

19 – 23 March

Documentation of the Work of the General Assembly Third  
Committee (GA3)



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Conference A

## General Assembly Third Committee (GA3)

### Committee Staff

<b>Director</b>	Chase Mitchell
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Caitlin M. Hopper
<b>Chair</b>	Mary Moeller
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### Agenda

- I. Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies
- II. Promoting Rights and Strengthening Protections for Older Persons
- III. Preventing Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

### Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
GA3/1/1	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	Adopted without a vote
GA3/1/2	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	Adopted without a vote
GA3/1/3	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	Adopted without a vote
GA3/1/4	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	91 votes in favor, 25 votes against, 26 abstentions
GA3/1/5	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	107 votes in favor, 9 votes against, 26 abstentions
GA3/1/6	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	102 votes in favor, 21 votes against, 19 abstentions
GA3/1/7	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	106 votes in favor, 9 votes against, 27 abstentions
GA3/1/8	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	104 votes in favor, 12 votes against, 26 abstentions

GA3/1/9	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	107 votes in favor, 15 votes against, 20 abstentions
GA3/1/10	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	129 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 9 abstentions

## Summary Report

The General Assembly Third Committee held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies
- II. Preventing Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- III. Promoting Rights and Strengthening Protections for Older Persons

The session was attended by representatives of 141 Member States and 1 Observer.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of I, III, II, beginning discussion on the topic of “Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies.” By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 16 proposals covering a wide range of sub-topics including pre- and post-disaster humanitarian aid, inclusion of the private sector in disaster preparedness, repatriation, technology, and education. The committee worked diligently and collaboratively to come to the most complete solution to the issues at hand.

On Wednesday, 10 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted 10 resolutions following voting procedure, three of which received unanimous support from the body. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including public-private partnerships, funding, training, and the inclusion of all concerned parties, including civil society organizations. Through shared discussion and combination of sub-topics, the committee successfully and comprehensively addressed many pressing issues.



**Code:** GA3/1/1

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2  
3 *Acknowledging* that the *Hyogo Framework for Action* expired in 2015 and was replaced by the newly endorsed  
4 *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,*

5  
6 *Considering* the 7,009 natural disasters that happened in 2016 around the world and resulted in more than 76 million  
7 people in need of assistance, according to the Statistics Division of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk  
8 Reduction,

9  
10 *Concerned* by the fact that since the inception of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the number of  
11 people in need has doubled, and those affected by natural disasters has increased six-fold,

12  
13 *Recalling* that the CERF funds have been increased last year to one billion dollars per year under General Assembly  
14 resolution 71/127 of 2016 and can be equally divided among the proposals for the three different phases of before,  
15 during, and after,

16  
17 *Affirming* the success of programs in identifying vulnerabilities within communities, in working with local  
18 authorities and government to collect and share information, and in providing a quick response to disasters in other  
19 countries,

20  
21 *Recognizing* the limitations of previous data-sharing efforts by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of  
22 Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Humanitarian Data Share (HDX), and the success of the Red Humanitaria in Latin  
23 America to share data regarding natural disaster risks and coordination of humanitarian relief,

24  
25 *Acknowledging* the danger of natural risks for minorities and disadvantaged groups and the increased chance of  
26 discrimination of such groups during humanitarian aid responses,

27  
28 1. *Recommends* that Member States create a standardized emergency response plan to include:

- 29  
30 a. A pre-disaster phase that emphasizes training, education, and standardization of the response systems  
31 of Member States by:
- 32 i. Conducting a study to identify the vulnerabilities of the country and focus the efforts on  
33 reducing them;
  - 34 ii. Organizing a simulation exercise according to the natural disaster most likely to occur in each  
35 country with the coordination of the OCHA, the Office of Emergency of said country, the Pan  
36 American Health Organization, and different NGOs, and with the help of foreign medical and  
37 civil protection teams to increase cooperation among countries;
- 38
- 39 b. A disaster phase that focuses on improving coordination and response times of Member States to  
40 provide help to other countries during a disaster by:
- 41 i. Emphasizing the importance of regional organizations to promote cooperation, unity, and  
42 solidarity in time of need as to help speed the process of sending aid in the direct aftermath of  
43 a disaster;
  - 44 ii. Creating a useful network in order to provide better medical coverage, improved training, and  
45 a greater distribution of healthcare material;
  - 46 iii. Carefully monitoring the access of people to affected areas;
- 47
- 48 c. A post-disaster phase that focuses on increasing coordination and co-financing of post disaster relief  
49 efforts, creates sustainable communities, and emphasizes on long term recovery by:

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- i. Allowing for greater coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as domestic governments are not always capable of taking on the full burden of disaster response alone, examples of such initiatives include the partnership between Chile and TECHO following the 2015 earthquake, which built over 24 thousand transitional homes for those displaced by the disaster;
  - ii. Ensuring that rebuilding efforts are regulated such that new developments are more resilient to the damaging effects of natural disasters;
2. *Strongly encourages* OCHA to redefine CERF’s funding priorities as to divide the funds equally among the three different phases, instead of only being used for immediate response, and depending on the success of the phases, CERF reserves the right to reevaluate and adjust the distribution of funds allowing for the possibility, according to the outcomes, to move funds from the second and third phases to the first phase as proper preparation will lead to a more efficient use of funds;
  3. *Invites* Member States to cooperate with the OCHA HDX to expand the work of the Red Humanitaria to a worldwide data-sharing network, starting with a more inclusive data-sharing practice within the countries of origin and then among all other Member States, to include:
    - a. A pre-disaster phase that connects demographic data with geographical information, especially existing pre-warning systems and monitoring systems for earthquakes, extreme weather, and other natural risks;
    - b. A disaster phase that includes an online monitoring system based on geographical information and provides data where needed as fast as possible;
    - c. A post-disaster phase that estimates the long-term effects of the intervention at hand and monitors the humanitarian aid;
    - d. A combination and integration of different databases to be based on standardized procedures to emphasize the needs of minority groups.



**Code:** GA3/1/2

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2  
3 *Fully aware* of the social and economic impact that natural disasters and other emergencies have on developed and  
4 developing Member States as highlighted in the Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/36,

5  
6 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/107 of 2016 on the need for a quick and efficient humanitarian response  
7 and the *Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*, which states that all people  
8 affected by disaster or conflict have a right to receive protection and assistance to ensure the basic conditions for life  
9 with dignity,

10  
11 *Emphasizing* the efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its key role in  
12 facilitating effective partnerships in operational coordination between national and international actors during crisis  
13 situations, in seeking to assess situations, in developing common strategies such as negotiating access, in mobilizing  
14 funding and other resources, in clarifying consistent public messaging, and in monitoring progress, as established by  
15 General Assembly's resolution 46/182 of 1991,

16  
17 *Deeply concerned that*, according to General Assembly resolution 70/709 of 2016 and 70/1 of 2016, after all efforts  
18 made by emergency teams to rescue victims of humanitarian catastrophes and provide health care and food, local  
19 structures regularly collapse after removing short-term first aid, and do not attain long-term solutions,

20  
21 *Believing in* the education of citizens in building a culture of safety, and in support of the work of the *Hyogo*  
22 *Framework* postulated by General Assembly's resolution 69/283 of 2015,

23  
24 *Recognizing* the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) as one of the fastest funding mechanisms available to  
25 UN agencies and the fastest external funding source as described in the Secretary-General's 2016 report 71/336 of  
26 2016 on the Central Emergency Response Fund,

27  
28 *Recalling* recommendations outlined in the Secretary-General's report 70/324 of 2015 which call for Members  
29 States to focus humanitarian, recovery and development programming and financing to reduce vulnerability to  
30 disasters,

31  
32 *Noting with concern* the 2016 *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report* regarding the lack of funding directed  
33 towards humanitarian assistance and the funding gap of 15 billion dollars required for a proper humanitarian  
34 response,

35  
36 *Recognizing that* the CERF pooling contributions from donors such as governments, foundations, companies,  
37 charities and individuals, and management of day-to-day operations in responsibility for the oversight of all  
38 emergencies requiring United Nations humanitarian assistance is a core element of humanitarian response,

39  
40 *Emphasizing* the need for collaboration between regional governments, the private sector and international  
41 organizations as stated in General Assembly's resolution 56/76 of 2002,

42  
43 *Taking into consideration* the benefit of private-public partnerships in order to lessen the financial burden of public  
44 sector financing as stated by the World Bank Group on Public and Private-Partnership in Infrastructure Resource  
45 Center,

46  
47 *Aware* of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recommendation of the Council  
48 on Public Procurement which emphasizes the need to ensure money is properly allocated,

49

50 *Acknowledging* current partnership programs between the OCHA and private stakeholders within the UN-Business  
51 Partnership Gateway which have contributed immensely to coordinated disaster response,  
52

53 *Recalling* the importance of global partnerships as highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal 17 and the need to  
54 mobilize additional financial resources for developing Member States from multiple sources,  
55

56 *Affirming* the efforts of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit's initiative *Agenda for Humanity* with emphasis on  
57 core responsibility number 5 which focuses on investment within humanity,  
58

59 1. *Emphasizes the need* to improve OCHA in order to create a more efficient and effective response rate to natural  
60 disasters, cooperation amongst Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local  
61 communities by:

62  
63 a. Supporting the restructuring of the outreach system within OCHA in regards to better coordination and  
64 cooperation between OCHA and other NGOs such as CERF, the United Nations Development  
65 Programme (UNDP), and local communities;  
66

67 b. Improving the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's disaster ranking system to rank disasters based on  
68 the level of emergency in order to more properly allocate funds;  
69

70 2. *Recognizes* the need for cooperation between the OCHA and the UNDP in order to improve education and  
71 prevention of disasters as well as longevity of sustainable efforts in states after disasters by:

72  
73 a. Promoting data collection on a multitude of disasters in order to provide a collaborative information  
74 system to the public and other educational institutions;  
75

76 b. Creating educational opportunities for local communities to learn about prevention, immediate  
77 response to, and recovery from disasters;  
78

79 c. Facilitating an unobstructed transition from disaster recovery to self-reliant day-to-day business;  
80

81 3. *Urges* the international community to expand the mandate of CERF by prolonging the duration of financial aid  
82 from immediate catastrophe response to a mid-term funding:

83  
84 a. During periods when humanitarian crises have been overcome and emergency teams are ready to  
85 demobilize to make sure the positive work continue;  
86

87 b. Mainly targeting training, project preparation, and infrastructure-building for local authorities in UN  
88 On-Site Operations Coordination Centers (OSOCC), established in the aftermath of a catastrophe;  
89

90 c. Concluding, when local agencies are adequately trained to continue the positive results of missions;  
91

92 4. *Endorses* the allocation of CERF funding to the UNDP and its partner, the Capacity for Disaster Reduction  
93 Initiative (CADRI);  
94

95 5. *Strongly recommends* that funding allocated to the CADRI be used to fortify a partnership with the OSOCC so  
96 that during facility demobilization of the OSOCC's response facilities, CADRI is allocated response material  
97 and can work to aid local emergency authority's in its response and future disaster risk reduction efforts;  
98

99 6. *Strongly recommends* the international community to split CERF into two different sections of fundraising, by  
100 maintaining the existing section which covers immediate catastrophe response and adding a second section  
101 covering the mid-term funding to:

102  
103 a. Ensure that the financial means for an immediate disaster response are not diminished;  
104



- 105           b. Enable the mid-term section to use alternative means such as Country-Based Pooled Funds as a major  
106           basis for fundraising;  
107
- 108 7. *Recommends* collaboration between current stake holder of official development assistance (ODA) programs  
109 and the private sector in order to address the funding gap of 15 billion dollars as per the 2016 Humanitarian  
110 Financing Report to the Secretary-General;  
111
- 112 8. *Encourages* expansion of the OECD initiative Aid for Trade to:  
113
- 114           a. Recognize the importance of trade in post conflict situations in order to rebuild and sustain economies  
115           impacted by natural disasters and other emergencies;  
116
- 117           b. Benefit both donors and receivers in post conflict situations by creating economic growth;  
118
- 119 9. *Invites* Member States, NGOs and private stakeholders to continue engagement through the World  
120 Humanitarian Summit, the JCI Global Partnership Summit, and the Private and Public Partnership Conference  
121 in order to:  
122
- 123           a. Discuss the innovative approaches of multiple participants to facilitate solutions based on public and  
124           private partnerships in response to humanitarian crises;  
125
- 126           b. Bring awareness to challenges faced by multiple initiatives of humanitarian aid and deliver solutions  
127           according to each unique perspective;  
128
- 129           c. Encourage dialogue between the public and private sector in order to find solutions that benefit all  
130           contributors;  
131
- 132           d. Include the private sector in international dialogue regarding disaster response;  
133
- 134           e. Bring awareness within the private sector of global humanitarian issues;  
135
- 136 10. *Encourages* the promotion within the UNDP, United Nations Office for the OCHA and private stakeholders  
137 funding through development bank backed disaster bonds and regional risk pooling arrangements that will  
138 further private sector interest within crisis response;  
139
- 140 11. *Calls upon* Member States, international organizations, NGOs, and private stakeholders who have not done so  
141 to ratify the *Agenda for Humanity* initiative;  
142
- 143 12. *Invites* Member States and international organizations to further implement the Connecting Business Initiative  
144 within their mandates to promote engagement from private stakeholders in response to disaster;  
145
- 146 13. *Encourages* partnerships between developing Member States and private entities in the identification of  
147 possible risks and the development of response plans, facilitated by the UN Office of Partnership.



