in a wide variety of activities related to natural disasters caused by meteorological and hydrological phenomena, such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts.

4. The mandate of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, as laid down in General Assembly resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971,⁴ is

- (a) to establish and maintain the closest co-operation with all organizations concerned and to make all feasible advance arrangements with them for the purpose of ensuring the most effective assistance;

¹ Came into force on 21 October 1977 by signature, in accordance with paragraph 10.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 123, p. 245.

³ See "Convention of the World Meteorological Organization, signed at Washington on 11 October 1947" in United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 77, p. 143.

⁴ United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/8429)*, p. 85.

- (b) to mobilize, direct and co-ordinate the relief activities of the various organizations of the United Nations system in response to a request for disaster assistance from a stricken State;
- (c) to co-ordinate United Nations assistance with assistance given by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular by the International Red Cross;
- (d) to receive, on behalf of the Secretary-General, contributions offered to him for disaster relief assistance to be carried out by the United Nations, its agencies and programmes for particular emergency situations;
- (e) to assist the Government of the stricken country to assess its relief and other needs and to evaluate the priority of those needs, to disseminate that information to prospective donors and others concerned, and to serve as a clearing-house for assistance extended or planned by all sources of external aid;
- (f) to promote the study, prevention, control and prediction of natural disasters, including the collection and dissemination of information concerning technological developments;
- (g) to assist in providing advice to Governments on pre-disaster planning in association with relevant voluntary organizations, particularly with the League of Red Cross Societies, and to draw upon United Nations resources available for such purposes;
- (h) to acquire and disseminate information relevant to planning and co-ordinating relief for disasters, including the improvement and establishment of stock-piles in disaster-prone areas, and to prepare suggestions to ensure the most effective use of available resources;
- (i) to phase out relief operations under his aegis as the stricken country moves into the stage of rehabilitation and reconstruction, but to continue to interest himself, within the framework of his responsibilities for relief, in the activities of the United Nations agencies concerned with rehabilitation and reconstruction.

5. WMO recognizes the responsibility of UNDRO as the focal point within the United Nations system for the co-ordination of disaster relief, and its responsibility in the promotion of disaster preparedness and prevention.

6. UNDRO recognizes the responsibility of WMO for assisting Governments in the establishment and operation of forecasting and early warning systems for all events of a meteorological or hydrological origin and in conducting research and training in this area.

7. WMO and UNDRO will collaborate in all areas of common concern. This collaboration will include activities related to disaster preparedness and prevention, such as technical co-operation, education and training.

8. The collaboration between WMO and UNDRO will be effected in the areas mentioned in paragraph 7 above in the following ways, among others:

- (a) consultation and exchange of information about requests from Governments for advice and assistance;
- (b) consultation and exchange of information about projects being developed and implemented;

- (c) consultation and exchange of information about negotiations and joint projects with other international organizations, notably the United Nations Environment Programme and the League of Red Cross Societies;
- (d) invitations to meetings at which relevant activities are to be discussed;
- (e) development of joint projects;
- (f) assistance, when feasible, in the implementation of projects being executed by the other agency, on request;
- (g) exchange of reports and publications.

9. The Secretary-General of WMO and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator will meet from time to time to review the effectiveness of their collaboration in disaster-related matters, and to evolve any improvements as may prove desirable in the light of the experience gained.

10. This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force upon its signature by the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and may be amended by mutual agreement. It will remain in force until such time as it is terminated by one agency giving the other three months' written notice of termination.

[Signed]

D. A. DAVIES
Secretary-General
World Meteorological
Organization

[Signed]

FARUK N. BERKOL
Under-Secretary-General
Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

21 October 1977
