

Topic: Strengthening the Coordination of the United Nation’s Emergency Humanitarian Assistance



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ECOSOC PLENARY**

Submitted by: Economic and Social Council

- 1 COMMENDING the efforts of United Nations Office for the Coordination of
2 Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) disaster response,
3
4 ENCOURAGING member States to share effective practices in developing State specific
5 emergency response systems both independently and within existing Central Emergency
6 Response Fund (CERF) allocations,
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8 REAFFIRMING the importance of humanitarian organizations to cooperate with
9 governments in facilitating the humanitarian responses for States during emergencies,
10
11 FULLY AWARE of the primacy of State sovereignty during the implementation,
12 coordination and facilitation phases of disaster response, and that the initiative for long-
13 term development ultimately rests with the State engaged in humanitarian relief efforts,
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15 EXPRESSING a grave concern for the number of displaced peoples caused by
16 humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters and areas of conflict,
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18 REAFFIRMING the neutrality of humanitarian organizations, such as the United
19 Nations, free from military, political, or economic influence, and the necessity of
20 concrete parameters for the definition and classification of natural disasters and
21 emergencies,
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23 NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the progress of the Secretary General, humanitarian
24 organizations, and Member States in strengthening humanitarian relief efforts through
25 CERF,
26
27 CONCERNED by the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, and the
28 strain humanitarian assistance may place on individual States and regions,
29
30 1. RECOMMENDS implementing the “cluster approach” thus ensuring
31 predictability and accountability by clarifying the divisions of labor and
32 individual roles within the different response sectors of the organization as a
33 whole,
34 a. A “cluster approach” provides a forum for program articulation
35 regardless of funding sources,

- 36 b. Is composed of agencies with complimentary mandates ensuring
37 integrated, thematic responses by combining support and common
38 services;
39
- 40 2. SUPPORTS more consistent and adequate funding of the CERF to facilitate
41 adequate and timely humanitarian assistance and to eliminate the time consuming
42 necessity of fundraising in response to emergencies;
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- 44 3. ENCOURAGES the cooperation and exchange of personnel and humanitarian
45 resources in conjunction with financial assistance between humanitarian
46 organizations and States who may be incapable of providing sufficient
47 humanitarian relief independently;
48
- 49 4. URGES multi-lateral communication between local governments and regional
50 organizations to avoid the duplication and fragmentation of humanitarian aid
51 efforts;
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- 53 5. EMPHASIZES the need for systematic, biennial reviews in accordance with
54 UNOCHA standards to facilitate accountability and transparency in the allocation
55 of humanitarian aid to States and non-governmental organizations;
56
- 57 6. URGES all relevant United Nations Development Assistance programs, such as
58 the International Labor Organization, the United Nations Development Program's
59 Crisis Prevention and Recovery Program, CERF and OCHA, to become involved
60 in the early stages of emergency relief efforts in support of recovery in order to
61 ensure the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation in promoting long-term
62 development;
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- 64 7. EXPRESSES HOPE that the aforementioned principles will enhance the
65 coordination and success of local and regional humanitarian efforts in emergency
66 situations.