**Code:** GA3/1/3

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2  
3 *Recognizing* that the lack of coordination in humanitarian assistance is enhanced by the insufficiency of data  
4 collection and sharing amongst humanitarian actors and Member States,

5  
6 *Realizing* that after a natural disaster every region has different needs regarding their situation which need to be  
7 communicated,

8  
9 *Recalling* article 25A of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* that states that national and global  
10 actors are encouraged to enhance the development and dissemination of science-based methodologies to record and  
11 share relevant data and statistics for the purpose of knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, assessment and  
12 monitoring,

13  
14 *Affirming* the mission of the Office to the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to mobilize and coordinate  
15 effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate  
16 human suffering in disasters and emergencies through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee by sharing information  
17 based on web data sharing platforms,

18  
19 *Welcoming* the work of the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX), which is an open platform for sharing data and  
20 have for goal to make humanitarian data easy to find and use for analysis,

21  
22 *Expressing* its appreciation to the efforts made by the Humanitarian ID web platform to help humanitarian  
23 responders find, connect, and collaborate at the time of a humanitarian crisis,

24  
25 *Reaffirming* the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the No One Left Behind campaign which  
26 started in 2013,

27  
28 *Keeping in mind* that the UN Broadband Commission reported that in 2015 that only 57% of the world's population  
29 remain offline, therefore resulting in a gross proportion of civilians that are unable to take advantage of the  
30 economic and social benefits the Internet can offer,

31  
32 *Recognizing* Article 19 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which states that everyone has the right to  
33 seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless frontiers,

34  
35 *Referring* to the discussions of the World Humanitarian Summit, which included in the summary of the event that  
36 joint efforts need to address the hardship of affected communities that are most vulnerable and marginalized, focus  
37 on the root causes of humanitarian disasters and guarantee sufficient financial contributions to adequately respond to  
38 crises,

39  
40 *Further recognizing* the success of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center as an example of institutionalized regional  
41 framework who promotes information sharing and knowledge exchange partnerships between Member States to  
42 enhance disaster resilience of its member countries, under the purview of external advisor countries with developed  
43 expertise,

- 44  
45 1. *Invites* Member States to download and upload key data concerning humanitarian assistance, natural disasters as  
46 well as man-made disasters on OCHA's HDX in order to gather more accurate, relevant and holistic  
47 information that will enable greater coordination through preparation, recovery and efficiency;
- 48  
49 2. *Suggests* that all Member States acquire, share, and retain all of the information pertaining to the causes of  
50 natural disasters and other emergencies and their effects, as well as action plans taken towards the successful

51 resolution of the consequences of natural disasters; which reflects within the existing HDX database for the  
52 purpose of:

- 53
- 54 a. Preparing the vulnerable populations on the international, national and local levels in catastrophic  
55 crisis;
- 56
- 57 b. Further increasing alertness during life-threatening situations and efficiency in preparedness plans  
58 between state and non-state institutions such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and inter-  
59 governmental organizations (IGOs);
- 60
- 61 c. Providing relevant resources for emergency contacts to eliminate mortality rates related to natural  
62 disasters and other emergencies;
- 63
- 64 3. *Strongly encourages* that OCHA utilize three separate sections regarding Member States, NGOs, and civilians  
65 in order to improve the HDX web platform targeting multiple humanitarian actors to acquire the proper  
66 information depending on their necessities by:
- 67
- 68 a. Dividing the platform into three departments will help establish organization and cooperation within  
69 the database to enable productive and interdependent sources for humanitarian aid organizations;
- 70
- 71 b. Equipping and refining the database to facilitate the management system in order to create divisional  
72 expertise to help Member States, NGOs, and civilians acquire adequate information;
- 73
- 74 4. *Emphasizes* the need for revision and further clarification of the OCHA web-based platform HDX to increase  
75 the accessibility of information and suggests the implementation of different sections regarding the:
- 76
- 77 a. Preparation of communities and NGOs regarding natural disasters, by sharing key information on the  
78 areas that are more likely to be affected by natural disasters as well as making sure everyone can  
79 access all the information required without discrimination of any kind;
- 80
- 81 b. Recovery of communities and NGOs regarding natural disasters, by sharing past humanitarian aids  
82 responses and experiences as well as their strengths and weaknesses in order to unearth efficient ways  
83 to operate and cooperate between Member States and NGOs;
- 84
- 85 c. Efficiency in humanitarian response to natural disasters and other emergencies to avoid redundancies  
86 and waste of crucial time and resources in humanitarian assistance and aid;
- 87
- 88 5. *Proposes* that Member States use alternative methods of communication, such as, but not exclusive to,  
89 televisions, cell phones and radios, to update and inform civil populations who do not have access to the  
90 information provided on HDX, while emphasizing the importance of such an access to the HDX web-based  
91 platform to provide informative steps to follow in case of an emergency and how to reach out to resources  
92 during emergencies;
- 93
- 94 6. *Further recommends* that OCHA include a user-moderated forum on HDX that would allow people to exchange  
95 information and obtain knowledge regarding critical situations through conversations with one-another;
- 96
- 97 7. *Advises* that OCHA organize the HDX web platform into clear sections, which would include an exhaustive list  
98 of natural disasters and other emergencies as well as specific information related to particular crisis;
- 99
- 100 8. *Expresses its hope* that all humanitarian actors who will have access to the HDX will share strictly pertinent  
101 knowledge on natural disasters and therefore publish and broadcast this information to every governmental and  
102 non-governmental actor for the purpose of:
- 103
- 104 a. Increasing partnership and participation amongst institutions to guarantee an effective way of handling  
105 natural disasters and other catastrophes;
- 106

- 107           b. Developing competence and coordination between States and non-state actors when dealing with  
108           dangerous calamities;  
109
- 110 9. *Encourages* Member States to use the HDX web-based platform to share efficient disaster risk reduction and  
111 response methods amongst state and non-state actors on regions that are most susceptible to and affected by  
112 natural disasters as well as other emergencies:  
113
- 114           a. To exchange data and to increase its distribution for the betterment of affected regions by eliminating  
115           unexpected natural disasters;  
116
- 117           b. To develop well-prepared plans that would diminish casualties caused by such disasters;  
118
- 119 10. *Further invites* Member States and other relevant organizations to enhance transparency throughout the process  
120 of data gathering, regarding humanitarian assistance in case of natural disasters and other emergencies, as to  
121 avoid any waste of funds and resources, hence improving international and inter-organization coordination;  
122
- 123 11. *Strongly encourages* the use of an international cloud-based system that synthesizes data collected by Member  
124 States, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations to share relevant information on:  
125
- 126           a. The creation of oversight advisory positions, while working multilaterally with governments,  
127           institutions and relief organizations to combine the data collected on natural disasters and its victims;  
128
- 129           b. The utilization of this cloud will be used to increase efficiency amongst NGOs and IGOs when it  
130           comes to the coordination of humanitarian aid organizations;  
131
- 132 12. *Further encourages* OCHA to further explore the possibility of using innovative technologies to create  
133 pathways for on-demand, disaster specific, communication systems between governments, NGOs, IGOs, and  
134 their respective first responders regarding specific medical, economic, and resource assistance given through:  
135
- 136           a. The development of an application which reads QR codes that can be distributed to voluntary victims  
137           on plastic bracelets or badges, linked to an editable URL profile, held in the Global Disaster Alert and  
138           Coordination System, which can be accessed by every relief entity approved by the United Nations  
139           Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) body;  
140
- 141           b. Gathering of data on all humanitarian response given to each individual survivor, ensuring efficient  
142           and non-repetitive care is given;  
143
- 144           c. Providing a platform to collect and analyse large amounts of voluntarily produced data regarding the  
145           population and potentially displaced people on the HDX website.



**Code:** GA3/1/4

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2  
3 *Bearing in mind* article 55 of the *Charter of the United Nations* and its importance in finding solutions to  
4 international economic, social, health, and related problems, in addition to international cultural and educational  
5 cooperation,

6  
7 *Recalling* the General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991 which indicates that the affected state has the primary  
8 role in the initiation, organization, coordination, and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

9  
10 *Alarmed by* the rise of natural disasters, which have caused 1.4 trillion USD in damage and affecting 1.7 billion  
11 people across the globe within the last 10 years as according to the report of the United Nations International  
12 Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) on the “Economic and Human Impacts of Disasters,”

13  
14 *Recognizing* that poorer communities are more at risk than wealthier communities for they are rarely covered social  
15 protection measures, which is emphasized in the 2009 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*  
16 produced by the UNISDR,

17  
18 *Expressing* its appreciation of the Office for Coordination on Humanitarian Affairs’ (OCHA) main humanitarian aid  
19 cooperation effort, the Cluster Approach, which coordinates 11 main United Nations (UN) bodies to provide  
20 sufficient aid to Member States in post-disaster need,

21  
22 *Fully aware* that OCHA’s Cluster Approach needs to be more regionally and locally inclusive in order to be more  
23 cooperative to a specific regions aid needs,

24  
25 *Mindful* of General Assembly resolution 58/114 of 2004 which calls for equitable aid distribution amongst victims  
26 of humanitarian emergencies, in order to reach people that are most in need,

27  
28 *Guided by* the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction*, which emphasizes the importance of all Member States  
29 and humanitarian aid organizations being prepared in the event of natural disaster,

30  
31 *Noting that* even humanitarian response operations have nearly matured after *Sendai Framework* was adopted by  
32 General Assembly resolution 69/283 of 2015, significant gaps still remain as revealed in General Assembly  
33 resolution 46/182 of 1991,

34  
35 *Bearing in mind* that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) work in close coordination with national  
36 governments, as recommended by resolution Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2011/8,

37  
38 *Noting with concern* the need for coordination with NGOs as stated in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 and the lack of  
39 NGO coordination within the individual clusters inside OCHA’s Cluster Approach,

40  
41 *Observing* General Assembly resolution 69/283 of 2015 to emphasize disaster risk preparedness and response, in  
42 which area the cluster coordination system could play a fairly important role,

43  
44 *Noting* that NGOs are the main deliverers of humanitarian aid to crisis affected populations worldwide, providing  
45 aid where it is most needed, and are essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters stressed in  
46 General Assembly resolution 60/195 of 2006,

47  
48 *Noting with appreciation* the funding mechanisms outlined within the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)  
49 and the issue of holding donors accountable for their fund contributions,

50

51 *Recognizing* the lack of coordination in humanitarian assistance and the lack of effective water management in  
52 accordance with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 which establishes access to clean water and sanitation as  
53 an essential human right,  
54  
55 *Bearing in mind* that all persons should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential, which is possible by  
56 ensuring a healthy environment, as emphasized in SDGs 2, 9, 11, 16, regarding the elimination of hunger, rebuilding  
57 resilient cities, infrastructure, and human settlements,  
58  
59 *Recognizing* the importance of SDG 17 of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, especially 17.2, which  
60 notes the importance of official development assistance as a prominent component of the community mechanism  
61 and local coordinators,  
62  
63 *Bearing in mind* that the current cluster coordination system is lack of inclusive partnership and shared leadership,  
64 as expressed in *2010 Inter-Agency Standing Committee Transformative Agenda*,  
65  
66 *Taking note* of the gap in the cluster coordination that aid is on a need only basis and it is important to consider a  
67 front-line response,  
68  
69 *Understanding* the impact of natural disasters on agriculture and food security in regional areas as outlined within  
70 the Agriculture and Livelihood Flood Impact Assessment Report by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the  
71 World Food Program (WFP),  
72  
73 *Emphasizing* the importance of sustainability within humanitarian aid as outlined in *2030 Agenda for Sustainable*  
74 *Development*, especially in regards to sustainable living and shelter after natural disasters,  
75  
76 *Fully alarmed of* the risk that natural disasters pose to vulnerable populations, such as women, children, and the  
77 elderly, and the special treatment that they require in terms of emergency response,  
78  
79 *Reaffirming* the need for reintegration and capacity building within Member States to address the needs of  
80 vulnerable people during times of crisis, as stressed in General Assembly resolution 60/195 of 2006,  
81  
82 *Cognizant* of the overlap in humanitarian response to disasters within the cluster approach due to a lack of education  
83 among actors and humanitarian aid workers,  
84  
85 *Recognizing* that the WFP is the head of the telecommunications cluster and the lack of efficiency regarding  
86 communication among regions affected by natural disasters and humanitarian crises,  
87  
88 *Keeping in mind* the importance of the *International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*, which seeks to promote  
89 prevention for natural emergencies through public awareness and participation at all levels of implementation,  
90  
91 *Reaffirming* with OCHA's mandate implementing the effective coordination between national and international  
92 actors by establishing predictability, accountability and partnerships,  
93  
94 *Aware of* the need for coordination at the local level to ensure awareness of disaster risk and the capacity of citizens  
95 to access resources in times of crises,  
96  
97 1. *Encourages* the strengthening of partnerships between UN and non-UN humanitarian aid organizations and  
98 Member States to establish standard aid working services similar to:  
99  
100 a. The United States Agency for International Development partnership with the Government of Chile's  
101 National Emergency Management Office which trained thousands of disaster volunteer responders;  
102  
103 b. The partnership between Brazil and UNISDR within the Center for Disaster Risk Reduction, which  
104 collects regional data on prevention of natural disasters with additional collaboration with the  
105 Humanitarian Coordinator;  
106

