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



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Conference B

General Assembly Third Committee (GA3)

Committee Staff

Director	Marleen Schreier
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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	112 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 14 abstentions
GA3/1/2	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	111 votes in favor, 4 votes against, 15 abstentions
GA3/1/3	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	120 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 8 abstentions
GA3/1/4	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	111 votes in favor, 12 votes against, 14 abstentions
GA3/1/5	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	117 votes in favor, 2 votes against, 10 abstentions
GA3/1/6	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	106 votes in favor, 9 votes against, 19 abstentions
GA3/1/7	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	98 votes in favor, 20 votes against, 16 abstentions
GA3/1/8	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	107 votes in favor, 5 votes against, 18 abstentions
GA3/1/9	Improving Coordination in Humanitarian Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies	101 votes in favor, 12 votes against, 20 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 146 Member States and 1 Observer. On Sunday, the committee readily adopted the agenda in the order of I, III, II, and it began 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 subtopics including improving education, health services, expanding the Sendai Framework, touching upon communication and technology, and the United Nations Cluster Approach. Other subtopics included city-to-city network programs, governmental accountability, and the enhancement of living conditions for displaced persons and vulnerable populations. The committee has been working diligently to produce strong and effective working papers. On Tuesday, recommendations were given to the body to promote consensus. This initiative was executed smoothly and many working groups merged their papers by the end of Tuesday night.

On Wednesday, 9 draft resolutions had been approved by the Dais, none of which had amendments. The committee adopted all 9 resolutions following voting procedure. The resolutions represented a wide range of issues, including building upon educational outreach, communication technology, and government accountability. Furthermore, other resolutions consisted of developing programs that address discrepancies on multilateral partnerships, best practices, inclusivity, information-sharing, and incorporating disaster risk management with humanitarian response efforts. The passionate speeches heard by the body touched upon those impacted by natural disasters and other complex emergencies and raised the call to action on behalf of humanity, which further demonstrates the dedication and diligence seen across all their hard work.



Code: GA3/1/1

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2
3 *Reaffirming* our commitment to the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, specifically its goal
4 for international coordination when predicting and responding to natural disasters and other emergencies,

5
6 *Reiterating* the necessity to shift from disaster recovery to disaster prevention as outlined in the United Nations
7 Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

8
9 *Emphasizing* the General Assembly's 2006 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as the main forum for
10 international coordination in the implementation of disaster risk reduction,

11
12 *Recognizing* the importance of humanitarian coordination in response to natural disasters and other emergencies, as
13 outlined in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Strategic Plan 2014-
14 2017, which seeks to improve humanitarian actions in the world's crises and increase the effectiveness of response
15 efforts through engaging new and innovative technologies,

16
17 *Further recognizing* the importance of providing prevention measures through education as expressed in the Sendai
18 Framework in order to prepare individuals efficiently in combating the detrimental impacts of natural disasters
19 specific to that area,

20
21 *Acknowledging* the success of existing national programs such as the Science for Humanitarian Emergencies and
22 Resilience (SHEAR) in providing capacity building which improves the efficiency of disaster resilience
23 mechanisms,

24
25 *Observing* the effectiveness of Geographical Information System (GIS) programs, utilized by governments, non-
26 governmental organizations (NGOs), and universities, as mapping software to analyze global patterns of weather
27 and geography and determine the risk of natural disasters,

28
29 *Recognizing* the existing efforts by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
30 (UNESCO) to implement information and communications technologies (ICTs) in developing regions, including the
31 distribution of mobile phones in isolated regions,

32
33 *Taking note* of the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, which states the importance of ICTs in
34 disaster preparation and ranks Member States that are at the greatest risk for disasters,

35
36 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/204 from 22 December 2015 on "International Strategy for Disaster
37 Reduction" to cooperate with non-state actors to improve upon disaster reduction and prevention technologies,

38
39 *Commending* the Czech Republic's Integrated Rescue System, a practical application of the *Sendai Framework* that
40 creates systems and standards to facilitate the cooperation of Fire Rescue Service, the Emergency Medical Services
41 Providers, and the Police of the Czech Republic, as well as other public and private entities in order to effectively
42 prevent and respond to disasters,

43
44 *Highlighting* the importance of transparency within operations that work to respond to natural disasters within
45 OCHA, as this enhances the effectiveness of humanitarian efforts in accordance with the International Aid
46 Transparency Initiative,

47
48 1. *Encourages* Member States to implement national legislation introducing technological advancements
49 enhancing humanitarian coordination among Member States in response to natural disasters and other

- 50 emergencies;
- 51
- 52 2. *Calls upon* Member States to promote transparency within international programs concerning disaster resilience
- 53 and humanitarian efforts in response to natural disasters in accordance with the Due Diligence and Partner
- 54 Capacity Assessment Processes established in Eligibility Process of OCHA by annually publishing:
- 55
- 56 a. Financial records in order to hold programs accountable in their allocation of funding and provide
- 57 models for efficient uses of funding;
- 58
- 59 b. Outlines concerning the structure of humanitarian aid organizations in order to exemplify successful
- 60 organizational models;
- 61
- 62 c. Progress reviews detailing the effectiveness and efficiency of these organizations;
- 63
- 64 3. *Recommends* that Member States work to expand and coordinate existing GIS programs in order to
- 65 communicate information regarding the predictions of and recommended responses to natural disasters by:
- 66
- 67 a. Increasing coordination between existing GIS programs in order to develop a holistic understanding of
- 68 worldwide risk;
- 69
- 70 b. Developing a risk assessment based on technological analysis of all geographical factors affecting the
- 71 likelihood of natural disasters, i.e. weather and geological patterns, and indicating areas of high
- 72 disaster risk;
- 73
- 74 c. Providing nations with the information required to efficiently and effectively distribute preparedness
- 75 efforts, i.e. infrastructure improvement and education;
- 76
- 77 4. *Urges* Member States to promote capacity building within developing countries using programs similar to
- 78 SHEAR which:
- 79
- 80 a. Enhance national risk analysis systems and natural disaster warning systems to predict natural disasters
- 81 as well as establish national reaction plans to these emergencies;
- 82
- 83 b. Ensure the stable infrastructure of local level emergency responders, modeled after the Integrated
- 84 Rescue System, which supports cooperation between national bodies including fire rescue, police,
- 85 medical rescue service and others in their immediate response to humanitarian crises;
- 86
- 87 5. *Recommends* that UNESCO enhances its use of ICTs to promote communication between Member States by:
- 88
- 89 a. Disseminating information among the international community modeled by the World Food
- 90 Programme's Humanitarian Early Warning Service which provides up-to-the-minute information on
- 91 natural disasters around the world;
- 92
- 93 b. Enabling risk analysis systems to open dialogue with respective Member States, similar to SHEAR's
- 94 bilateral collaboration of governments, resulting in pre-disaster preparation;
- 95
- 96 6. *Encourages* Member States to submit a biannual report that:
- 97
- 98 a. Measure the effectiveness of technological warning systems assessing the amount of damage that
- 99 could have been caused had these systems not been put in place and the amount of lives saved because
- 100 of these systems;
- 101
- 102 b. Record maintenance needs of these technological systems through UNESCO for the purpose of
- 103 continually advancing global telecommunication;
- 104

