



# General Assembly

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## Seventieth session

Agenda item 73

### **Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance**

**Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Peru, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Ukraine and Uruguay: draft resolution**

### **Participation of volunteers, “White Helmets”, in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolutions 50/19 of 28 November 1995, 52/171 of 16 December 1997, 54/98 of 8 December 1999, 56/102 of 14 December 2001, 58/118 of 17 December 2003, 61/220 of 20 December 2006, 64/75 of 7 December 2009, 67/84 of 13 December 2012 and 69/134 of 12 December 2014,

*Reaffirming also* its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996,

*Emphasizing* the need for coordination between relief and development activities in the context of humanitarian emergencies, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>1</sup>

*Recognizing* the importance of mobilizing the scientific and technical know-how of the international community to assist local communities within a framework of comprehensive disaster risk reduction, and in this regard expressing appreciation for the international cooperation contributions made by the White Helmets initiative, through its South-South Mechanism, to those in need,

*Recognizing also* the responsibility of the United Nations system in promoting international cooperation for developing countries to prevent and mitigate disasters,

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 70/1.



and to provide and coordinate assistance and rehabilitation measures aimed at building resilient communities, and highlighting the leading role of the Secretary-General in this regard,

*Recognizing further* that the international community, in addressing the growing magnitude and complexity of disasters and chronic challenges, such as hunger, malnutrition and poverty, must rely on the formulation of a well-coordinated global response within the framework of the United Nations and on the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

*Recognizing* that the White Helmets initiative has demonstrated the potential of regional partnerships and has encouraged the participation of affected or vulnerable populations in the tasks of planning, training, mobilizing and providing an immediate response in disaster situations and complex emergencies, as well as the work of the White Helmets initiative in disseminating information regarding the importance of a trained and organized volunteer corps,

*Emphasizing* the need to integrate a gender perspective, as well as a perspective on the needs of children, young people, older persons and people with disabilities, in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk reduction,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,<sup>2</sup> submitted in compliance with resolutions 46/182 and 69/135, and in particular paragraph 85 of the report of the Secretary-General, in which it is noted that in 20 years of experience, the White Helmets have participated in over 260 international humanitarian assistance missions;

2. *Recognizes* the work done by the White Helmets in coordination with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to promote the interchange of humanitarian experiences and best practices among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and foster a number of regional mechanisms for international humanitarian assistance;

3. *Takes note* of the activities of the White Helmets involving the exchange of experiences with several countries with a view to mutually strengthening international humanitarian assistance and promoting volunteer work;

4. *Recognizes* the work undertaken with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to strengthen the disaster risk reduction agenda and generate practical tools for the campaign entitled “Making Cities Resilient: My city is getting ready”, as well as the active participation in the consultations leading to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;

5. *Commends* the contributions of national and international volunteers for their fundamental role in disaster risk reduction, response and recovery;

6. *Recognizes* the agreement signed between the United Nations Volunteers and the White Helmets Commission, which extends until 2017 and will allow for continuation of the joint work launched in 1995, and invites Member States to consider means of supporting collaboration of the White Helmets with their

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<sup>2</sup> [A/70/77-E/2015/64](#).

programme activities and to consider making financial resources available to the Special Voluntary Fund of the United Nations Volunteers;

7. *Takes note* of the renewal, signed in 2014, of the memorandum of understanding between the White Helmets and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which established the framework for the deployment of White Helmets volunteers in support of the emergency responses of the Office of the High Commissioner, and recognizes the efforts made by the World Food Programme and the White Helmets to coordinate integration mechanisms that allow for joint action within the framework of food security, including the exchange of information among stakeholders in the field, and the international humanitarian assistance activities that the White Helmets developed with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan;

8. *Recognizes* the international humanitarian activities that the White Helmets developed in the period from 2012 to 2015 in coordination with the national authorities of disaster-affected countries and the agencies of the United Nations system and its partners;

9. *Notes* the work of the White Helmets initiative in assisting the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to promote greater legal preparedness for international disaster assistance in the Americas;

10. *Recognizes* the participation of the White Helmets at the Latin American and Caribbean regional consultation held in preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016;

11. *Encourages* the White Helmets to continue to enhance coordination with the international humanitarian system and to explore mechanisms for sharing best practices on disaster response and preparedness with other regional organizations in disaster-prone areas, in order to improve the coordination of humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations in emergency situations;

12. *Invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the experience acquired, to continue to consider the use of the White Helmets initiative as a resource suitable for preventing and mitigating the effects of humanitarian disaster situations;

13. *Also invites* the Secretary-General, on the basis of the work experience acquired by the White Helmets in the international field, as recognized in various resolutions of the General Assembly, and in view of the success of coordinated actions carried out with, inter alia, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Volunteers, to suggest measures to enhance the collaboration of the White Helmets initiative with the United Nations system and to report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-third session in a separate section of the annual report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.