- 107 2. *Urges* Member States to consider a closer relationship between the public and private sector in order to  
108 establish a more efficient legal framework for the coordination of humanitarian aid as applied in the Italian  
109 Study on Strengthening Legal Preparedness on Natural Disaster Response;  
110
- 111 3. *Recommends* the collaboration of OCHA and heads of all 11 clusters within the Cluster Approach in a bi-annual  
112 meeting to increase communicate and overall transparency within the clusters as seen in, OCHA's *NGO*  
113 *Dialogue Platform* that has increased humanitarian aid communication with OCHA and NGOs;  
114
- 115 4. *Strongly recommends* OCHA to modify the currently prevalent cluster coordination system by creating more  
116 inclusive partnerships with more regional non-UN coordinators, not only in terms of response cooperation, but  
117 also in some decision making, by:  
118
- 119 a. Suggesting local NGOs to contribute to the significant amount of time and resources needed for  
120 effective participation through ECOSOC, and creating a more inclusive environment of greater NGO  
121 ownership and involvement;  
122
- 123 b. Fully utilizing the expertise of regional coordinators, through programs like Funds for NGOs initiative  
124 and Global Policy Forum;  
125
- 126 5. *Encourages* the Cluster Coordination system to build up shared leadership with regional coordinators, by:  
127
- 128 a. Inviting more regional coordinators, such as local governments and organizations, into regular cluster  
129 meeting and reporting to the UN regularly;  
130
- 131 b. Empowering local coordinators, which are more familiar with local emergencies;  
132
- 133 6. *Calls upon* Member States to focus attention to the need for a regional solution with the inclusion of NGO's as  
134 shown in the African Centre for Disaster Studies, which focuses on a regional approach to coordinating  
135 information on natural disasters;  
136
- 137 7. *Appeals* to strengthen the role that NGOs play in the Cluster Coordination through working with other UN  
138 agencies, by:  
139
- 140 a. Enhancing the corporation of local NGOs to work together with the Cluster Coordination, and the  
141 ECOSOC support and supervise the cooperation;  
142
- 143 b. Placing local NGOs in remote locations that the organizations are familiar with and have greater  
144 expertise over, so as to efficiently make the best of information and knowledge that states get;  
145
- 146 c. Lifting the position of NGOs, making them have the strong power to lead different member states to  
147 work together on natural disasters and other emergencies, with the help of NGOs, Cluster Coordination  
148 should react swiftly to disasters and also, the cluster will act as liaisons between helping agencies and  
149 local NGOs and local governments;  
150
- 151 d. Suggesting that OCHA coordinate the work between Member States, allocate resources among  
152 affected countries and arrange different bodies to deal with problems occurring after natural disasters  
153 and other emergencies;  
154
- 155 e. Further inviting the NGOs to set up schools or training agencies to teach people who want to help  
156 coordinate different parties, and to analyze data after collection;  
157
- 158 f. Requesting the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to discover new  
159 measures to deal with the consequences of disasters, and to support other organizations in which have  
160 the ability to get involved in the tasks;  
161

- 162 8. *Urges* NGOs, intergovernmental organizations, Member States and other capable bodies to continue to provide  
163 funding to UN bodies such as the UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development which brings  
164 together UN-Water, the World Health Organization, United Nations Environment Programme and other bodies  
165 which focus on multi-disciplinary and trans-ministerial approaches;  
166
- 167 9. *Encourages* Member States to establish and enforce laws and legislation regulating water management and  
168 invites Member States to continue coordination with bodies such as the Integrated Water Resources  
169 Management, which focuses on integrating policies and institutions addressing water management;  
170
- 171 10. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring agricultural prosperity in affected regions, looks to a collaboration  
172 between WFP and World Vision, to promote micro financing initiatives that can easily be modeled in time of  
173 crisis;  
174
- 175 11. *Endorses* the collaboration of UN-Habitat with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
176 Refugees in the shelter security cluster to more quickly and efficiently provide adequate and sustainable for  
177 affected populations in the event of a natural disaster;  
178
- 179 12. *Calls for* collaboration between United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women,  
180 United Nations Children’s Fund, International Federation on Ageing, and especially OCHA, to ensure that, the  
181 cluster approach, takes vulnerable populations into account when giving aid are provides these populations with  
182 the care and resources they require;  
183
- 184 13. *Further encourages* OCHA to introduce and oversee a new cluster into its Cluster Coordination that specifically  
185 serves disadvantaged groups, such as girls, women, refugees, the impoverished, and the elderly in the event of a  
186 disaster by:  
187
- 188 a. Training people who are qualified for this cluster so that the cluster can properly and swiftly serve  
189 vulnerable populations, which are impacted by disasters;
  - 190
  - 191 b. Meeting annually to discuss its role in various emergencies, instead of on a need-only basis, with the  
192 National Organization for Women leading this cluster;
  - 193
  - 194 c. Working to ameliorate current problems that these vulnerable groups face, including inequitable and  
195 insufficient relief;  
196
- 197 14. *Recommends* the education of humanitarian actors within clusters through information of communications and  
198 technologies created by a cohesive collaboration between United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  
199 and OCHA to provide opportunities for multilateral education through the usage of technology in the  
200 communications field as well as the prevention of aid overlap;  
201
- 202 15. Calls for the involvement of more front-line responders in the cluster coordination system, to act immediately  
203 during emergency situations, for example by:  
204
- 205 a. Establishing a collaboration with the UNDP to create an automatic response systems on the original  
206 need-only basis, such as the Rapid Response mechanism, which provides life-saving, light-weight  
207 boxed kits to people within hours of activation;  
208
  - 209 b. Coordinating with ministries by incorporating mechanisms like national urban search and  
210 government’s social protection floor;  
211
- 212 16. Further welcomes the extensive application of the Disaster Response Coordination Unit to coordinate  
213 humanitarian response as soon as requested by:  
214
- 215 a. Coordinating emergency preparedness and response activities within the community itself;
  - 216
  - 217 b. Ensuring the coordination of a stand-by mentality arrangement for an effective response;



- 218  
219 c. Maintaining communication and constant information sharing throughout each community to ensure  
220 aid is being provided;  
221  
222 d. And promoting the efforts of each community to adequately render responses to emergency affected  
223 areas;  
224
- 225 17. *Proposes* the usage of the World Meteorological Organization, UNDP, as well as OCHA, as leadership within  
226 the telecommunications cluster of OCHA to provide for more efficient connections between communities;  
227
- 228 18. *Invites* Member States to conduct specific risk analysis while considering the specific characteristics of  
229 countries, such as demographics and natural factors, in order to share data among countries, especially those  
230 most at risk;  
231
- 232 19. *Further requests* Member States empower communities by offering a teaching initiative that collaborates with  
233 affected regions through ad hoc seminars for information about natural disasters in time of crisis, and by  
234 establishing standards for community safety, as recommended by UNESCO;  
235
- 236 20. *Urges* Member States to collaborate with UNISDR to implement a social media awareness initiative that assists  
237 victims with post-disaster health related needs, similar to UNDP's Act Now, Save Later social media campaign  
238 to create an overall increased post-disaster public health effort;  
239
- 240 21. *Calls for* continued coordination between OCHA and Member States in order to establish a rapid response in  
241 the event of a humanitarian crisis, which can be based on OCHA's surge staffing methods to allow for the rapid  
242 deployment of humanitarian aid workers into the field of affected regions.



**Code:** GA3/1/5

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

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3 *Reaffirming* article 2.7 of the *Charter of the United Nations*, which enshrines the principles of state sovereignty and  
4 non-intervention,

5

6 *Recalling the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, which aims to reduce the loss of lives and  
7 assets from disasters worldwide, and urges entities at the local and regional level to promote the collection and the  
8 use of relevant data,

9

10 *Guided by* General Assembly resolution 45/100 of 1990, which seeks to react more efficiently to the needs of  
11 populations affected by humanitarian crises; especially through efficient preparation of actions and effective  
12 coordination,

13

14 *Fully aware* that climate change is heavily contributing to the increasing number of natural disasters and  
15 humanitarian crises,

16

17 *Drawing attention* to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 11 and 17 in order to make safe inclusive  
18 settlements and build sustainable partnerships between international organizations and Member States,

19

20 *Acknowledging* the tremendous work performed by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction  
21 (UNISDR), particularly the *Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction*, which aims to improve the communication  
22 and coordination amongst the clusters,

23

24 *Viewing with appreciation* the partnerships entered by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery with  
25 countries and international organizations working towards an improved preparedness of developing countries to  
26 natural hazards,

27

28 *Convinced* that an effectively coordinated cooperation of the international community is essential for a rapid  
29 humanitarian response, especially with the countries neighboring the affected states, and within the framework of  
30 regional and local humanitarian relief strategies such as the *Arab Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020* or the  
31 *Asian Disaster Reduction Center*,

32

33 *Recognizing* the efficient use of existing space technologies by the United Nations Platform for Space-based  
34 Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) under the auspices of the United  
35 Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs since its creation in General Assembly Resolution 61/110 of 2007 providing  
36 data to all countries, as well as to international and regional organizations to support disaster risk management,

37

38 *Emphasizing* the evolution of satellite imagery in the preparation for and monitoring of natural disasters made  
39 available through geographic information systems (GIS) technology, which is made available through United  
40 Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the UNITAR *Operation Satellite Applications Programme*  
41 (UNOSAT),

42

43 *Identifying* that using technology such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), also  
44 known as small remotely piloted aircrafts or drones that are flown by remote control or autonomously, eliminate the  
45 possibility of humanitarian volunteer casualty, injury and illness during the transport of first aid to affected  
46 populations, as outlined in the OCHA *Occasional Paper on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in Humanitarian Response*,

47

48 *Realizing* that Member State sovereignty is of utmost importance and Member States should honor Human Rights  
49 Council resolution 25/L.32 of 2014 for the use of UAVs in accordance with international law, including  
50 international human rights and humanitarian law,

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*Confident* that the improvement of already existing web-platforms, especially the Humanitarian Data Exchange platform (HDX) will benefit the immediate emergency response on a long-term basis,

*Deeply concerned* about the need of improvement regarding education on natural disasters and humanitarian crisis in developing countries to avert the amplitude of damages and this by encouraging the sharing of expertise on technological devices and GIS technology,

*Underlining* the importance of early warning capabilities and the need for access to regional weather patterns to ensure nations are adequately prepared and can evacuate in the event of a natural disaster,

*Emphasizing* the upgrading of seismic surveillance networks, as well as the use of communication devices in warning the affected populations,

*Noting with deep concern* the issue of discontinued funding and the sudden withdrawal of resources in the post-recovery process,

*Acknowledging* both the ineffective allocation of resources and the *United Nations Convention Against Corruption*, a binding international anti-corruption agreement for its State Parties,

1. *Calls upon* Member States intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve coordination in humanitarian response by targeting three areas, namely national plans of action, technological advances, and funding;
2. *Urges* all Member States to develop a National Emergency Plan of Action to analyze hazards within their own borders by the year 2020 and generate responses to each hazard by the year 2025, especially through North-South cooperation and Public Private Partnerships for countries in need of assistance;
3. *Recommends* the spread and support of North-South exchange educational programs within Member States, such as the Global Marshall Plan Initiative for future engineers from developing countries to specialize in the creation and development of satellites imagery to achieve the same level of education as their developed counterparts, by organizing conferences with developed countries on the topic of satellite imagery updates and their efficient use alongside with DigitalGlobe;
4. *Encourages* the implementation of early warning capabilities to ensure nations are warned and have enough time to prepare and adequate evacuation windows in an event of a natural disaster by:
  - a. Promoting the use of GIS technology in monitoring storms and other natural disasters, such as but not limited to hurricanes and wildfires, and using this technology to predict affected areas and warn local communities so they can implement evacuation plans and emergency preparedness programs;
  - b. Improving long-term weather forecasts and meteorological agencies to enable nations to have access and view the different regional weather patterns;
  - c. Endorsing the use of GIS, to create flood maps based upon High Performance Computing and Digital Elevation Models to give proper warning to Member States before natural disasters impact their borders;
  - d. Improving seismic surveillance networks by upgrading seismic sensors and detection technology, that enable them to facilitate emergency responses by informing first-response teams of the intensity and location of tremors;
  - e. Improving warning systems through the use of automatically generated telephone messages, text messages, radio messages, and social media posts, when the aforementioned evacuation plans have been triggered;