- 105 c. Publish Member States' feedback on the effectiveness of these systems through the use of a publicly
106 accessible website to grant accountability between a government and its citizens;
107
- 108 7. *Invites* Member States to contribute to the Disaster Prevention Fund for the advancement of research and
109 systems for natural disaster prevention.



Code: GA3/1/2

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2
3 *Emphasizing* the universal right to a standard of living that is sufficient for the health and well-being of oneself and
4 one's family as enshrined in article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* adopted by the United Nations
5 in 1948,

6
7 *Recalling* General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 which creates a system of humanitarian
8 emergency assistance that is focused on short term relief and, at the same time, long-term sustainable development,

9
10 *Alarmed by* the fact that in 2015 alone, more than 20,000 people perished because of natural disasters,

11
12 *Determined* to improve coordination in humanitarian response to natural disasters and other emergencies,

13
14 *Recalling* the concept of improved coordination and collaboration of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for
15 disaster relief efforts implemented by the 1997 *Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian*
16 *Response*,

17
18 *Reaffirming* the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030* and its four priorities, which strengthen
19 disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk inter alia response collaboration, support measures that invest in
20 health resilience measures, and state the enhancement of disaster preparedness for effective response in recovery,
21 rehabilitation and reconstruction,

22
23 *Further recalling* the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which seeks to address societal, economic, and
24 environmental concerns, with a focus on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 and SDG 9 building resilient
25 infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation,

26
27 *Directing attention* to SDGs 13, 14, 15 which address sustainable use of ecosystems, and calls for urgent action to
28 combat climate change,

29
30 *Expressing* its concern that climate change and natural disasters contribute to the degradation of agricultural land
31 which proves detrimental for food security for local populations long after crises,

32
33 *Further notes* that military conflict has an impact on agriculture production, infrastructure, and lands as stated by the
34 United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in the 1996 report regarding food and nutrition division,

35
36 *Recognizing* the success of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in providing response to affected
37 Member States,

38
39 *Further recognizing* the gaps in accountability and transparency between affected Member States, donor countries,
40 and CERF in regards to the allocation of funds during humanitarian disaster responses,

41
42 *Deeply concerned* with the shortcomings that are persistent within the United Nations cluster approach, including
43 the failure to allow for stronger leadership outside of the United Nations by NGOs and civil society organizations,

44
45 *Noting with regret* the gaps in communication between clusters regarding humanitarian response to disasters and the
46 lack of prioritization in clusters' resource allocation, as stated in the 2011 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
47 Transformative Agenda,

48

49 *Recognizing* the need for collaboration between neighboring countries to further enhance disaster preparedness and
50 response as exemplified by the projects of the World Neighbors organization,
51

- 52 1. *Encourages* the enhancement of dialogue and coordination between clusters regarding the prioritization of
53 resource allocation in Member States affected by disaster through an inter-organizational partnership between
54 the IASC and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), which:
55
 - 56 a. Allows for constant dialogue and information sharing between the preventative and reactive agencies
57 of the United Nations system addressing natural disasters and emergencies;
 - 58 b. Emphasizes the connection between disaster risk reduction (DRR) practices and the humanitarian
59 response system, thus increasing resilience;
- 60
61
62 2. *Invites* a final report sent to the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) by the affected Member State as well as
63 any further recipients of funding through the CERF in the aftermath of an international disaster response
64 addressing the use of allocated funds within eighteen months of initial aid being received with the objective to
65 increase accountability towards donors of humanitarian response efforts;
66
- 67 3. *Recommends* three stability focuses to the *Sendai Framework*, which will provide a practical scope in regards to
68 concentrated collaboration among emergency responders, which are military personnel and their civilian
69 counterparts, to support priority two of the *Sendai Framework*, which include:
70
 - 71 a. Implementing Civil Security, which affects the safety of the country in a state of emergency and its
72 population, the safety of humanitarian aid workers, and property and infrastructure vital to cluster
73 aims;
 - 74 b. Implementing Rapid Response Capabilities which integrate those capabilities in the training of
75 emergency responders, on the national level, gauge the logistical supply capacity of essentials in order
76 to the demand of a Member State, and to improve means of communications by broadening or
77 narrowing the scope established amongst emergency responders in collaboration;
 - 78 c. Re-evaluating needs involving the joint coordination between emergency responders on logistical
79 support and medical services in providing food, water, shelter and medical treatment, which would
80 diminish fundamental deprivation in health in the event of natural disasters and other emergencies;
- 81
82
83
84 4. *Suggests* that Member States incorporate the implementation of a National Preparedness Strategy, which would
85 constitute policy guidelines to help developing countries to:
86
 - 87 a. Encourage civil society organizations to assist Member States in their preparation efforts to
88 humanitarian crisis;
 - 89 b. Map vulnerabilities in transport routes according to national context and capacity in case of a
90 humanitarian crisis;
- 91
92
93 5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the role and participation of civil society organizations in strengthening the
94 strategic and operational decision making of United Nations Humanitarian Country Teams (UNHCT) on the
95 national level as well as of the IASC on the international level;
96
- 97 6. *Further recommends* strengthened dialogue between civil society organizations and United Nations agencies
98 operating within the humanitarian system through building capacity between local governments, NGOs, and
99 other relevant stakeholders, as well as sharing best practices between United Nations entities, Member States
100 and all relevant stakeholders involved on the ground during a humanitarian response effort;
101

