

his Government's economic development priorities and invited the international community to render assistance in dealing with serious economic and social problems in Zimbabwe,

*Recalling* Security Council resolution 460 (1979) of 21 December 1979 and General Assembly resolution 35/100 of 5 December 1980, in which the international community was called upon to provide urgent assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Zimbabwe,

*Taking into account* the economic policy statement of Zimbabwe, "Growth with equity", on the basis of which a three-year plan was prepared, outlining short-term, medium-term and long-term national measures being undertaken to establish an egalitarian socialist society under conditions of growth with equity,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Zimbabwe,<sup>226</sup> prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 35/100,

1. *Endorses* the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Zimbabwe;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States and regional and international organizations that have extended economic assistance to Zimbabwe through bilateral and multilateral arrangements;

3. *Emphasizes* that the social and economic reconstruction of Zimbabwe is an ongoing exercise that will continue to require a massive injection of external assistance;

4. *Invites* appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system—in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organisation—to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the urgent and special needs of Zimbabwe and to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General by 15 July 1982;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of financial, technical and material assistance to Zimbabwe;

(b) To ensure that adequate financial and budgetary arrangements are made to continue the mobilization of international assistance to Zimbabwe;

(c) To keep the situation in Zimbabwe under constant review, to maintain close contact with Member States, the specialized agencies, regional and other intergovernmental organizations and international financial institutions concerned, and to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1982, of the current status of the special programme of economic assistance for Zimbabwe;

(d) To arrange for a review of the progress made in organizing and implementing the special programme of economic assistance for that country in time for the matter to be considered by the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

*103rd plenary meeting  
17 December 1981*

### 36/224. Expression of appreciation to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

*The General Assembly,*

*Noting* that the incumbent United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator will shortly be relinquishing his duties,

*Recognizing* the role he has played in organizing and guiding the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the performance of its functions,

*Deeply appreciative* of the contribution he has made in creating and further developing that Office and of his unrelenting efforts to alleviate human suffering through the special humanitarian tasks entrusted to him,

1. *Expresses its sincere appreciation* to Mr. Faruk N. Berkol for the dedicated manner in which he has discharged the responsibilities of his office;

2. *Extends* its best wishes to him for his future undertakings and well-being.

*103rd plenary meeting  
17 December 1981*

### 36/225. Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which it established the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, 3243 (XXIX) of 29 November 1974 on the strengthening of that Office, 3440 (XXX) of 9 December 1975, in which it provided, *inter alia*, for measures to be taken in support of the activities of the Office, and 3532 (XXX) of 17 December 1975 on the financing of emergency relief assistance and technical co-operation activities of the Office,

*Recalling also* its resolution 31/173 of 21 December 1976 on financial arrangements for the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

*Recalling further* the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade,<sup>227</sup>

*Recalling* the report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries containing the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, in particular the section concerning disaster assistance for the least developed countries,<sup>228</sup>

*Deeply concerned* about the increasing number of natural disasters and other disaster situations, the economic burden borne by disaster-stricken and affected countries, particularly the developing countries, and the disruption thereby caused to their development process,

*Also recalling* its resolution 35/107 of 5 December 1980,

*Further recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/43 of 23 July 1980 regarding international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in natural disasters and other disaster situations,

*Fully cognizant* of the sovereign interests and rights of affected countries and of the primacy of their role in caring for the victims of natural disasters and other disaster situations,

*Anxious* that the international community should respond speedily and effectively to calls for emergency humanitarian assistance,

<sup>227</sup> Resolution 35/56, annex.

<sup>228</sup> *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. Paris, 1-14 September 1981* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.1.8), part one, sect. A, para. 59.

<sup>226</sup> A/36/271 and Corr. 1.

*Recognizing* that the quality and appropriateness of material and other assistance provided by the international community should meet the particular needs of the populations of disaster-affected areas,

*Recognizing* the contribution made by the United Nations system to the relief of suffering and provision of humanitarian relief in natural disasters and other disaster situations,

*Recognizing* that the primary responsibility of administration, relief operations and disaster preparedness lies with the affected countries and that the major part of the material assistance and human effort in disaster relief comes from the Governments of those countries,

*Recognizing also* the importance in international relief of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations,

*Recognizing further* that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it is essential to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the United Nations system as a whole in order to enable the Office to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations speedily, efficiently and effectively, and thereby ensure prompt delivery of concerted relief,

*Recognizing* that a major constraint for the United Nations system to respond effectively to natural disasters and other disaster situations has been the shortage of resources,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General and other reports on international efforts to meet humanitarian needs in emergency situations, as well as on measures for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations<sup>229</sup> and of the statement made by the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator before the Second Committee on 5 November 1981;<sup>230</sup>