- 107 5. *Suggests* Member States implement seminars or simulations within communities to prepare citizens for natural  
108 disasters and their aftermaths through educational systems, utilizing the UNITAR's Decentralized Cooperation  
109 Program to address disasters at local and national levels, particularly through yearly simulations for youth under  
110 the age of 18, as well as mandatory simulations for older citizens administered by employers to allow them  
111 access to these resources and information;  
112
- 113 6. *Invites* Member States to involve the Peace and Development Advisers of the Joint United Nations  
114 Development Program (UNDP) and Department of Political Affairs Program on Building National Capacities  
115 for Conflict Prevention to create guidelines through educational training programs for international aid workers  
116 to promote cultural understanding, as well as to prevent and resolve conflicts between them and autochthonous  
117 populations when conducting international missions;  
118
- 119 7. *Further encourages* the development of these guidelines in collaboration with the Mediation Support Unit of  
120 the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to stimulate direct communication between foreign aid workers  
121 and local leaders to alleviate cultural disputes which may arise during post-disaster response;  
122
- 123 8. *Endorses* the improvement of collaboration and communication between United Nations entities, non-  
124 governmental organizations, national ministries and local authorities, taking into account recent technological  
125 developments and the advantages they can bring to the coordination of humanitarian response, by:  
126
- 127 a. Drawing attention to the success of information and communication technology (ICT);  
128
- 129 b. Reminding that every cluster should have access to ICT and therefore use it frequently to coordinate  
130 their action under the supervision of the Regional Coordinator or Emergency Coordinator, so as to act  
131 more comprehensively and avoid duplicating efforts;  
132
- 133 9. *Draws attention* to already existing mapping data, useable for disaster and emergency response, namely the  
134 Humanitarian Data Exchange platform (HDX) managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian  
135 Affairs (OCHA), which currently only displays NGO provided information;  
136
- 137 10. *Calls* OCHA to insert two other categories of information on the HDX website:  
138
- 139 a. Data provided by the UN-SPIDER with remote-sensing techniques, especially provided by the  
140 UNOSAT of UNITAR and space based imagery created by regional or national space agencies such as  
141 the European Space Agency or the Indian Space Research Organization;  
142
- 143 b. Nationally provided data, summarized in a comprehensive National Mapping System (NMS) on the  
144 HDX, comprised both of GIS and demographic statistics to better assess the needs of member states in  
145 situations of humanitarian crisis;  
146
- 147 11. *Advocates* the use of GIS on the NMS take the form of an International Geographical Mapping database  
148 inspired by the Red Cross mapping website, using national or UN-owned UAVs in order to access areas which  
149 would be difficult to map by satellite, as well as provide real-time information and situation monitoring of a  
150 specifically targeted area;  
151
- 152 12. *Commends* the use of certificates Of authorization that Member States can fill out in order to give their lawful  
153 consent for the United Nations to send UAVs into their territory in the event of a natural disaster in order to  
154 map out the affected areas;  
155
- 156 13. *Insists* that all UAVs which have been approved by Member States be marked clearly with a specific UN logo  
157 to distinguish it from enemy or military drones and be inspected by Member States before deploying and  
158 becoming functional;  
159
- 160 14. *Recommends* UNOCHA to adopt a non-binding *Humanitarian UAVs Code of Conduct (CoC)* for the use of both  
161 national and UN-owned UAVs in cases of natural disasters or other relief missions, including amongst others:  
162

- 163 a. A commitment to abstain from using any weaponized or armed UAVs;  
164  
165 b. A clear framework for liability and accountability, as well as an incentive to systematically subscribe  
166 insurance to repay UAV-inflicted damages;  
167  
168 c. An engagement to communicate on a secure line with on-the-ground agencies responsible for the  
169 coordination of other aerial means of transport such air traffic controllers, so as to avoid any  
170 interference or collision between the flying objects;  
171
- 172 15. *Proposes* to establish an annual review process of the CoC, led by the Emergency Relief Coordinator of OCHA  
173 in close cooperation with all involved UN Humanitarian Emergency Relief Programs to keep up with  
174 technological advances;  
175
- 176 16. *Requests* OCHA to oversee the implementation of the Humanitarian UAVs CoC by closely cooperating with all  
177 humanitarian agencies involved in order to coordinate humanitarian disaster relief based on accurate  
178 topographical data and live aerial photography;  
179
- 180 17. *Emphasizes* that the use of UAVs is deemed to promote the safety of humanitarian workers getting involved  
181 into areas that are or have been affected by natural disasters, by following the *Sendai Framework* guidelines on  
182 civil protection for integrity of life, property, settlements and the environment;  
183
- 184 18. *Promotes* the use of UAVs in sending needed supplies to individuals and communities most heavily impacted  
185 by natural disasters, thereby preventing humanitarian workers from entering into hazardous or dangerous areas  
186 that are life-threatening until the area has been deemed safe by local or national governments;  
187
- 188 19. *Further recommends* that Member States support and supervise the use of remotely piloted systems in the air to  
189 facilitate resource allocation, by gearing up private sector engagement in the promotion and coverage of UAVs  
190 through the Connecting Business initiative led by UNISDR amongst others, which seeks to create and engage in  
191 multi-stakeholder partnerships in the field of disaster risk reduction, preparedness and response;  
192
- 193 20. *Asserts* that the demographic statistics on the NMS be partially supplied by the World Population and Housing  
194 Census Program of the United Nations Population Fund:  
195
- 196 a. Sending out volunteers to carry out a preventive study in Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and  
197 Recovery countries and especially developing countries, to accurately locate vulnerable populations  
198 through census data, such as women, children and the elderly;  
199
- 200 b. Using that information to provide transparency, accurate and accessible data to allow UAVs to quickly  
201 locate most vulnerable populations during emergencies;  
202
- 203 21. *Further invites* Member States to also contribute to these national population demographics to the NMS every  
204 10 years, including specific demographics such as age, gender, income, profession, household size, or marital  
205 status;  
206
- 207 22. *Request* to improve the HDX through a specific overview of infrastructure in each country, which should  
208 especially include target airports functioning as receiving airports in the case of emergency, with each country  
209 voluntarily providing information on: access of the location, load-bearing capacities of the airport, especially  
210 the length and wide range of the landing strip, state of repair of the landing strip, state of the airports in the  
211 affected country when a natural disaster occurs in the country;  
212
- 213 23. *Proposes* that in the case of impossible transportation of relief assistance via plane due to enormous damage of  
214 the airports, other forms of transportation should be considered, such as transportation via Airdrop, UAVs,  
215 emphasizing that the approval of the overflown sovereign state is always required for any flight through the  
216 national airspace;  
217

- 218 24. *Encourages* that UAV deliver necessary resources in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters, especially  
219 non-perishable food, bottled water, first aid kits and medicine items such as vaccines;  
220
- 221 25. *Supports* the proper authentication of all data entries into the HDX, suggesting to create a framework or model  
222 for the types of data entered, to prioritize the significance of governmental entries over NGO entries and to  
223 screen NGO's wishing to enter data into the HDX;  
224
- 225 26. *Recommends* voluntary cooperation between governmental entities and NGO's on the HDX to freely share  
226 information, collaboratively authenticate said information and to find the geographical areas most in need of  
227 humanitarian aid;  
228
- 229 27. *Encourages* further cooperation and use of the HDX website by creating a streamlined search for areas of issue,  
230 prioritizing governmental entries, create more host servers for the HDX to handle increased client traffic, as  
231 well as protection from computer hackers and to disperse informational data to areas of the world that have  
232 decreased access to internet;  
233
- 234 28. *Welcomes* the application of IT tools to optimize camp management in the aftermath of natural disasters, by  
235 way of:  
236
- 237 a. Providing systematic recording and mapping systems in the camps as an efficient solution to the  
238 challenge of registering and distributing relief items, implementing a trackpad system financially  
239 supported the help of the private sector;  
240
- 241 b. Analyzing and entering information collected in paper form into database and software programs, as  
242 was the case with the Displacement Tracking Matrix in Haiti;  
243
- 244 29. *Invites* the relevant organs of the United Nations, as appropriate and within their respective mandates to  
245 intensify their efforts in monitoring and addressing issues regarding the effective allocation of funds, especially  
246 encouraging the Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and  
247 the CERF to participate in the funding of humanitarian relief in order to ensure an accelerated emergency  
248 response addressing the aftermath of natural disasters, listing the amount and purpose of their donations;  
249
- 250 30. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to articulate and improve existing systems such as the UNDP Global  
251 Anti-Corruption Initiative to further prevent monetary corruption and to ensure the most effective use of  
252 financial resources.



**Code:** GA3/1/6

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*  
2

3 *Highlighting* article I of the *Charter of the United Nations* which indicates that among the purposes of the United  
4 Nations (UN) is achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social,  
5 cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights,  
6

7 *Further highlighting* article II of the *Charter of the United Nations* which establishes the sovereign equality of all  
8 Member States as a principal of the UN,  
9

10 *Recalling* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) *2015 Global Trends Report*  
11 on forced displacement which highlights the increase in global forced displacement,  
12

13 *Fully aware of* the *2016-2017 Global Appeal Report* of UNHCR, which states that more than 32 million internally  
14 displaced people are protected and assisted by UNHCR,  
15

16 *Keeping in mind* the utmost importance of the cluster approach, which has been adopted with the aim of reducing  
17 gaps in response to natural disasters and other humanitarian crises,  
18

19 *Bearing in mind* the need to include repatriated refugees in national development plans and priorities, consistent  
20 with the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the global commitment to leave no one behind,  
21

22 *Recalling* the *Agenda for Protection and the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement* which  
23 recognizes the need to expand resettlement opportunities and to plan resettlement more strategically,  
24

25 *Underlining* the importance of a prompt reception for all displaced persons fleeing from war and direct conflicts to  
26 seek shelter in foreign countries,  
27

28 *Bearing in mind* the increasing number of displaced and endangered persons due to conflicts and post-conflicts in  
29 many parts of the world,  
30

- 31 1. *Encourages* Member States to improve go-and-see programs as recommended by the UNHCR, which  
32 enable people to research and see the current situation with agencies such as the Central Emergency Relief  
33 Fund (CERF) and the World Food Program;  
34
- 35 2. *Urges* the international community to promote different solutions to achieve an efficient voluntary return  
36 mechanism by implementing transitory camps that would be used during the period when refugees or  
37 displaced persons are unable to return to their country of origin to deliver humanitarian aid and response,  
38 educational services, and health care services with the help of local non-governmental organizations  
39 (NGOs) to improve living conditions of refugees;  
40
- 41 3. *Recommends* that UNHCR works to maximize multilateral resettlement benefits by reducing secondary  
42 refugee movement and displacement, thereby strengthening the ability of the UN to oversee the protection  
43 of refugees, enabling the UN to identify potential obstacles to the hosting of refugees, and actively  
44 promoting cooperation between refugees and civil society as resettlement can open avenues for  
45 international burden and responsibility sharing;  
46
- 47 4. *Recognizes* that host countries should be the prime providers of relief and shelter for refugees, and funds  
48 should therefore be directed to their respective refugee camps and overseen by UNHCR to ensure adequate  
49 division of funds among relevant sectors of the camps;  
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5. *Recommends* that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) work in collaboration with peacekeepers and other UN agencies related to displaced persons in order to promote efficient and equitable expansion of human resources allocation;
  6. *Encourages* the use of social media to bring awareness to the fundraising platforms already in place which are currently overseen by UNHCR and the United Population Fund (UNFPA) to collect funds for provision of food, water, shelter and health resources for refugees and internally displaced persons through actions such as:
    - a. Using the power of platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook to raise awareness of such matters;
    - b. Utilizing the inherent value in high-quality visual imagery which often evokes emotional response that rapidly contribute to a general consciousness of the issue;
    - c. Welcoming willing and able Member States to seek support from their media to distribute images that bring awareness of such fundraising;
  7. *Further urges* Member States to work with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to improve instant responses to natural disasters and other conflicts by:
    - a. Training local volunteers by the abovementioned NGOs about handling instant disaster relief;
    - b. Raising local awareness about methods to deal with natural disasters and conflict by increasing education in schools about first-response with the help of United Nations Children’s Education Fund and mandating training session for managers and authority figures on how to deal with sudden instances of natural disasters and conflicts to enable them to oversee the instant responses to such disasters;
  8. *Calls upon* the UN and humanitarian aid providers to protect their aid workers and resources by:
    - a. Providing logistic bases for the delivery of humanitarian aid in the scenarios involving armed conflict;
    - b. Using a technology in which those who receive resources from the UN would scan a barcode with the UN logo in order to verify the legitimacy of the action:
      - i. This barcode will be specific to UN owned machinery and resources;
      - ii. The barcode will ensure that no criminal resources are delivered in place of the original resources to ensure quality and safety;
    - c. Safeguarding NGOs and aid workers’ residences and workplaces such as health care centers and schools;
    - d. Encouraging policies and related policy to be implemented by all local security agencies;
    - e. Increasing awareness and training of authorities in respect to humanitarian space and principles without political, economic, or military intervention, in which all parties in conflict must respect NGOs’ adherence the International Humanitarian Principles, including the necessity of addressing humanitarian needs wherever they are lacking, their right to remain neutral, and impartial to different parties;
  9. *Further urges* tracking of the evolution of resources such as food, water, shelter, and health services to ensure the quality of the funds and aid given, the effective allocation of resources and the elaboration of different methods for improvement;



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10. *Encourages* the establishment of a clear system of communication and collaboration between external experts and local stakeholders to efficiently allocate resources by training local stakeholders on efficient ways to distribute their resources with sustainability in mind and constructing and strengthening of internet networks to exchange information more quickly among the different stakeholders;
  11. *Calls upon* UN agencies, programs, and funds such as UNHCR, OCHA, the United Nations Statistic Division, and UNFPA to create an updated report on refugee status called Refugee Relocation Safety Task Report (RRST) by:
    - a. Conducting an evaluation of the affected population's needs to improve data exchange in order to avoid redundancy of actions taken to address the issue;
    - b. Including the list of benefits of providing aid to the affected populations;
    - c. Using the *UNHCR 2015 Global Trends Report* for comparison as well as for analysis purposes in order to decide on appropriate measures to take in respective camps;
    - d. Presenting the results at the next annual meeting of the General Assembly;
    - e. Including the RRST into the side panels of the General Assembly and encouraging NGOs and other UN agencies to give further inputs on the topic of refugees, displaced persons and the repatriation;
    - f. Using the data collected as basis for allocation of resources and funds in United Nations Industrial Development Organization, International Organization for Migrants, and others relevant NGOs.