- 102 7. *Encourages* civil society organizations to conduct needs capacity assessments and data collection on the
103 affected population residing in areas hit by natural disasters, especially remote areas, as nonpartisan reporting
104 helps minimize the information gap for the United Nations clusters;
105
- 106 8. *Calls for* an increased cooperation between UNHCTs and local stakeholders, such as local NGOs, by promoting
107 partnerships and dialogue every three months, as well as encouraging dialogue among local NGOs themselves
108 to streamline information, which allows them to speak with one voice in a cohesive manner to enable faster
109 deployment of humanitarian response personnel and provision of humanitarian assistance in the event of natural
110 disasters and complex emergencies;
111
- 112 9. *Suggests* the establishment of a new cluster, the Cluster for Environment and Lands Restoration (CELR) under
113 the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) devoted to environmental concerns of
114 humanitarian assistance, such as countering environmental degradation in and around camps and supporting
115 restoration, to the rehabilitation of rural or urban land, and to the revitalization of agricultural land, after conflict
116 or natural disasters;
117
- 118 10. *Emphasizes* the need for this new cluster to work in cooperation with existing clusters in an effective and
119 efficient manner in order to provide humanitarian aid;
120
- 121 11. *Approves of* the World Neighbors organization's efforts to reduce long-term aid dependency by collaborating
122 with affected villages in remote, rural, or difficult to access areas on administrative support functions, such as
123 promoting their self- sufficiency.



Code: GA3/1/3

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2
3 *Reaffirming* the need for effective, fair and timely humanitarian aid coordination to become a priority to fulfill
4 poverty eradication and sustainable development as outlined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*

5
6 *Applauding* the framework legislation of General Assembly resolution 70/204 of 24 July 2015 on “International
7 Strategy for Disaster Reduction”,

8
9 *Celebrating* the use of Independent Experts by the United Nations Human Rights Council to better study and
10 understand pressing issues,

11
12 *Taking note of* the usefulness, expertise, and manpower of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) pertaining to
13 their ability to fund, research, and provide technologies relevant to disaster prevention measures,

14
15 *Understanding* the importance of transparency within organizations, programs, and Member States that facilitate
16 humanitarian aid delivery, including the Central Emergency Response Fund and Country-Based Pooled Funds
17 managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),

18
19 1. *Urges* for the adaptation of inter-regional crisis centers to continually operate under the regulation of the OCHA
20 to efficiently mobilize international aid in the occurrence of natural disasters which will:

21
22 a. Allocate a department within the center, modeled after the Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Center
23 (ADRRC), to:

- 24
25 i. Offer a platform of knowledge-sharing between global preparedness centers, NGOs, and local
26 experts;
27 ii. Expand upon the ADRRC’s Global unique disaster IDentifier (GLIDE) database which
28 collects data about previous disasters to identify and categorize disaster trends;

29
30 b. Establish standardized procedures that will determine disaster risk severity such as:

- 31
32 i. Methods on measuring the severity of disasters;
33 ii. Estimations of relief funding needed;
34 iii. Recommendations on necessary methods for regional crises centers to take;

35
36 2. *Reiterates* the importance of increasing transparency and coordination between local communities and
37 humanitarian aid distributors by:

38
39 a. Monitoring the efficient transfer of aid and resources between humanitarian aid organization, Member
40 States, and local communities;

41
42 b. Developing and enhancing technologies designed to facilitate communication between all relevant
43 stakeholders;

44
45 3. *Proposes* the appointment of regional experts on humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction under the
46 jurisdiction of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Disaster Risk Reduction, with the intent
47 to improve the preparedness of localized responses and regional networks, as well as bring specialized
48 knowledge and understanding of regional issues to a larger international conversation;

49

- 50 4. *Invites* non-governmental actors and the private sector within regions to invest in standardized disaster
51 equipment and procedures, determined by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction's Scientific
52 and Technical Advisory Group (STAG), that can be distributed to local communities by OCHA that will:
53
- 54 a. Secure efficient, immediate distribution of humanitarian aid equipment that are adaptable to a wide
55 range of environments;
 - 56
 - 57 b. Ensure that humanitarian technology is specified for regional landscapes and climates;
 - 58
 - 59 c. Provide equipment and other resources to vulnerable communities in accordance with the needs of
60 communities at risk of natural disasters and other emergencies;
 - 61
- 62 5. *Encourages* Member States to cooperate with NGOs with technical or financial expertise to:
63
- 64 a. Increase contact between the NGOs and Member States through mutually beneficial contracts and
65 agreements in regards to disaster prevention technologies;
 - 66
 - 67 b. Discuss and create agreements with NGOs that are mindful of all parties' interests;
 - 68
 - 69 c. Further expand preventative technologies such as early detection systems, information sharing and
70 management systems and other necessary technologies that are developed, manned and maintained by
71 the NGOs with cooperation of Member States in accordance to the agreement made between them;
 - 72
- 73 6. *Endorses* collaboration between the private sector, public sector, and Member States by urging OCHA to foster
74 trust between local communities and aid workers to address fundamental gaps in communication including
75 streamlining of information and data flows between administrators and field workers, overreliance on
76 understaffed information management units, and information overload.



Code: GA3/1/4

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2
3 *Recognizing* the inalienable sovereignty of each Member State and its territorial integrity, especially when offering
4 humanitarian assistance in the event of natural disasters and complex emergencies, and the consensual basis on
5 which any international involvement rests,

6
7 *Recognizing* that natural disasters pose an imminent threat to the individual well-being of citizens and social and
8 economic infrastructures of all countries, though are especially detrimental in developing countries and impede
9 sustainable development,

10
11 *Paying tribute* to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and its mandate to serve as the
12 focal point within the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster risk reduction activities such as
13 increasing investments in disaster risk reduction and building disaster-resilient infrastructure,

14
15 *Recalling* General Assembly resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 70/204 of 22 December 2015, 71/127 of 8
16 December 2016 and 71/128 of 8 December 2016, and the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey
17 which emphasize current issues of response inclusiveness and further advancement in coordination,

18
19 *Taking into consideration* the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* adopted by the Third
20 United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction addressing the need to share responsibility of
21 reducing disaster risk between Member States and other stakeholders including local governments and non-
22 governmental organizations (NGOs),