2. *Reaffirms* the sovereignty of individual Member States, recognizes the primary role of each State in caring for the victims of disasters occurring in its territory and stresses that all relief operations should be carried out and co-ordinated in a manner consistent with the priorities and needs of the countries concerned;

3. *Reaffirms* the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, established by the General Assembly in resolution 2816 (XXVI) as the focal point of the United Nations system for disaster relief co-ordination, and calls for strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office;

4. *Endorses* the approaches outlined by the Secretary-General in his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the role of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the various phases of disaster assistance;<sup>231</sup>

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary steps to strengthen the management operations of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

6. *Stresses* the need to take full advantage of information provided by existing early-warning monitoring systems that have been developed to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations system in responding to natural dis-

asters and other disaster situations and to co-ordinate, as far as feasible and useful, all the relevant early-warning systems, and stresses that, to this effect, the capability of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in information collection and dissemination should be further strengthened and improved;

7. *Urges* the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and other appropriate bodies, to co-operate closely, in their respective areas of competence, with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in disaster relief activities and other disaster situations, to respond effectively to the needs of the situation and to comply promptly with the requests of disaster-affected countries;

8. *Decides* that, in response to a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken State and, as necessary, in particular in disaster-prone countries, the United Nations resident co-ordinator shall, with the full concurrence, consent and participation of the Government, convene meetings of the concerned organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to plan, monitor and take immediate action to provide assistance and the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations may be invited to participate in such meetings with the approval of the host country;

9. *Decides* that, following a request for disaster relief from a disaster-stricken State and whenever required to deal effectively with complex disasters and emergencies of exceptional magnitude, the Secretary-General or his representative, who would normally be the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, shall convene meetings of the concerned organizations of the United Nations system in order to develop a concerted relief programme and conduct *ad hoc* consultations with the heads or representatives of the agencies concerned with disaster-relief questions, with a view to ensuring speedy and efficient delivery of goods and services to the disaster-stricken areas, and decides that these *ad hoc* consultations should draw on information provided by the Government concerned, as well as on the assessments of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the resident co-ordinator and representatives of other United Nations organizations in the countries concerned, and take into account advice offered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations in the field with the understanding that all agencies with responsibilities for natural disasters and other disaster situations should be involved at the appropriate level in such consultations;

10. *Decides* that, once it has been determined—on the basis of the above-mentioned information and consultations—that an exceptional or complex natural disaster or other disaster situation requiring system-wide action exists, the Secretary-General shall designate, at the international level, a lead entity from among the United Nations organizations, agencies and bodies, including the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and, at the country level, the appropriate entity of the United Nations system to carry out relief operations, taking into account the specific requirements of the situation and in consultation with the host Government, and calls upon all organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate closely with one another in their relief operations;

11. *Invites* the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination to examine urgently the role of the lead entity and participating organs, organizations and bodies of the United

<sup>229</sup> See A/36/73 and Add.1, A/36/259 and E/1981/16 and Corr.1, annex. See also decision 1981/2 of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC/1981/DEC/1-10).

<sup>230</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Second Committee, 29th meeting, paras. 33-40.*

<sup>231</sup> A/36/73/Add.1.

Nations system in complex disaster situations, taking into account decision 1981/2 of that Committee, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, on the deliberations of the Committee;

12. *Strongly calls upon* all States to respond positively and expeditiously to the Secretary-General's appeals for contributions to meet natural disasters and other disaster situations;

13. *Reiterates* in particular, its appeal in resolution 35/107 for increased contributions to the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, in particular to the subaccount for humanitarian emergency relief;

14. *Stresses* in this regard the need to strengthen the operational capacity and the human, material and financial resources available to individual agencies and organizations, in order to enable them to play their respective roles more promptly, efficiently and effectively in natural disasters and other disaster situations;

15. *Requests* all States to ensure a full flow of information to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, especially regarding relief actions, and also to provide the United Nations system with the necessary personnel and logistic support;

16. *Urges* Governments in disaster-prone countries to explore further, with the assistance of the donors, appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, the possibility of improving storage, communication and transportation facilities, as well as measures to ensure disaster preparedness and prevention;

17. *Also urges* the international community to assist disaster-prone countries, upon their request, with the establishment of effective national early-warning systems, the development of contingency plans for disasters and the strengthening of assessment capacity for relief requirements and for distribution and monitoring of relief supplies;

18. *Calls upon* organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to establish emergency units or focal points if they are not already in existence;

19. *Reaffirms* the need for the international community to respond fully to requests for emergency and humanitarian assistance, in particular through increased financial contributions for affected developing countries, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade and of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries, as well as those of the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a preliminary progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1982, and a comprehensive report to the Assembly at its thirty-eighth session, through the Council at its second regular session of 1983.

*103rd plenary meeting  
17 December 1981*