**Code:** GA3/1/7

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2  
3 *Affirming* that it is a state's duty to protect its citizens from any kind of threats or danger and minimize the amount  
4 of human life and economic capability losses, in accordance with articles 22 and 25 of the *Universal Declaration of*  
5 *Human Rights,*

6  
7 *Recalling the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response,* a fundamental document  
8 advocating the moral and legal obligations of governments, as well as of intergovernmental and non-governmental  
9 organizations (NGOs) in the field of humanitarian assistance, to provide humanitarian relief,

10  
11 *Recalling* the fifth target of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,* which aims to  
12 significantly increase the number of national and local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies by 2020 by requiring  
13 the empowerment of vulnerable groups and an inclusive approach,

14  
15 *Calling attention to* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 set forth by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable*  
16 *Development,* as a key component of improving infrastructure and resilience against natural disasters and other  
17 emergencies through citizen involvement,

18  
19 *Noting* that continued coordination with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as well as financial  
20 support is needed to address natural disasters and other emergencies efficiently and effectively,

21  
22 *Approving* of the progress on the agreement on expanding Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance by Association of  
23 Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other regional groups,

24  
25 *Recognizing* the shared humanitarian and disaster response concerns of neighboring Member States, and the success  
26 of regional coordination to deal with shared concerns as seen by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management,  
27 and the ASEAN Emergency Relief Assessment Training,

28  
29 *Acknowledging* the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* on leaving no one behind in order to ensure that  
30 children are participating in the programs that are implemented in schools,

31  
32 *Recognizing* the General Assembly resolutions 70/106 of 2015 and 70/10 of 2015 and their roles in strengthening  
33 coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the UN, through relevant UN and intergovernmental  
34 organizations,

35  
36 *Acknowledging* remote areas that may not have local or nearby schools require alternative routes to educating,

37  
38 *Appreciating* the work done by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support children and youth in  
39 natural disasters and other emergencies as well as their contribution to prepare them for such events,

40  
41 *Confident* that students, as native speakers and those more familiar with affected areas, can become a strong link  
42 between the United Nations (UN) and more remote, vulnerable areas,

43  
44 *Emphasizing* the findings of the *Unmaking Disasters: Education as a Tool for Disaster Response and Disaster Risk*  
45 *Education,* a policy brief released by the UN University that recognizes the lack of disaster relief curriculum within  
46 higher education, where there is little opportunity to study disaster management comprehensively, hampering the  
47 growth of experts in the field,

48  
49 *Taking into account* the 2014 UN Economic, Social, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) document *Local &*  
50 *indigenous knowledge for community resilience: Hydro-meteorological disaster risk reduction and climate change*

51 *adaptation in coastal and small island communities* on the importance of traditional and indigenous practices in  
52 disaster response and risk reduction,  
53  
54 *Desiring* that global attention be focused on the necessity of coordinated efforts to in humanitarian response to  
55 natural disasters and other emergencies, especially in commonly affected regions, through the cooperation of  
56 regional institutions and awareness campaigns,  
57  
58 *Cognizant* of the success of previous UN International Decades in creating sustained focus on pressing issues by  
59 following the guidelines found in Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1989/84,  
60  
61 *Bearing* in mind the SDGs by emphasizing SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries, which  
62 encourages the development assistance and foreign direct investment to regions where the need is greater,  
63  
64 *Recognizing* the use of public broadcast media by Member States to educate their population on the topics of  
65 disaster response and risk reduction as seem by efforts such as those in 2005 between the *UN International Strategy*  
66 *for Disaster Reduction*, Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union, World Meteorological Organization, and other  
67 stakeholders,  
68  
69 *Noting that* rural electrification financing programs, such as public-private partnerships (PPPs) and micro-utilities,  
70 highlighted in the 2014 UNDP MDG Carbon guidance paper Finance Structure and its Management for a Rural  
71 Electrification increase access to and usability of radio and telecommunications technology as noted in the 2013  
72 UNDP document Accelerating Energy Access for All in Myanmar,  
73  
74 *Recalling* the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development, and its utilization by ECOSOC in encouraging  
75 economic and social advancement, collaboration, and review of regional development programs,  
76  
77 *Recognizing* the importance of coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, the organizations of the UN  
78 system should continue to consult and work in close coordination with national governments,  
79  
80 *Noting with grave* concern that gender-based and sexual violence as well as violence against children and older  
81 persons continues to be deliberately inflicted against vulnerable populations during and after armed conflicts and  
82 other emergencies,  
83  
84 *Reaffirming* the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015* to disasters and the *Sendai Declaration and Framework*  
85 *for Disaster Risk Reduction* which focus on the establishment of public-private partnerships (PPP) and risk  
86 reduction actions at all level including local level,  
87  
88 *Further recalling* the significance of the *Sendai Framework*, that encourages all stakeholders to reduce disaster risk  
89 by requiring an empowerment of vulnerable groups and an inclusive approach,  
90  
91 *Fully aware* of the complexity of the humanitarian assistance coordination managed by the central Under-Secretary-  
92 General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the need  
93 to carefully follow the strategies laid out by these entities,  
94  
95 *Acknowledging* General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991 and its principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality  
96 and independence, as well as other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and  
97 agreed conclusions of the Council,  
98  
99 *Reaffirming* the need for all actors engaged in the offering of humanitarian assistance in situations of natural  
100 disasters and other emergencies to better tackling the situation with full capacity especially among the Cluster  
101 approach,  
102  
103 *Fully believing* that the cluster approach built under Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and UN Offices for  
104 the Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is the foremost feasible solution to deal with natural disasters and other  
105 emergencies,  
106

107 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 71/127 of 2016 which called for strengthening of the coordination of  
108 emergency humanitarian assistance of the UN to focus on coordination at all levels through the cluster approach,  
109

110 *Taking into consideration* that states have the most accurate data and direct contact with the regions as well as the  
111 capacity of timely response to emergencies,  
112

113 *Acknowledging* the Asian Disaster Reduction Center's (ADRC) and OCHA's efforts to enforce fair distribution of  
114 humanitarian aid by providing additional resources to ensure adequate assistance for youths, women and seniors,  
115

116 *Concerned* by the inadequate number of qualified first-responders in many Member States after a natural disaster or  
117 other emergency, as reported by the joint initiative of the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme  
118 (UNOSAT) and the Informing More Effective Humanitarian Action (REACH) program in 2010,  
119

- 120 1. *Urges* Member States to include an integrated national preparedness plan in their domestic policies in order to  
121 better prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and other  
122 emergencies;  
123
- 124 2. *Encourages* Member States to further promote public awareness by establishing their own "Development  
125 Days," which aims to engage citizens and private businesses to work towards achieving sustainable  
126 development, stressing the importance of improving infrastructure while advancing industrialism and  
127 innovation through collaborations between non-governmental organizations and the private sector;  
128
- 129 3. *Invites* Member States to reduce the amount of economic loss caused by disasters through the enhancement of  
130 public-private partnerships, specifically within sectors of insurance, infrastructure, and education by:  
131
  - 132 a. Implementing financial protection measures to increase resilience against natural catastrophes and  
133 other emergencies;
  - 134
  - 135 b. Providing accountability to the effectiveness of the implementation of domestic strategies;
  - 136
  - 137 c. Investing in vital infrastructure, including but not limited to physical, institutional, and digital;
  - 138
  - 139 d. Increasing transparency about ongoing activities and the allocation of funds to projects through live  
140 online data sharing;
  - 141
  - 142 e. Encouraging governments to develop fiscal guideline for the investment to the project and reinvigorate  
143 PPP investment in the aftermath of the recent global financial crisis;
  - 144
- 145 4. *Suggests* that further infrastructure-related studies to be conducted on local and regional levels by REACH to  
146 assess regional natural disaster preparedness infrastructure, including telecommunications systems and  
147 education of communities through:  
148
  - 149 a. The use of information from REACH reports to improve the efforts of natural disaster response by  
150 regional organization in collaboration with NGOs;
  - 151
  - 152 b. Regionally sharing data relating to emergency preparedness, in order to foster a heightened global  
153 awareness of emergency situations amongst Member States;
  - 154
- 155 5. *Upholds* the Yonmenkaigi system method, which is a participatory workshop including local community, local  
156 government, and NGOs for disaster preparedness to allow for the participation of vulnerable groups, such as  
157 youths, seniors, women, persons with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, and other persons by:  
158
  - 159 a. Emphasizing the importance of including ethnic minorities by providing early warning systems in all  
160 local languages and sharing knowledge and expertise;
  - 161

- 162 b. Involving local schools as well as relevant NGOs in delivering education programs targeting youth and  
163 how they can prepare and react in emergency situations;  
164
- 165 c. Urging governments to establish preemptive aid groups within their health institutions specifically for  
166 senior citizens in order to assist them in case of natural disasters and other emergencies;  
167
- 168 d. Promoting higher participation of women in levels of administration and coordination in humanitarian  
169 programmes;  
170
- 171 6. *Reminds* Member States of the unique power that lies in partnerships between states and public institutions,  
172 such as universities, in harvesting information and efficiently sharing this knowledge to the public through mass  
173 media, social networking platforms, classroom education, and outreach programs in order to empower and raise  
174 the public's awareness in their capabilities as actors in preventing, protecting against, and mitigating the effects  
175 of natural disasters and other emergencies;  
176
- 177 7. *Suggests* that university career programs provide local training and create job opportunities for students in  
178 developing areas, which will allow student ambassadors to become seasoned experts and educators who can  
179 create self-autonomous communities;  
180
- 181 8. *Urges* the cooperation of the World Assembly of Youth in fostering the participation and empowerment of  
182 youth victims of natural disasters and other emergencies through participating in consultations with relevant  
183 bodies, especially the UN Environment Programme, UNESCO, the UNICEF, and the World Health  
184 Organization;  
185
- 186 9. *Encourages* implementation of specific disaster relief curricula within schools, especially those that are in areas  
187 vulnerable to natural disasters and other emergencies, through programs that:  
188
- 189 a. Develop, in consultation with UNICEF, an annual Blue Ribbon week in which students, including  
190 young children, are introduced to critical steps and skills for responding to natural disasters and  
191 preparation kits are given to students to ensure widespread distribution of preparedness supplies to  
192 families through the implementation of the UN Natural Disaster Outreach Education;  
193
- 194 b. Select students from Member States' institutions of college education and vocational training to work  
195 as disaster relief volunteers or educators where students will be formally trained in a 2-year program  
196 for strategic and organized responses to disaster management;  
197
- 198 10. *Urges* a discussion about educational programs at the next World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction  
199 (WCDRR);  
200
- 201 11. *Calls upon* the UNDP and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to send disaster management  
202 experts to disaster-prone Member States for regular seminars within vulnerable regions in order to guide  
203 Member States' national and local governments in establishing the most efficient information sharing and aid  
204 delivery practices to ensure the resilience of baseline infrastructure for response to natural disasters;  
205
- 206 12. *Proclaims* the UN Decade on Regional Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters,  
207 commencing on 1 January 2018 and ending on 31 December 2027, with the theme of Regional coordination:  
208 education, inclusivity, and participation, enacted:  
209
- 210 a. By the creation of a program of action created from consultation between the General Assembly,  
211 ECOSOC, UNESCO, and others;  
212
- 213 b. By urging the cooperation of regional bodies, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders, including  
214 Member States and national committees;  
215
- 216 c. By securing predictable funding from the regular budget and extra-budgetary resources of the UN be  
217 allocated for the action program and activities under the UN Decade;