23
24 *Emphasizing* the importance of taking regional context and geographical setting into account in disaster risk
25 reduction and emergency response, as each region faces unique threats and challenges regarding natural disasters
26 and complex emergencies, such as earthquakes, water scarcity, floods, sand and dust storms,

27
28 *Acknowledging* the importance of training and expertise in disaster preparedness and recognizing the important role
29 played by NGOs in aiding humanitarian response tackling natural disasters and complex emergencies on a local,
30 national, regional, and international level,

31
32 *Noting* the important role played by Country Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) in ensuring international cooperation and
33 global financial partnership towards enhancing disaster risk preparedness and response,

34
35 *Recognizing* the important work of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
36 in regards to vulnerability and risk assessment of humanitarian emergencies, however *emphasizing* the need to
37 further empower each Member State's and region's disaster preparedness capacity,

38
39 *Considering* that OCHA is struggling to fully meet the challenges of building systematic local capacities and
40 humanitarian leadership as outlined in the *State of the Humanitarian System Report* of 2012 which speaks of the
41 evolving contexts of humanitarian action and needs,

42
43 *Noting* that OCHA does not provide worldwide coverage in terms of the placement of their regional offices, which
44 leaves some regions of the world without the adequate support by OCHA in mitigating the effects and enhancing
45 preparedness against natural disasters and complex emergencies,

46
47 *Recalling* the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit,
48 taking place from 25 - 27 September 2015 in New York, and the pledge by the international community of leaving
49 no one behind,

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Recalling especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 on resilient cities and SDG 17 on global partnerships and innovative collaboration, emphasizing the need of national sustainable development strategies and recognizing the importance of especially vulnerable groups such as children, women and older persons,

1. *Recommends* to the United Nations Secretariat to expand the total number of regional offices of OCHA to cover all areas of the world, which will improve international disaster response coverage, to be determined by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Emergency Relief Coordinator;
2. *Further recommends* to the United Nations Secretariat the establishment of a regional program named Promotion of Risk Eradication, Population and Area-inclusive Response, Efficiency and Development (PREPARED) within OCHA, which:
 - a. Is implemented by the Humanitarian Advisory Teams (HAT) of each of the six regional offices and thirty field offices of OCHA so as to have a specialized focus on building local capacity in, and ownership over, natural disaster response in every region of the world;
 - b. Facilitates multi-sectoral information sharing of best practices regarding natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response by allowing Member States to communicate their regional expertise with local actors, NGOs, and civil and military agencies via a secure database platform, named Connections of Live Operational and Universal Data (CLOUD), to be established and maintained by OCHA;
 - c. Offers consultation and assistance in disaster preparedness to Member States in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in responding to disasters, which is based on their regional context and geographical setting, this way generating solutions that best suit their country-specific circumstances, specifically providing training for Member States in the global South, seeking to set up national emergency plans in their territory modelled on the functioning of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), which will involve the consultation of scientists, engineers and architects;
 - d. Is funded through the partial reallocation of funds from the regular annual United Nations budget, whilst underlining the need for the efficient use of the limited funds of the United Nations, specifically from the OCHA Field Programme Budget, which already coordinates and manages humanitarian response funds, including disaster management, and voluntary supplemental contributions provided by regional actors and United Nations agencies, such as UNISDR;
3. *Calls for* the establishment of a specialized National Disaster Management Coordinator for each region participating in PREPARED within the Regional Humanitarian Response Offices of OCHA, that would be able to provide a coordinated regional response to natural disasters and implement specific regional solutions, which will be:
 - a. Responsible for streamlining specialized regional disaster management programs, specifically PREPARED, focusing on the regional specialization bearing in mind that the UN Humanitarian Coordinator is not necessarily capable of providing the needed support on the country-based level, to oversee the regional and country-level developments in this regard;
 - b. Additionally responsible for organizing annual training sessions and exercises simulating disaster situations for all actors in society, including the military, civil society and governmental agencies under the Programs of Action, which:
 - i. Focus specifically on practical skills of health service provision, evacuation, first aid, and logistics;
 - ii. Determine the curriculum of the training according to the risk assessment of the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*;
 - iii. Update Member States' national disaster management plans where it is necessary to streamline communication by including communications network strategies between NGO's and local countries by the usage of lists of go-to local organizations, which can be compiled

- 106 by local municipalities within countries able to readily assist NGO's and ease the burden on
107 countries in the Global South which often occurs when international organizations leave;
108 iv. Encourages the implementation of general International Standards Organization (ISO) norms
109 in the construction and reconstruction sectors, in order to build resilient infrastructure;
110
- 111 4. *Recommends* that the United Nations Secretariat directs OCHA to appoint Vulnerable Group Designators
112 responsible for aid inclusiveness advocating for the needs of vulnerable groups, such as older persons, women,
113 children, refugees and displaced persons, across all clusters in the United Nations Cluster Approach established
114 by the Inter-Agency Committee Transformative Agenda of 2005, which would consist of representatives from:
115
- 116 a. UN-Women to ensure the protection of women;
 - 117
 - 118 b. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to ensure the rights of children;
 - 119
 - 120 c. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the rights of
121 refugees and displaced persons;
 - 122
 - 123 d. The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing for the Older Persons;
 - 124
- 125 5. *Recommends* the establishment of regional stockpiles of basic resources and supplies made available by
126 focusing on increasing in-kind donations from the international community to provide specialized resources
127 needed in emergency situations increasing material capacity readily available during natural disasters to
128 guarantee faster response, within the OCHA framework, which:
129
- 130 a. Can be set up in the same countries as the OCHA Regional Offices and may be integrated into already
131 existing military bases in those countries to be utilized in the event of an emergency, which would
132 allow civil and military assets to coordinate in bringing the resources and supplies into the affected
133 region and build up new infrastructure if necessary;
 - 134
 - 135 b. Consist of materials such as drinking water, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and blankets and can
136 be further specified according to the individual needs of the region;
 - 137
 - 138 c. Provide emergency accommodations of basic necessities in the form of shelters, mobile hospitals, and
139 restrooms in areas subject to natural disasters threats, the extent of which will depend on the amount of
140 people living in each region;
 - 141
- 142 6. *Encourages* the expansion of CBPFs, which are multi-donor humanitarian financing mechanisms established by
143 the Emergency Relief Coordinator and overseen by OCHA in order to effectively meet the demands of affected
144 populations in times of crisis, by:
145
- 146 a. Providing Member States the sufficient funds towards the establishment of additional CBPFs in
147 countries where they are not currently present in the event of emergencies and disasters, with a focus
148 on expanding CBPFs in the most vulnerable countries;
 - 149
 - 150 b. Enhancing current financial modalities, both standard allocation and reserve allocation, to include in-
151 kind resources and fill critical funding gaps;
 - 152
 - 153 c. Encouraging Member States to use internationally recognized standards such as the Gini Index to
154 effectively assess and categorize countries in need;
 - 155
- 156 7. *Calls* for the establishment of regulations regarding transparency in existing international communication
157 platform such as the Strategic Communications Division of the United Nations between donors and receivers of
158 disaster aid, which will:
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- 160 a. Stress the role of aid receiving countries to remain accountable and transparent in the monitoring
161 system established at the international level;

