

cal development problems and attain their objectives, giving due regard to the special needs of the least developed among them,

1. *Decides* to liquidate the United Nations Emergency Operation Trust Fund and to allocate the remaining balance to existing funds and programmes of the United Nations as follows:

(a) Seventy per cent shall be channelled through United Nations Development Programme-administered funds to finance urgently needed projects, primarily in the food and agricultural sectors in countries afflicted by famine and malnutrition as a result, particularly, of severe or prolonged drought, with special emphasis on African countries;

(b) Eighteen per cent shall be channelled through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, especially to its educational programme;

(c) Twelve per cent shall be channelled through the United Nations Development Programme for the purpose of economic and technical co-operation among developing countries; these funds shall be allocated to activities in economic and technical co-operation among developing countries of critical importance to developing countries, according to the priorities set by them;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to ensure that the funds are allocated in accordance with the present resolution as soon as possible;

3. *Also requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report to the Governing Council at its thirty-first session on action taken to implement the present resolution;

4. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to monitor closely the implementation of the present resolution, to make available progress reports and to report fully to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

*104th plenary meeting  
20 December 1983*

### **38/202. Strengthening of 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 the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator was established, and 36/225 of 17 December 1981, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Office and, *inter alia*, called for the strengthening and improvement of its capacity and effectiveness,

*Recalling also* its resolution 37/144 of 17 December 1982, in which the Assembly recognized that, in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, it was essential to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and of the United Nations system as a whole,

*Recalling further* Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/47 of 28 July 1983,

*Recognizing* that, as a result of those resolutions and other relevant resolutions and decisions, there is now in place a workable system to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate relief activities carried out by the United Nations

system, in co-operation with Governments and voluntary agencies.

*Noting* that the operation of that system has been much improved but that there remains a need for its full application,

*Noting further with appreciation* the effective response of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to recent major disasters,

*Recognizing* that shortage of resources has been a constraint on an effective response of the United Nations to disaster situations,

*Recognizing also* that the primary responsibility for 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 further* the importance of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and appropriate voluntary organizations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to natural disasters and other disaster situations,<sup>178</sup> as well as of his report on the work of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator<sup>179</sup> and of the statement made by the Co-ordinator on 10 November 1983;<sup>180</sup>

2. *Notes with particular interest* the observations and conclusions of the Secretary-General relating to the transportation, more rapid delivery and distribution of relief supplies, reconstruction and rehabilitation and the need for more effective monitoring and evaluation procedures to assess the way in which the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the international community as a whole have dealt with the mobilization and provision of disaster relief in particular cases;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of disaster preparedness and prevention activities, and calls upon the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, Governments and agencies involved to ensure that a high level of attention is given to them;

4. *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;

5. *Stresses* 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;

6. *Repeats its call* to all Governments and competent organs and organizations to co-operate with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and to improve, in particular, their flow of information on relief assistance, action, plans and needs;

7. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to continue and improve further the flow of information to Governments, organizations and agencies concerned, so that a more complete picture of relief activities, assistance received and further requirements may be provided to all concerned;

8. *Stresses* the need for the continuance and further strengthening of relations between the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and appropriate voluntary organizations working in the area of disaster relief.

<sup>178</sup> A/38/202-E/1983/94.

<sup>179</sup> A/38/201-E/1983/69 and Corr.1 and 2.

<sup>180</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Second Committee, 34th meeting, paras. 1-12.*

including the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and requests the Secretary-General to consider the establishment of a small consultative group composed of executives of these major relief organizations, in their individual capacity, to provide advice, upon request, to the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in the assessment of relief needs and in the preparation and execution of concerted relief programmes;

9. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to permit the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to respond to requests for emergency disaster assistance up to a total of \$600,000 in any one year, with a normal ceiling of \$50,000 per country in the case of any one disaster, within existing resources as far as possible;

10. *Once again urgently 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;

11. *Appeals* to Governments for urgent voluntary contributions, channelled through the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, to enable the Office to cover, *inter alia*, unforeseen expenses in connection with disaster relief operations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Governments of both donor and recipient countries, as well as with appropriate agencies, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1984, specific proposals to follow up the conclusions and problems identified in his comprehensive report, as well as in the present resolution.

104th plenary meeting  
20 December 1983

### 38/203. Assistance to Ghana

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/44 of 28 July 1983, in which the Council expressed its deep concern at the adverse economic conditions in Ghana, exacerbated by the sudden repatriation early in 1983 of over one million Ghanaians,

*Having heard* the statement made by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Ghana on 11 October 1983,<sup>181</sup> in which he expressed appreciation for the humanitarian assistance rendered by Governments, the United Nations system and other organizations during the difficult period of the influx of returnees and his appreciation of the action taken by the Secretary-General, and described his country's serious economic and financial situation,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>182</sup> to which is annexed the report of the multi-agency mission which he dispatched to Ghana in May 1983,

*Noting* from the report the serious economic and financial problems that confront Ghana and the efforts made by the Government, and people of Ghana to cope with these problems and to rehabilitate returnees,

*Taking note* of the recommended programme of assistance to Ghana, drawn up by the mission in consultation with the Government, concerning short-term emergency-related and medium-term recovery-related assistance,<sup>183</sup>

*Affirming* the urgent need for international action to assist the Government and the people of Ghana in their

efforts towards economic recovery and rehabilitation of returnees.

1. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the Government and people of Ghana to rehabilitate returnees;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his prompt action and for the report of the multi-agency mission on the economic situation of Ghana and the additional assistance required by that country to cope with the problems exacerbated by the influx of returnees;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to all States and organizations that have provided emergency humanitarian assistance to Ghana;

4. *Endorses* the assessment and recommendations of the multi-agency mission annexed to the report of the Secretary-General pertaining to assistance to Ghana;<sup>182</sup>

5. *Urgently reiterates the appeal* made by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1983/44, to all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system to support fully the efforts of the Government of Ghana to mobilize funds for its special economic assistance programme and respond generously to the short-term and medium-term programmes drawn up by the multi-agency mission in consultation with the Government of Ghana;

6. *Requests* the 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 Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization—to maintain and expand their programmes of assistance to Ghana, to co-operate closely with the Secretary-General in his efforts to organize an effective international programme of assistance and to report periodically to him on the steps they have taken and the resources they have made available to help that country;

7. *Calls upon* regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as international financial institutions, to give urgent consideration to the establishment of a programme of assistance to Ghana or, where one is already in existence, to the expansion of that programme;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for an effective programme of international assistance to Ghana;

(b) To keep the situation regarding assistance to Ghana under constant review, to maintain close contact with Member States, regional and other intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and international financial institutions concerned, and to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular sessions of 1984 and 1985, of the current status of the special economic assistance programme for Ghana, including contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Special Economic Assistance Programmes, in accordance with Council resolution 1983/44;

(c) To report on the progress made in the economic situation of Ghana and in organizing and implementing the programme of assistance for that country, in time for the

<sup>181</sup> *Ibid.*, Plenary Meetings, 28th meeting, paras. 67-104

<sup>182</sup> A/38/215.

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*, annex, sect. V