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- d. Through the creation of educational initiatives and curricula that includes local, traditional, and indigenous knowledge related to disaster response;
  - e. With the goal of engaging all peoples, especially youths and other vulnerable and marginalized groups;
  - f. In order to ensure sustained focus on the issue of improving coordination in humanitarian response to natural disasters and emergencies at the regional level;
13. *Encourages* the participation of vulnerable groups, such as youths, seniors, women, persons with disabilities, racial and ethnic minorities, and other persons in disaster preparedness programs by:
- a. Emphasizing the importance of including ethnic minorities by providing early warning systems in all local languages and sharing knowledge and expertise;
  - b. Involving local schools as well as relevant NGOs in delivering education programs targeting youth and how they can prepare and react in emergency situations;
  - c. Urging governments to establish preemptive aid groups within their health institutions specifically for senior citizens in order to assist them in case of natural disasters and other emergencies;
  - d. Promoting higher participation of women in levels of administration and coordination in humanitarian programs;
14. *Further urges* Member States to provide vulnerable groups with sufficient resources and expertise in regards to disaster preparedness and relief by adequately including ethnic minorities into an appropriate distribution of humanitarian aid, in order to enable an inclusive approach;
15. *Trusts* that Member States will work with regional organizations, including regional development banks, other Member States, and with the UNDP in order to increase electrification, especially in rural areas, with the goal of improving telecommunications infrastructure;
16. *Suggests* that Member States increase voluntary contributions to existing entities such as OCHA, Agenda for Humanity, and the *UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction* in order to ensure greater capacity and streamline humanitarian supply for short and long-term humanitarian aid in preventing, protecting against, and mitigating the consequences of natural disasters and other emergencies;
17. *Encourages* Member States to identify the threats and hazards in a specific region by establishing Risk Research and Mitigation Institutions, in order to mitigate the effects of natural disasters, as a means to ensure the implementation of cost-effective policies, adhering to the provisions set forth in the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, through:
- a. Enhancing operational coordination and transparent communication between the public, local and national governments, NGOs in mitigation and response efforts to an imminent threat;
  - b. Studying and collecting quantitative data on a broad range of natural hazards including but not limited to floods, seismic, volcanic, meteo-hydrogeological, landslide, chemical, nuclear, industrial and transport risk, fire, tsunamis, and other environmental catastrophes;
  - c. Promoting greater collaboration and communication between NGOs, local and national governments, and public institutions in order to create greater accessibility of information gathered by these entities;
  - d. Ensuring the data is accessible to all members of society so all can read, comprehend, and act upon the data;

- 273 e. Integrating DRR strategies into decision-making processes of government policy and private sector  
274 initiatives to inform local communities on prevention activities to better prepare for any hazardous  
275 threat they may be subject to;  
276
- 277 f. Implementing Early Warning Systems to alert the public in the event of an environmental disaster or  
278 other emergency through communication and social media networks, such as radio, television news,  
279 mobile phone alerts, and sound alarms in populated areas;  
280
- 281 18. *Promotes* efforts to increase citizen involvement by providing basic first-aid and responder training, in  
282 partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red  
283 Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through the use of instructors, conferences, seminars or web-based  
284 courses, to aid communities in becoming self-sustainable in disaster response efforts;  
285
- 286 19. *Further requests* fair distribution of humanitarian aid by providing additional resources to ensure adequate  
287 assistance for youth, women, and seniors through regional organizations such as ADRC and international bodies  
288 like OCHA;  
289
- 290 20. *Emphasizes* the cluster approach as a bridge between the mitigation and disaster response levels of the plan,  
291 further calls upon OCHA Regional Offices to research into the regional needs and set focal points amongst the  
292 eleven clusters by devising regional strategies that each region wishes to further specify through:  
293
- 294 a. Making use of the expertise and regionally specialized data for timely response of regional NGOs;  
295
- 296 b. Merging some sectoral groups in cases where they are not much needed by respective regions;  
297
- 298 c. Forming ad hoc groups in order to address them in calls for necessity for those areas, where recovering  
299 gaps are not covered by other sectoral groups;  
300
- 301 d. Facilitating the participation of national and local NGOs and strengthen their capacities by requesting  
302 the establishment of additional sectors among the nine sectors in the Global Cluster Leads for State  
303 bureaus and local NGOs to assume roles with regional specialty;  
304
- 305 21. *Encourages* all different clusters activated by the Humanitarian Coordinator in specific natural disasters and  
306 other emergencies to communicate and collaborate more efficiently and closely while providing humanitarian  
307 aid in affected areas in order to reduce double structures and use their resources in a sustainable manner;  
308
- 309 22. *Requests* clusters to conduct evaluations respectively in order to come up with humanitarian aid plans;  
310
- 311 23. *Further requests* Cluster Coordinators to demonstrate respective aid evaluations and the need-assessments of  
312 the affected regions to prevent overlapping of resources;  
313
- 314 24. *Suggests* monthly follow-up reviews by Cluster Coordinators on ensuring broader information exchange and  
315 achieving common objectives for all cluster partners, including regional organizations;  
316
- 317 25. *Calls for* a written report by every activated cluster after a specific natural disaster and other emergency with a  
318 special focus on collaboration as well as communication among clusters, the use of resources and the  
319 achievements;  
320
- 321 26. *Encourages* Member States to improve disaster recovery mechanisms, via inter-agency collaboration from the  
322 IASC, by supporting the return and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons to their home countries  
323 through increased networks of cooperation between local and domestic governments, as well as NGOs;  
324
- 325 27. *Requests* clusters to ensure an equal opportunity to participate throughout the program cycle for vulnerable and  
326 marginalized groups by establishing consultative evaluations and guidelines to appropriate disaster  
327 preparedness;  
328

- 329 28. *Encourages* all Member States to increase the role of local governments by preparing, within existing resources,  
330 a research-based report on the role of local government in humanitarian coordination, including the leadership  
331 role of local administration, with a view to streamlining the administrative process and resources to present a  
332 progress report on the requested research-based report to the General Assembly Third Committee at its seventy-  
333 second session for its consideration;  
334
- 335 29. *Further suggests* to take into account the recommendations from the report above-mentioned in Clause 28, at  
336 local and national levels in terms of finance and resource distribution, as well as the work done on the issue by  
337 relevant UN agencies, especially the OCHA;  
338
- 339 30. *Encourages* existing regional organizations to implement specialized training programs for emergency relief  
340 assessment in order to:  
341
- 342 a. Encourage the participation of affected peoples in disaster relief coordination and first-response;
  - 343 b. Collaborate with local and national civil defense and search and rescue forces;
  - 344 c. Incorporate traditional and indigenous knowledge of disaster response and risk reduction;
- 345  
346  
347
- 348 31. *Encourages* Member States to establish partnerships that adhere to previously established disaster relief  
349 frameworks and funding guidelines in order to execute the intentions of the organizations that intend them, with  
350 UN Regional Commissions and clusters to create outsourcing depots to aid in rapid response efforts by  
351 providing basic needs and services to affected populations such as:  
352
- 353 a. Potable water, food, medical supplies and access to temporary shelters;
  - 354 b. Debris management to remove demolished structures;
  - 355 c. Efficient search and rescue missions for missing persons.
- 356  
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**Code:** GA3/1/8

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2  
3 *Guided by the principles listed in the Charter of the United Nations, such as humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and*  
4 *independence, which establishes in its principles the protection of human rights and the promotion of international*  
5 *law thus ensuring basic human needs these being important components to respecting national sovereignty, as*  
6 *outlined in General Assembly resolution 50/172 of 1996,*

7  
8 *Noting the willingness of Member States to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-*  
9 *2030, adopted at the Third United Nations (UN) World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to achieve the*  
10 *Sustainable Development Goals, particularly sub points 6, 13, 14 and 24, which ensures the availability and*  
11 *sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and encourages states to take urgent action to combat*  
12 *climate change and its impacts,*

13  
14 *Deeply alarmed by the growing number of persons affected by natural disasters and other emergencies, as stated in*  
15 *the 2015 Disasters in Numbers Report by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR),*

16  
17 *Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which establishes that all Member States should have access*  
18 *to education and proper drinking water and food, thus reducing the risks to extreme famine, loss of life, population*  
19 *displacement and civil war,*

20  
21 *Reaffirming Member States' dedication to the guidelines set forth by the UN Office for the Coordination of*  
22 *Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) such as the Humanity*  
23 *Principle of the 2013 UNDAC Handbook,*

24  
25 *Aware of the UN's development program World Urbanization Prospects Report, which expresses that by 2050 two-*  
26 *thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas,*

27  
28 *Recognizing that improving humanitarian coordination through proper infrastructure development can help to*  
29 *protect basic facilities and capital equipment as well as cultural heritage sites affected by natural disasters as stated*  
30 *in the European Union's Joint Research Centre Situation Report,*

31  
32 *Recognizing the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in mitigating the consequences of natural and*  
33 *manmade disasters as defined by the Economic and Social Council resolution 3(II) of 1946, which established the*  
34 *Committee on NGOs,*

35  
36 *Fully aware of General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991 which states the importance of each state having the*  
37 *responsibility first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on*  
38 *its territory and that local governments have the unique capability to provide initial humanitarian response in times*  
39 *of disaster, noting the physical and psychological consequences of such events,*

40  
41 *Endorsing the necessity of data security and safety, the UNISDR will continuously monitor and report on disaster*  
42 *loss in keeping with the mandate of the Sendai Framework,*

43  
44 *Noting with satisfaction the aid of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the*  
45 *creation of the UNESCO International Mathematics Exhibition: Experiencing Mathematics,*

46  
47 *Further acknowledging General Assembly's resolution 71/127 of 2016 wherein the role of the Central Emergency*  
48 *Relief Fund (CERF) in financing and supporting new programs surrounding coordination for natural disaster*  
49 *response is stated,*

50

51 *Taking into consideration* the previous 2008 and 2010 United Nations Task Force on Integrated Water Resources  
52 Management and the 2016 *World Water Development Report* (WWDR) and the current lack of resources to address  
53 water scarcity issues for adequate and sustainable sources of water,  
54

55 *Emphasizing* the importance of respecting national sovereignty as previously noted in General Assembly resolution  
56 50/172 of 1996,  
57

58 1. *Calls upon* all Member States to work towards the implementation of the *Sendai Framework* on a national level  
59 by:

- 60 a. Increasing the number of national platforms for disaster risk reduction, for the exchange of expertise  
61 and knowledge to improve the role of OCHA in emergency situations;  
62
- 63 b. Facilitating meetings between Member States, NGOs, the civil society, and other regional  
64 organizations to address the topic of disaster risk reduction, hosted by the UN Secretariat:  
65
  - 66 i. To discuss pressing matters involving natural and manmade disasters as well as updating the  
67 current agenda;
  - 68 ii. To enable the exchange of best practices regarding the development and implementation of  
69 national platforms for disaster risk reduction;
- 70 c. Sending OCHA expert per the request of Member States to discuss the Emergency Disaster Database  
71 (EM-DAT) data collected on disasters, and share knowledge and practices for resilience;  
72
- 73 d. Updating technological methods and databases as well as increasing public awareness for this  
74 framework;  
75

76  
77 2. *Suggests* that UNISDR form a UN Natural Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Program (UN-NDAPP):  
78

- 79 a. Including a database that shows the previous work of domestic governments, local NGOs, the private  
80 sector, and scientific experts in the area and their availability and resources;  
81
- 82 b. Which would identify high risk areas that have a high rate of recurring natural and manmade disasters,  
83 show need for an action plan in response to disasters, or do not have the resources to develop their own  
84 plans of response;  
85
- 86 c. To work with domestic governments, local NGOs, independent experts, and the private sector to  
87 develop programs, specific to high risk areas that would address the most pressing needs for specific  
88 natural disasters and emergencies;  
89
- 90 d. Voluntarily funded by willing and able Member States and the donor community, stressing that the  
91 cost of preventative measures has been shown to reduce the economic impact of natural disasters;  
92
- 93 e. To be supported by the UN Statistics Division to analyze the living conditions, geographic data, and  
94 level of disaster preparedness in different regions, which can be utilized by the UN-NDAPP;  
95

96 3. *Encourages* the expansion of Global Disaster Alert Coordination Systems so that it includes all Member States  
97 and provides a virtual platform for experts to share and discuss the current crises and strategies which would:  
98

- 99 a. Offer support, advice, and solutions to current natural disasters and other emergencies;  
100
- 101 b. Enable nations to collaborate and virtually convene to discuss current emergencies and develop more  
102 efficient strategies to improve collaboration for humanitarian aid;  
103
- 104 c. Use technology to facilitate rapid solutions in situations that demand immediate attention;  
105