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- b. Place equal importance on the receivers of foreign aid to take substantive action against corruption within their own states as it relates to the use of international aid;
 - c. Establish a comprehensive monitoring system expanding across the local, regional, and the international level;
8. *Endorses* the importance of equality in North-South and South-South partnerships when working with humanitarian assistance associated with natural disasters and other emergencies.



Code: GA3/1/5

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*
2
3 *Acknowledging* the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), that provides humanitarian
4 and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries,
5
6 *Expressing its appreciation* for the success of the first United Nations World Humanitarian Summit held in
7 furtherance of General Assembly resolution 70/107 in 2016 and its successful impact on improving Member States'
8 capabilities to efficiently coordinate humanitarian responses to fellow participants of the summit,
9
10 *Seeking* to specifically bolster domestic capabilities of Member States in the areas of technology, education and
11 information sharing, as well as funding for domestic initiatives, emphasized by the *Sendai Framework For Disaster*
12 *Risk Reduction 2015-2030,*
13
14 *Acknowledging* the lack of awareness regarding the already existing systems dedicated to promoting early warning
15 alerts to natural disasters, such as the Climate Risk Early Warning System (CREWS) and the Global Disaster Alert
16 and Coordination System (GDACS), and man-made disasters,
17
18 *Concerned* with the lack of availability and efficiency of technology, such as Short Message Service (SMS)
19 warnings tracing-outbreak technology, and radio broadcasting systems, in developing Member States used to
20 improve coordination in humanitarian responses within some member states,
21
22 *Deeply concerned* by the inefficient coordination between Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs),
23 civil society organizations (CSOs) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
24 (OCHA) and its effect on affected populations,
25
26 *Recognizing* the suggestions made at the 2010 regional workshop held in Africa regarding the United Nations
27 Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), which addressed the
28 manner Member States foster better communication and technological coordination with civil society groups and
29 NGOs,
30
31 *Guided by* the World Food Programme's (WFP) disaster risk reduction policy that addresses immediate emergencies
32 such as natural disasters and civil unrest down to the local level,
33
34 *Highlighting* the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT), established by OCHA in 2008, which ensures that regional
35 responders work together to deliver timely and appropriate humanitarian assistance to disaster-affected people
36 across the Pacific,
37
38 *Taking into consideration* the need to improve coherence between the measures taken by the Environmental
39 Emergencies Forum (EEF) and the Emergency Response Framework (ERF),
40
41 *Bearing in mind* the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), specifically the Emergency
42 Event Database (EM-DAT), which works towards providing vulnerability assessment and priority setting to those
43 countries that are the most vulnerable to disasters,
44
45 *Further noting* the importance of improving political commitments for development co-operations in relationship to
46 financial assistance through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),
47
48 *Recalling* the 2015 *Paris Agreement*, which states areas that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of
49 climate change and have a significant capacity restraint should have a provision of scaled-up resources,

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Taking into consideration the need for NGOs, enterprises and institutions, CSOs, and others to have the capacity of managing their security groups through the establishment of Risk Advisory Groups (RAG),

Recognizing the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), as it was established to ensure the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction by General Assembly resolution 56/195 of 21 January 2000,

Recalling the Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund, which continues to serve as the primary channel for environmental, climate mitigation, and adaptation funding from both international and domestic sources, especially within Small Island Developing States (SIDS),

Acknowledging the different studies concerning disaster aftermath coordination undertaken by local governments, such as the Chilean *Preparedness, Response and Lessons* report and the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (AEPD),

Expressing appreciation for the *Kyoto Protocol*, which is committed to setting international law binding the emission of greenhouse gasses (GHGs), while providing assistance to Member States currently suffering from the effects of climate change, and the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* signed by over 170 countries, that works to protect the global environment and developmental system,

Guided by initiatives presented by UNISDR addressing disaster risk reduction in UN country-level programs and activities and highlights results-based monitoring frameworks,

1. *Welcomes* the following initiatives geared towards the advancement of domestic capabilities;
2. *Encourages* the implementation of a biannual summit organized by OCHA, the first taking place in Prague, Czech Republic, on 19 August 2018, with subsequent locations decided on by OCHA with an emphasis on countries most affected by disaster risk, and the funding being provided by voluntary donations from Member States and private organization, for the purposes of:
 - a. Increasing the coordination between developed and developing countries, private companies, and NGOs, using the GRV Global Response Initiative held in December of 2015 in Panama by:
 - i. Calling upon developed countries to lead seminars within these summits including natural disasters and other emergencies;
 - ii. Requesting that the summit includes demonstrations on evacuation, prevention and recovery methods be the primary way to disseminate information to Member States;
 - b. Encouraging the exchange of information to other Members States on building resilience strategies to improve coordination in the event of natural disasters in each Member State;
 - c. Continuing the work done at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) held in Istanbul, Turkey, building off of and implementing the action steps outlined during the Summit in order to:
 - i. Reaffirm Member States' commitments to humanity and humanitarian principles;
 - ii. Initiate actions and commitments to enable countries and communities to prepare for and respond to crises and be more resilient to natural and manmade emergencies;
 - iii. Share the most effective practices to help lives around the world, placing affected people at the center of humanitarian action and alleviate suffering;
 - d. Utilizing these annual summits to improve communication in distribution of humanitarian aid between civil society groups, national universities, and other local NGOs to boost the regional institutional capacity of these resilience strategies, where:

- 105 i. The WHS planning committee of OCHA will strongly support this newly-formed program,
106 called The Student Preparedness Outreach Program (SPOP);
107 ii. Self-funded university students from countries determined by OCHA as countries most
108 affected by several types of natural disasters and political unrest attend this summit and
109 disseminate the learned information and instruct communities, schools and workshops in
110 regards to coordinating natural disasters;
111
- 112 3. *Urges* Member States to implement and expand early warning systems, such as SMS warnings, response calling
113 centers, radio broadcasting systems, and regional meteorological communications, including CREWS, to
114 counteract the consequences of natural hazards and recognize the government’s primary role to promote disaster
115 risk reduction, and to increase these systems, by:
116
- 117 a. Providing detailed information for specific types of natural disasters that would endanger human lives
118 in affected regions and Member States:
119
- 120 i. By directing measures to private and public institutions and NGOs within the nation;
121 ii. Through the promotion of action plans that would be tested and refined during semi-annual
122 drills in the organizations and institutions willing to participate;
123
- 124 b. Establishing a database management systems to determine the priority setting per country regarding
125 their vulnerability to natural hazards and other emergencies:
126
- 127 i. By utilizing the scoring system from CRED and particularly EM-DAT;
128 ii. Through gathering the data from the EM-DAT and CRED and work in collaboration with
129 UNISDR to analyze the gaps concerning information collection of natural disasters and other
130 emergencies and to provide new solutions for Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
131
- 132 c. Including information on geological, hydro-meteorological, chemical, health and socio-organizational
133 hazards existing within Member States;
134
- 135 d. Using telecommunication technologies, and mobile applications to increase information sharing
136 between organizations, and citizens to educate the population on disaster response and mitigation
137 strategies such as the assembly of citizens;
138
- 139 4. *Further recommends* the facilitation of the United Nations Platform for UN-SPIDER, the United Nations Office
140 for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), and Member States to promote more comprehensive implementation of
141 UN-SPIDER, by:
142
- 143 a. Facilitating better communication between UN-SPIDER’s headquarters and its regional support offices
144 and creating partnerships between with civil society groups or universities and shifting leadership from
145 UN-SPIDER headquarters to regional support offices;
146
- 147 b. Bolstering the institutional capacity of regional support offices and the regions they support through
148 advanced satellite technology to gather information efficiently;
149
- 150 5. *Invites* Member States to enhance coordination with OCHA in natural disaster and humanitarian crisis relief
151 operations, by:
152
- 153 a. Sharing information and resources with OCHA:
154
- 155 i. Providing any information, concerning the population's situation and the geographical
156 emplacement of natural hazards, that could enhance OCHA’s deployed teams’ capabilities to
157 respond and mitigate the effects of crisis;
158 ii. Providing any human or physical resources, determined by OCHA, that would be needed by
159 this organization and its deployed teams and therefore facilitated by the International
160 Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross;

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- b. Supporting OCHA or the deployed OCHA's teams and not applying measures with a counter effect, granting access to the affected zones to deployed teams, and ensuring collaboration between its population, authorities, and deployed teams;
- 166 6. *Further recommends* to the international community to enhance the scope of the United Nations cluster
167 approach to:
168
- a. Provide real time access by the United Nations system to web based disaster information systems and related coordination tools;
 - b. Establish guidelines under the jurisdiction of OCHA to address significant gaps in information collection and analysis to facilitate international information exchange and decision making processes;
 - c. Promote Risk Advisory Group (RAG) meetings and semi-annual conferences on particular matters that would gather disaster managers worldwide, scientists, map-experts, webmasters, and other relevant professionals to define standards for information exchange, and that would be located in the countries willing to host these meetings;
 - d. Enhance the mandate of United Nations cluster approach to focus not only on providing information to governments and organization dedicated to respond to disasters, but also on pertinent enterprises that gather a large number of civilians and workforce, allowing them to subscribe to the system and enabling them to use its automatic alerts, impact estimations, as well after a major disaster step by step guide to respond;
- 179
- 180 7. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance the scope of the Joint United Nations Environmental
181 Programme (UNEP)/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) to aid Member States to prepare and respond to major
182 international environmental emergencies, by:
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- a. Raising awareness through "Above the Line" (ATL) and "Below the Line" (BTL) announcements and social media among communities, disaster responders, governments and industries on the importance of natural hazards preparedness through CSOs, such as Solidarités International (SI);
 - b. Enhancing the EEF meetings and its scope to allow experts, scientists and professionals that already participated in previous sessions of the forum to assess the JEU discussing ways forward in promoting partnerships, advocacy, capacity building and international governance;
 - c. Providing the funds to enhance the JEU from the World Bank group, as well stakeholders, CSOs and individuals willing to donate;
- 199
- 200 8. *Encourages* the implementation of the Disaster Monitoring Constellation for International Imaging (DMCii)
201 guided by the *International Charter on Space and Major Disasters*, particularly for LDCs that are ranked as the
202 most vulnerable according to the EM-DAT and CRED, and to be funded by the World Bank Group, to provide
203 free satellite high frequency imagery to Member States that cannot finance this system and to use this
204 information in the event of major international disasters such as hurricanes, tsunamis, oil spills, earthquakes,
205 major snowfalls, forest fires, etc., as well as to enhance comprehension of such relevant information to citizens
206 who need it the most through platforms, such as social media, television, radio and newspapers;
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- 209 9. *Acknowledges* the demand for multilateral agreements by incorporating beneficial models for financing on an
210 international, regional and local level which would include:
211
- a. Identifying the developing nations that are most vulnerable to be affected by natural disaster in utilizing previously collected data from EM-DAT;
 - b. Utilizing the relationship between primary Donors, secondary recipients, and beneficiaries to administer development loans and microloans, where the:
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- i. primary donors provide main development loan to secondary recipient;
 - ii. secondary recipient utilizes development loan to specify how funds will be administered towards specific initiatives, thus ensuring how funds will be distributed;
 - iii. beneficiaries receive funds from secondary recipient in form of a microloan;
 - c. Prioritizing the assistance in the Member States under emergency and reallocate the primary development funds to maximize effective development;
 10. *Urges* Member States from OECD to attend the yearly follow-up of Humanitarian Summits where the Triangular Cooperation model will be discussed with the purpose of enhancing the improvement of political commitment;
 11. *Calls upon* OECD member states to fully support the Triangular Cooperation model initiatives by attending a follow-up summit to further promote the access to information and resources;
 12. *Encourages* the expansion of the OECD’s Triangular Cooperation model to fund initiatives inherent to this document by providing, through the CERF, any monetary resources that would be needed by OCHA and its deployed teams;
 13. *Requests* the protection of humanitarian aid workers by increasing funding assistance of microloans between secondary recipients to beneficiary countries in order to help train local military forces to protect countries’ workers in the event of a disaster, and in order to identify the need for healthcare to be dispersed among workers, which includes vaccinations, physicals, and health insurance;
 14. *Recommends* that developed countries enhance the *Paris Agreement* by providing financial resources to developing countries to aid in the adaptation and mitigation of disasters and other emergencies;
 15. *Recommends* establishing a clear chain of command to improve coordination between clusters and regional actors and to ensure better leadership by initiating a study on the current chain of command in vulnerable countries, and on what could be improved, including:
 - a. An analysis of the global efficiency of the current system using statistics and expert observations;
 - b. The extent of the involvement of different actors, such as but not limited to, governments, armed forces and civil society;
 16. *Recommends* the setting of universal norms that build upon the lessons learned through country-specific norms, which would provide a clear structure for the chain of command, including:
 - a. The different positions that should be occupied, and their respective roles and mandates;
 - b. A description of the proper training and formation that should be carried out for those who occupy leadership positions;
 - c. A clear “bottom-up” s describing to whom each post should report to avoid leadership duplicity, mass report overflow and lack of unity throughout;
 17. *Urges* Member States to implement preventative and reactive sustainable methods to minimize disaster risk and enhance measures regarding coordination in response to natural disasters, environmental emergencies and manmade hazards, specifically for agriculturalists, by:
 - a. Emphasizing the negative effects of cultivating summer crops in the steppe areas to non-renewable groundwater reserves and discouraging the instigating of pumping water systems unless renewable water is available to ensure the accessibility of water and food in times of humanitarian crises;