- 106 4. *Further encourages* Member States to develop national strategies aimed at mitigating damage caused by  
107 disasters, conflict, and other emergencies, as well as reducing economic and human losses by:  
108
- 109 a. Implementing or strengthening national agencies that provide humanitarian assistance in emergencies:  
110 i. To be guided by the principles established by OCHA, which include coordinating effective  
111 humanitarian action, promoting preparedness and prevention, and facilitating sustainable  
112 solutions;
  - 113 ii. Which would report annually to OCHA;
  - 114 iii. To be headed by an administrative structure determined by Member States and made up of  
115 national Civil Society Organizations, experts, and volunteers;
  - 116 iv. Funded by domestic budgets, NGOs, and civil society sources;  
117
  - 118 b. Sharing knowledge with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and CERF;  
119
- 120 5. *Calls upon* Member States to create new national strategies in cooperation with the United Nations Department  
121 for Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Children’s Fund, and the World Health Organization,  
122 which will be based on the WWDR and focus on different strategic water issues, and:  
123
- 124 a. Will aim to provide decision-makers with the proper tools to implement sustainable use of our water  
125 resources, coordinated by the world water assessment program in a joint effort with UN agencies and  
126 entities which make up UN water;  
127
  - 128 b. Will generally recognize that the various issues of water are interrelated and, with growing demand  
129 and, in general, decreasing supply, competition between uses and users is increasing requiring greater  
130 wisdom in allocation of water resources by finding alternative sources of water, promoting the use of  
131 modern technologies for water extraction including desalination and fog interception techniques;  
132
  - 133 c. Should implement proper infrastructure development plans to reduce water consumption and increase  
134 its distribution by harvesting rainwater, green roofs and green infrastructure, reusing municipal  
135 wastewater for irrigation, using graywater within industries, and increasing the funding in water  
136 sectors at the municipal and national level;  
137
- 138 6. *Supports* the expansion and increased effectiveness of the EM-DAT database by granting all interested Member  
139 States permission to both submit and access disaster data by:  
140
- 141 a. Uploading their country-specific disaster data to a public cloud storage system to create a  
142 comprehensive global understanding of disaster trends and patterns;  
143
  - 144 b. Fostering more efficient and comprehensive transnational cooperation and collaboration;  
145
  - 146 c. Sharing knowledge and raising awareness, creating prevention plans, and discussing information  
147 uploaded on EM-DAT;  
148
  - 149 d. Including information about other emergencies, such as diseases, political conflicts, refugee-crisis and  
150 internally displaced persons or terrorism;  
151
  - 152 e. Guaranteeing the ability to interpret all global data imputed into the cloud server to create more  
153 efficient specified disaster management strategies;  
154
  - 155 f. Utilizing partnerships between nations to verify imputed data and increase accountability;  
156
- 157 7. *Proclaims* the need for the development of logistics infrastructure through the UN Office for Project  
158 Services, in order to properly and efficiently execute planned disaster management strategies by:  
159
- 160 a. Encouraging developed countries to provide appropriate equipment and modern technologies to  
161 underdeveloped countries based on international standards;

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- b. Improving their ability to effectively implement international cooperation and dramatically raise standards of living for many citizens of these nations;
  - c. Assisting less developed countries in the process of operating and properly using the provided technology in emergency situations;
  - d. Recognizing that to create stable buildings and infrastructure in countries, victims of natural disasters and other emergencies should be able to work alongside the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs States should act in the name of equality and mutual assistance, and those who do not have the financial means needed to provide this aid can contribute with volunteers from developed and developing countries;
  - e. Urging Member States to install seismic protection in infrastructure and culture heritage buildings to protect buildings in high risk regions;
8. *Recommends* the application of existing humanitarian drone technology, such as unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology, to distribute aid to remote areas in need as well as provide crucial data during natural disasters, noting that:
- a. Drones will be operated by the Humanitarian UAV Network and overseen by OCHA;
  - b. Humanitarian organizations will be able to distinguish their drones as humanitarian aid drones;
  - c. Drones will be used to provide vital emergency supplies, such as food, water and medication;
  - d. Drones will also be used to gather data about the situation in countries that have been affected by natural disasters:
    - i. Always respecting the sovereignty of each country in accordance with their legislation;
    - ii. Emphasizing that the data will not be used for surveillance purposes;
  - e. These operations will only be undertaken with the express permission of the Member States;
9. *Affirms* the need for funds to be supplied by organizations such as the CERF, the Green Climate Fund, the International Finance Corporation’s Global Infrastructure Fund, the Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa, the Global Water Fund, and other NGOs, to reach populations impacted by environmental, humanitarian, infrastructure, and water management related issues through:
- a. Proper alignment of Member States with these organizations to assure adequate funds to provide consistent, sustainable, and proper supply of aid;
  - b. UN supervision and ensured transparency of the funds, in addition to monitoring by involved Member States;
  - c. Assuring the applicability of these funds to environmental, humanitarian, infrastructure and water management related issues;
  - d. Inviting Member States to strengthen the funding and logistical activities of UN-Water and to support it in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
  - e. An improved commitment to CERF and to other fundraising goals by soliciting donations of time, resources, and services from private firms to support overall technological implementation and increased contributions to the CERF and allocating such resources to achieve the purposes outlined in this resolution;

- 217 10. *Promotes* the importance of giving quality education to Internally Displaced People, working alongside the  
218 United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs such as Reach Out to Asia, or UNESCO  
219 programs such as Humanitarian Aid for Education through training local communities on low cost irrigation  
220 such as rainwater harvesting, water storage and pumping from water bodies;  
221
- 222 11. *Suggests* that UNESCO consider how to create a traveling graduate school program called United Nations  
223 institution of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (UNiSTEM), which would:  
224
- 225 a. Have a curriculum determined by the TMF Group and professors, or fellows, from UN University;  
226
  - 227 b. Require scholars to remain in the state of their education to ensure the existence of local experts in  
228 developing regions;  
229
  - 230 c. Seeks to improve trust between citizens and institutions by implementing communication networks  
231 between UNiSTEM scholars and citizens to assist in risk management in local communities;  
232
  - 233 d. Implement and promote an educational curriculum that would be aimed at ensuring the safety and  
234 awareness of civilians participating in disaster aid, through UNESCO, which Member States can  
235 voluntarily utilize, which would:
    - 236 i. Work with local NGOs in accordance with the sovereignty of the respective Member State to  
237 offer regular and adequate trainings, offering guidance to people, and on a voluntary basis  
238 teaching how to minimize the possible consequences of natural disasters and other  
239 emergencies, in easily accessible institutions;
    - 240 ii. Provide focused training of local disaster reduction experts to guarantee effective strategies  
241 for reconstruction and rehabilitation in post-emergency situations as well as for the prevention  
242 of natural disasters and other emergencies;
    - 243 iii. Integrate classes within but not limited to national education programs, that are dedicated to  
244 educating a younger generation how to respond and react in the event of a natural disaster;
    - 245 iv. Ensure a continuous education of a civilian population even after they leave the educational  
246 system by utilizing classes or media to educate an aging population;
    - 247 v. Utilize UNiSTEM scholars to teach the civilian population to operate as a response team to  
248 ensure swift and localized aid in affected areas;  
249
- 250 12. *Affirms* the need for continuous aid dedicated to the treatment of psychological trauma caused by natural  
251 disasters and other emergencies, which necessitates dedicated institutions be built to address the issue;  
252
- 253 13. *Requests* expert and professional help to resettle those displaced by natural disasters and other emergencies  
254 from institutions including but not limited to UNiSTEM scholars, UNESCO, and UNHCR;  
255
- 256 14. *Further* affirms the need for integration of an additional conversation about the impact and informational  
257 asymmetry regarding natural disasters into the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change due  
258 to the fact that the conference already discusses such ideas within the scope of global climate change.



**Code:** GA3/1/9

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2  
3 *Endorses* the General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991 that reiterates the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the  
4 national unity of Member States is to be completely and fully respected in accordance with the *Charter of the United*  
5 *Nations,*

6  
7 *Reaffirming* the importance of General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991, that formed guiding principles for the  
8 international community and their response to humanitarian disasters,

9  
10 *Expressing* appreciation for Member States cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction  
11 to connect and reduce disaster impacts as an essential part of social and economic development, and sustainability,

12  
13 *Alarmed* by the increasing number of financial loss, injuries, and casualties caused by natural disasters each year,

14  
15 *Reaffirming,* the General Assembly Resolution 42/169 of 1987, which emphasizes methods to increase protection  
16 for all Member States after a natural disaster and prevention tactics to optimize productivity,

17  
18 *Emphasizing* the significance of consistent meeting of Member States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)  
19 in order to discuss the current process, improvements and further actions that needs to be taken,

20  
21 *Concerned* about the lack of long term action plans for disaster scenarios focused on faster response directed to  
22 vulnerable groups such as women, children and older persons,

23  
24 *Emphasizing* the importance of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* that supports  
25 effective knowledge management, communication and global advocacy,

26  
27 *Referring* to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 which focuses on making cities more inclusive, safe, and  
28 sustainable through more stable infrastructures,

29  
30 *Deeply concerned* with the designated funds, which the United Nations (UN) and Member States have allocated to  
31 disaster relief, and committed to the prevention of corruption in our humanitarian response to natural disasters,

32  
33 *Fully aware* of the need for enhancement of the education of the communities to be self-reliant in events of natural  
34 disasters and humanitarian crises to prevent the extent of damage and the need for increased communication  
35 between governments in terms of sharing expertise, data and models,

36  
37 *Recognizing* that climate change, loss of habitats and soil degradation, due to unsustainable practices, is becoming a  
38 major detriment to the global community through natural disasters including but not limited to rising sea levels,  
39 forest fires, landslides, and earthquakes,

40  
41 *Understanding* the importance of entry of data, utilization and improvement of Humanitarian Data Exchange  
42 platform,

43  
44 *Observing* that the United Nations and its agencies such as Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC),  
45 Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)  
46 have delays and difficulties in providing relief on neutral and balanced terms,

47  
48 *Emphasizing* improvement in green technology and the application to pre-existing early warning systems leads to  
49 rapid, effective, and efficient responses to the crises; for instance, as mentioned in *UN Chronicle Vol. XLVIII No. 4*

50 2011, the crisis mapping response to Haiti's earthquake in 2010 showed how mobile technologies, geospatial data,  
51 and citizen-based reporting could influence humanitarian action and disaster response,  
52

53 *Noticing* that numerous layers of bureaucracy is preventing an efficient response to natural disasters and manmade  
54 emergencies and therefore; seeking to improve and standardize the deployment of existing mechanisms for rapid  
55 response, such as the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group,  
56

- 57 1. *Urges* the funding from the Food and Agriculture Organization, International Maritime Organization, United  
58 Nations Industrial Development Organization, The International Organization for Migrants, and the Central  
59 Emergency Response Fund that provides rapid initial funding in the occurrence of a humanitarian crises to:  
60
  - 61 a. Aid in their designated fields in humanitarian relief accordingly and efficiently while keeping in mind  
62 that funds should be allocated correctly;
  - 63
  - 64 b. Fight against corruption and encourages transparency of any efforts sponsored by the United Nations  
65 and investigations should be held in the case that there is any misplacement of funds and/or resources;
  - 66
  - 67 c. Release an annual detailed report of all the organisation recipient of their donation as well as the  
68 amount of those donations to OCHA;
  - 69
  - 70 d. Investigations to be held in the case there is any misplacement of funds and/or resources;
  - 71
- 72 2. *Further recommends* Member States to take measures to improve the structural integrity of their cities by  
73 focusing on the long-term housing capable of withstanding Natural Disasters especially in cities and areas most  
74 vulnerable, as suggested in Priority 3 of the *Sendai Framework*, which incentivizes strong, sustainable housing  
75 and building carrying out this priority by:  
76
  - 77 a. Requesting all Member States to conduct soil testing prior to building new structures, as to identify the  
78 strongest foundation methods to use; if a Member State is incapable of this technical expertise,  
79 neighbouring states are encouraged to assist in the process of gaining this expertise;
  - 80
  - 81 b. Setting clear standards for building projects in response to large natural disasters such as earthquakes,  
82 fires, hurricanes and tsunamis;
  - 83
- 84 3. *Recommends* that Member States incorporate peacekeeping centres such as the Kofi Annan International  
85 Peacekeeping Training Centre;  
86
- 87 4. *Calls upon* Member States to utilize cluster coordination with NGO responses to create unbiased support for  
88 those impacted by natural disasters by:  
89
  - 90 a. Partnering with OCHA and NGOs in response coordination;
  - 91
  - 92 b. Basing cluster support around the most vulnerable groups comprised of women, children and the  
93 elderly;
  - 94
- 95 5. *Calling upon* Member States and specifically non-Member States to create open-boarder policies in order to  
96 accept international aid in cases of emergencies, natural disasters or/and humanitarian crises;  
97
- 98 6. *Endorses* the use of geographic information systems, which can generate flood maps based upon High  
99 Performance Computing, and Digital Elevation Models to help warn Member States of potential damage to their  
100 communities, which will help them implement specific evacuation plans and emergency preparedness  
101 programs:  
102
  - 103 a. To draw attention to the investment in green technology and fund research to improve suitable and  
104 affordable warning systems;
  - 105