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- b. Advising the creation of irrigation schedules and systems to deal with drought and to supply water to rural area during times of distress while enhancing drainage systems to reduce damage caused by floods, in order to facilitate proper access to deploy teams to affected areas;
 - c. Limiting land overuse and encourage crop rotations and cover crops while encouraging Member States to decrease CO2 emissions by incentivizing the private sector, which will allow for climate-friendly technologies and processes through tax deductibles or government cooperation conducted by the Global Environment Facility with the Implementation of Fog Makes Food that would utilize fog nets to absorb moisture from fog and condenses it into clean, drinkable water, which would:
 - i. Be based on programs that have been previously implemented on micro levels in various developing countries;
 - ii. Exist under UNEP and work to address instances of drought and famine;
 - iii. Provide clean water at a low fixed cost to developing countries who otherwise would not have access to clean water and sanitation; applicable to agricultural issues caused by drought as well as access to drinkable water;
18. *Suggests* that Member States implement organizations similar to SIRF, which work to promote the consumption of green energy and eliminate debt as a result of climate change and natural disasters, throughout the international community, and producing clean energy through the implementation of solar panels, wind turbines, and other renewable energy sources, as well as using obtained profits from selling the clean energy, to compensate the expenses of the project, and to fund other various environmental projects;
19. *Advises* the development of a classroom-specific mechanism facilitated by UNISDR in collaboration with UNICEF to be implemented within Member States to provide information needed to develop a heightened awareness about disaster preparedness, which will improve the knowledge of the risks associated with natural disasters for youth in order to better enhance coordination and responses to natural disasters.



Code: GA3/1/6

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2
3 *Bearing in mind* the issue of improving international coordination on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural
4 disasters and other emergencies as in General Assembly resolution 71/127 of 24 January 2017 and General
5 Assembly resolution 71/128 of 25 January 2017, which calls upon strengthening the coordination of emergency
6 humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,

7
8 *Affirming the Paris Agreement* (2015) and the commitment to adapting policies directed at climate change to
9 minimize the effect of natural disasters and ameliorate the issues in emergency responses,

10
11 *Guided by the Paris Declaration* on aid effectiveness and the *Accra Agenda for Action* (2008) which emphasized
12 inclusive partnerships between developed and developing countries to optimize aid delivery and implementation,

13
14 *Realizing* the need for funding to improve coordination in humanitarian responses to natural disasters and other
15 emergencies, especially for developing Member States, as stated in the independent review of the Central
16 Emergency Response Fund resolution 62/94 and 60/124 of 2008,

17
18 *Highlighting* the importance of strengthening and developing technology as a mean to increase the productivity and
19 efficiency for coordination and humanitarian responses in developing nations, as well as, to achieve the
20 *Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,*

21
22 *Fully aware of* the misuse and abuse of funds and other resources intended for humanitarian aid by local groups,
23 some of which may be considered non-state actors, as well as a lack of global accountability and efficiency in the
24 distribution of aid, as mentioned in General Assembly resolution 59/141 of 2005,

25
26 *Recognizing* the devastating financial losses of up to \$250 billion or \$300 billion each year after natural disasters,
27 recognized in Secretary-General report on the Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,
28 70/282 of 2015, and the severe impact on the economic and long-term growth of developing and least developed
29 countries (LDCs),

30
31 *Acknowledging,* the General Assembly resolution 71/141 of 2016, which highlights the importance of succinct and
32 focused humanitarian aid in the face of disasters and other emergencies,

33
34 *Observing* a need of communication within international frameworks that provide humanitarian aid to victims of
35 natural disasters and other emergencies to improve coordination in the affected areas,

36
37 *Recalling* the precedent set by Liechtenstein's LGT Impact Ventures, a program through the private bank in which
38 investors provide businesses with sustainable solutions to current global problems with financing,

39
40 *Recognizing,* the *Hyogo Framework for Action* (2005-2015), which was later endorsed by the General Assembly
41 resolution 60/1995 of 2005, and replaced in 2015 with the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction* (2015-
42 2030) as the international frameworks for disaster risk reduction,

43
44 *Noting* the work and goals of the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies, which aims to incorporate
45 the private sector through public, private partnerships in creating disaster-resilient societies, in accordance with the
46 *Sendai Framework,*

47

48 *Emphasizing* the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) data exchange
49 platform that focuses on accurate aggregated and widely shared data to provide targeted action and comprehensive
50 monitoring of progress while coordinating relief and recovery,
51