- 106           b. To cooperate with online mapping organizations with a humanitarian focus, such as OpenStreetMap,  
107           Crisis Mappers, Sahana, and Ushahidi during critical emergencies around the world;  
108
- 109 7. *Calls Upon* Member States to develop and improve national risk profiles of natural disasters therefore, utilizing  
110 social media or other cross national informational systems that are compatible to the each Member State's  
111 resources in order to better communicate with affected individuals;  
112
- 113 8. *Encourages* Member States to continue to use the cluster system established in 2005 and the Office of the ERC,  
114 OCHA, and the IASC mainly focusing on the 11 clusters;  
115
- 116 9. *Strongly encourages* the sharing of knowledge and expertise between countries to help countries prepared for  
117 any further natural disasters and prevent avoidable tragedies;  
118
- 119 10. *Further requests* that Member States create long term action plans for disaster scenarios focused on faster  
120 response when it comes to evacuating women, children, elderly and invalids, as exemplified by the Ecuadorian  
121 Secretariat for Risk Management Action Plan created in April, 2016, after the earthquake, which provided  
122 specific guidelines for the approximately 4000 women affected by the disaster by initiating:  
123
- 124           a. Better communication in rural areas;  
125
- 126           b. Standardization of international task forces to be able to deploy at short notice anywhere in the world;  
127
- 128           c. Further improvement of existing mechanisms for rapid response;  
129
- 130 11. *Further invites* Member States to integrate educational and informational programs specific to their risk profile  
131 and is directed towards youths in their school curriculum;  
132
- 133 12. *Further requests* that Member States create long term action plans for disaster scenarios focused on faster  
134 response when it comes to evacuating women, children, elderly and invalids through better communication in  
135 rural areas, standardization of international task forces to be able to deploy at short notice anywhere in the  
136 world, and further improvement of existing mechanisms for rapid response;  
137
- 138 13. *Recommends* an annual meeting dealing with the topic of Disaster Risk Reduction, including all Member States,  
139 NGOs, and other organizations that have the same concerns regarding risk reduction, to discuss pressing matters  
140 involving natural or manmade disasters as well as updating the current agenda.





**Code:** GA3/1/10

**Committee:** General Assembly Third Committee

**Topic:** Improving Coordination and Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies

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1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*  
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3 *Firmly convinced* of the fundamental principles of humanitarian aid which are neutrality, humanity, independence  
4 and impartiality, as outlined by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies,  
5

6 *Determined* to work in an organized and inclusive manner and support the overall coordinating role of the United  
7 Nations (UN) while respecting article 2 of the *Charter of the United Nations* that emphasizes the sovereign equality  
8 of all Member States,  
9

10 *Realizing* that natural and other disasters directly affect the security of individuals and article 3 of the *Universal*  
11 *Declaration of Human Rights*, which grants the right to life, liberty, and security of each person,  
12

13 *Defining* disasters as events which cause severe disruption to a community and lead to human, material, economic  
14 and environmental losses according to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR),  
15

16 *Guided by* General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991 which set the foundations of the current international  
17 humanitarian coordination system,  
18

19 *Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 3/217 of 1948 which emphasizes the prevention of any discrimination of  
20 age, race, gender, and religion towards all persons in providing humanitarian aid and relief,  
21

22 *Acknowledging* General Assembly resolution 71/127 of 2017 which stresses the lack of preparedness for natural  
23 disasters in isolated, rural, and coastal communities,  
24

25 *Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 63/217 of 2009 and 71/128 of 2017 which emphasizes the importance of  
26 increasing coordination between Member States, UN bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other  
27 domestic, regional, and international organizations,  
28

29 *Mindful* of General Assembly resolution 60/124 of 2006 that created the Central Emergency Response Fund  
30 (CERF), which disperses humanitarian aid quickly and effectively for those affected by natural disaster,  
31

32 *Acknowledging* Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 which aims at making cities safer and more resilient and  
33 thus less vulnerable to emergencies and disasters, and SDG 4 which aims at incorporating education in ensuring the  
34 sustainability and safety of cities,  
35

36 *Appreciating* the work of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its contributions  
37 to the UN emergency relief system through the Cluster Approach,  
38

39 *Reminding* each Member State of the responsibility to adhere to the *Yokohama Strategy and Plan for a Safer World*  
40 and the *Sendai Declaration and Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*,  
41

42 *Distressed* by the staggering number of disasters in 2015 affecting more than 90 million people worldwide as  
43 reported by the UNISDR,  
44

45 *Deeply alarmed* that one person is displaced by disaster every second as estimated by the Office of the UN High  
46 Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),  
47

48 *Profoundly concerned* by the funding gap of 8.9 billion USD in humanitarian assistance in 2015 as highlighted by  
49 the *Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2016*,  
50

51 *Affirming* the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation's (ECHO) work on ensuring swift and  
52 effective delivery of relief assistance by combining humanitarian aid and civil protection on a global level,  
53

- 54 1. *Encourages* the continued use of, and further creation of, satellite communication systems, which allows rapid  
55 responses to natural disasters and humanitarian missions:
  - 56 a. Modeled after Luxembourg's Emergency.lu project, which is internationally accessible;
  - 57 b. Providing infrastructure and satellite capacity for rapid deployment in response to natural disasters;
  - 58 c. Developed in collaboration and coordination with multiple UN programs and non-governmental  
59 organizations (NGOs), including but not limited to the International Telecom Union, Office for the  
60 Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the UN, and the EU;
- 61 2. *Stresses* the importance of disaster preparedness and response education programs, especially in isolated rural  
62 communities, that set protocols to be practiced before, and followed throughout, a crisis by:
  - 63 a. Reinforcing the Education Cluster in all participating states;
  - 64 b. Encouraging the UN, Governments, NGOs and OCHA Emergency Services Branch to share their  
65 training;
  - 66 c. Drawing on the actions carried out by Oxfam and Guyana Civil Defense Commission following the  
67 2005 floods;
  - 68 d. Creating evacuation and shelter management training for community groups;
  - 69 e. Training local NGOs in risk management skills developed by other member states and NGOs;
  - 70 f. Raising local risk awareness by producing accessible, public sources of information on first aid and  
71 other first response skills;
  - 72 g. Emphasizing the importance of making disaster preparedness and response information  
73 comprehensible to children, through the use of infographics, and producing information in local  
74 dialects;
- 75 3. *Prioritizes* special training for vulnerable populations, such as women, children, the elderly and minorities by:
  - 76 a. Fortifying the already existing cluster approach of the OCHA in order to efficiently help them prepare  
77 for disasters and emergencies;
  - 78 b. Employing the help of educational programs such as the Caribbean's program based on the  
79 construction of storage centers that host experts ready to take actions and to rescue;
- 80 4. *Synchronizes* local projects launched by both UN and non-UN agencies in order to raise awareness and better  
81 synergize on existing structures, such as the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)  
82 On-Site Operations Coordination Centre, with the goal of developing knowledge on the promotion of human  
83 rights, the importance of national legal frameworks, and the consequences of a natural disaster and other  
84 emergencies;
- 85 5. *Calls upon* all Member States to engage in training opportunities and especially to ensure the participation of  
86 vulnerable and developing states in aid initiatives through safeguards for aid to the needs vulnerable states  
87 identified themselves, provide non-concessionary aid to vulnerable states and provide states with the means of  
88 becoming self-sustaining through finances;

- 106 6. *Notes* the shortcomings of aid efforts that sometimes occur, and trusts that Member States shall continue to  
107 persevere and reform current models of intervention, especially in the area of issues such as the misdirection of  
108 aid materials and overlapping efforts by NGOs and the UN;  
109
- 110 7. *Stresses* the need to ensure groups of vulnerable people are given special attention, assistance, aid and  
111 evacuation priority in emergency situations by:  
112
- 113 a. Implementing accessible transportation for disabled people in order for them to be properly taken care  
114 of during a time of emergency;
  - 115 b. Including groups in health care, elderly homes, and group homes for the disable;
  - 116 c. Implementing regular evacuation exercises in the regions containing populations' most vulnerable to  
117 natural disasters, to maintain constant preparedness;
- 118  
119  
120
- 121 8. *Asks* for the continued support of Member States in the application of coordination efforts, including the  
122 organization of Member State and NGO response units and the observance of national sovereignty and right to  
123 refuse aid;  
124
- 125 9. *Suggests* Member States facilitate the reconstruction of the environment through compensation programs in  
126 which companies that contribute to global warming reconstruct the areas which they affect:  
127
- 128 a. Creating framework based off individual companies that already utilize internal reconstruction  
129 programs;
  - 130 b. Companies utilizing framework work underneath and alongside UN Environmental Bodies, including  
131 the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate  
132 Change (IPCC) and the UN Forum on Forests;
- 133  
134
- 135 10. *Suggests* support to Member States regarding internally displaced persons (IDPs) and reminds that the UN High  
136 Commissions of Refugees to include IDPs in their purview while:  
137
- 138 a. Working with multi-level NGOs such as Doctors Without Borders and Red Cross to understand the  
139 social and cultural dynamics of the communities;
  - 140 b. Addressing the needs of vulnerable populations on a case to case basis such as the needs of women,  
141 children and elderly;
  - 142 c. Formulating more efficient documentation for the registration of IDPs;
- 143  
144  
145
- 146 11. Suggests that willing Member States appoint an independent expert that will be responsible for:  
147
- 148 a. The oversight of security measures regarding infrastructures, buildings and homes such as the  
149 earthquake resilient structures for potential regional victims, and their maintenance over time,  
150 responsible for drafting an annual report on the state of disaster coordination;
  - 151 b. The supervisory mechanisms over financial aid in order to ensure that the funds are allocated  
152 correctly and effectively before and after emergency situations;
- 153  
154
- 155 12. *Requests* that the Secretary-General expand the role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (for  
156 Disaster Risk Reduction such that his office is:  
157
- 158 a. Creating and supervising application of the infrastructure standards established by UNISDR within the  
159 Member States;
- 160

- 161           b. Conducting, facilitating, and supporting the provision of goods and services, medical equipment,  
162           response actors and humanitarian aid workers;  
163
- 164           c. Collaborating with ECHO while developing or strengthening plans and programs;  
165
- 166 13. *Reaffirms* the importance of ensuring effective coordination between regional bodies such as ECHO and United  
167 Nations bodies such as the UNISDR;  
168
- 169 14. *Encourages* the expansion of the information management structure utilized under the OCHA, enabling it to  
170 procure and monitor data by creating a structure devoted to corruption prevention and market control, creating a  
171 database for material and procurement prices used by UN humanitarian aid and respecting the already existing  
172 conventions on human rights;  
173
- 174 15. *Encourages* the recognition of the Gender and Mainstreaming information within the CERF  
175 16. that acknowledges the gender disparity between men and women in natural disasters and consequently focuses  
176 on women receiving special medical, economic and security aid, highlighting gender-specific services, single  
177 parent families and an increase in inclusivity in disaster prevention programs;  
178
- 179 17. *Recommends* that the coordinated efforts of the Cluster Approach include greater cooperation and draws  
180 attention to marginalized groups' role in humanitarian responses especially through greater cooperation with  
181 UN entities such as the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and to  
182 incorporate the research on gender and disaster risk reduction that UN Women has already performed to further  
183 include ethnic minorities;  
184
- 185 18. *Recommends* support the existing information sharing and monitoring system to promote the openness and  
186 transparency of aid, by supporting the *United Nations Convention against Corruption's* efforts to combat  
187 corruption and improve transparency with the end goal of improved coordination by:  
188
- 189           a. Keeping accurate records of the sources and use of funds in order to promote accountability to affected  
190 people, through programs such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI);  
191
- 192           b. Providing initiatives concerning corruption monitoring to avoid the waste of funds, such as Southeast  
193 European Leadership for Development and Integrity's Corruption Monitoring system;  
194
- 195           c. Encouraging the IATI to assist the OCHA and the CERF secretariat in their mandate of fight.  
196
- 197 19. *Endorses* the implementation of a donation program in which countries that exceed their allotted share of  
198 carbon emissions per capita, determined by the World Health Organization Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution  
199 Database, countering the ambitions of the *Paris Agreement*, contribute a higher percentage of donations  
200 according to the choices of Member States towards OCHA or CERF;  
201
- 202 20. *Recommends* a framework for Member States to allocate funds from humanitarian aid and response through  
203 OCHA and cooperating programs such as the Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Fund;  
204
- 205 21. *Emphasizes* the need for early warning systems, and encourages OCHA to work with programs such as the  
206 World Meteorological Organization's Hydromet to upgrade and implement necessary technology.