52 *Appreciating* global platforms such as Emergency.lu, which provides infrastructure and communication services
53 through satellite capacity, as well as an effective transmission terminal and logistics for rapid development in
54 response to natural or manmade crises,
55

56 *Supporting* the Secretary-General note on the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries 71/363 of 2016,
57 which emphasizes the importance of the sharing of technologies, particularly from developed countries and non-
58 governmental organizations (NGOs) to developing countries to welcome funding from the Technology Bank for
59 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to bridge the technology information gap between developed countries and
60 developing countries,
61

62 *Believing* that scientific findings and knowledge are crucial to disaster prevention, since they use a concrete
63 approach to problem-solving, as highlighted by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
64 report *Using Science for Disaster Risk Reduction* of 2013,
65

66 *Reaffirming* the success of United Nations Spaced-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency
67 Response (UN-SPIDER) program previously adopted by the General Assembly resolution 61/110 of 2006,
68

69 *Encouraging* implementation of the technology Iris Guard created by Member States of the World Food Programme
70 (WFP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2017, shifting the use of this
71 technology to coordinate fund distribution data,
72

- 73 1. *Requests* that the UN Special Representative to the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction of UNISDR
74 commission a report detailing how funds should be allocated regarding disaster risk reductions to strengthen
75 disaster risk governance;
76
- 77 2. *Invites* additional voluntary financial contributions to OCHA's Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) by
78 willing and able Member States to natural disasters, by the year 2020;
79
- 80 3. *Encourages* North-South Cooperation between developed and developing States through organizations, such as
81 the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), that facilitate initiatives to improve aid effectiveness by:
 - 82 a. Focusing on institution strengthening and capacity-building through the use of national development
83 plans to ensure effective long-term emergency preparedness;
84
 - 85 b. Conducting fiduciary risk assessments to ensure efficient public financial management and to prepare
86 partner countries to receive aid;
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- 88
- 89 4. *Welcomes* NGOs, local communities, and private sectors to use their financial tools to assist Member States
90 after disaster or other emergencies, through:
 - 91 a. Increasing the use of risk financing and social protection;
92
 - 93 b. Providing long-term investment in infrastructure, services, and livelihoods;
94
 - 95 c. Long-term planning and financing instead of a short-term humanitarian relief;
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- 97
- 98 5. *Supports* the development of financial frameworks for local organizations that facilitates their action in
99 responding to natural disasters and prevent misuse of funds;
100
- 101 6. *Recommends* that the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development creates a separate category of
102 official development assistance under definition and coverage for humanitarian aid to ensure that immediate

103 relief does not interfere with long term development initiatives in preparation for, and in response to, natural
104 disasters or other emergencies;
105

106 7. *Calls upon* Member States to develop public-private partnerships to facilitate funding of relevant, local NGOs
107 and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), that pay special attention to the population of the area in the wake of
108 natural disasters;
109

110 8. *Requests* the OCHA facilitate agreements between Member States and NGOs to help populations affected by
111 natural disasters interact between civilian and military actors before and after the crisis by:
112

113 a. Providing materials to rebuild collapsed infrastructure;
114
115 b. Distributing essential needs to the affected population immediately after a natural disaster;
116
117 c. Providing psychological and medical assistance for affected communities;
118

119 9. *Suggests* the United Nations Statistical Commission produce a report outlining a ranking system to determine
120 which Member States' vulnerability to natural disasters and outline priority ranking for future funding
121 initiatives based on the following data:
122

123 a. Collection of information through landscape scanning technology to determine a country's
124 vulnerability of land and climate, to drought, desertification, deforestation, etc.;
125
126 b. Data collected from UNHCR on size of internal conflict that are producing internally displaced
127 persons;
128
129 c. Poverty rate calculated by the World Bank;
130
131 d. Local government control to allocate funds where it is deemed the most necessary, not based on
132 political agenda;
133

134 10. *Strongly encourages* the expansion of the Emergency and Disasters Database (EM-DAT) and the United
135 Nations Technology Bank to:
136

137 a. Transfer information and funds from both NGOs and developed countries to aid LDCs;
138
139 b. Establish accountable, reliable and organized system of data collection to enable strategic responses
140 that reflect the true needs of affected groups and communities through sharing of best practices
141 between organizations;
142
143 c. Recommends the creation of a "Disasters Now" section on EM-DAT to streamline all disaster
144 information from United Nations-commissioned NGOs;
145

146 11. *Highly recommends*, in cooperation with the Emergency Preparedness Integration Centre (EPIC), the further
147 implementation of a global platform related to humanitarian aid and development assistance, to be adopted by
148 all United Nations agencies and coordinated by the WFP as the global leader for emergency telecommunication;
149

150 12. *Recommends* the implementation of the UN-SPIDER to all regions by coordinating with regional organizations
151 to develop the capacity to use all types of spaced-based information, by:
152

153 a. Inviting Member States to utilize this programme through using the existing knowledge platform;
154
155 b. Increasing access to and use of such technologies during all phases of the disaster management cycle,
156 including the risk reduction phase which is crucial to reduce losses and lives of property;
157

- 158 c. Connecting the disaster management, risk management and space communities by facilitating
159 capacity-building and institutional strengthening for developing countries;
160
- 161 13. *Urges* the WFP to assist Member States in creating a system that can detect the magnitude of natural disasters
162 and establish information communication technology checkpoints and emergency broadcast system in Member
163 States to create faster responses and recovery times to coordinate gaps in addressing humanitarian need;
164
- 165 14. *Encourages* Member States to invest funding into technology research, specifically targeting the following
166 aspects:
167
- 168 a. Artificial Intelligence: that is, a machine mimics functions that associate with human minds, such as
169 the ability to reason, plan and communicate which could assist people in making decision and working
170 out the best rescue plans for affected areas;
171
- 172 b. Robotic technology: which could produce the robots capable of engaging in rescue affected areas,
173 especially those are too risky for personnel to intervene in, for example, earthquake stricken areas;
174
- 175 15. *Promotes* the development of a global mapping system under UNISDR through the use of Light Imaging
176 Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) surveying to digitally create accurate topographic maps of fault lines in
177 Member States with active seismic tremors to best forecast natural disasters associated with changing fault
178 lines;
179
- 180 16. *Strongly encourages* the development of tools, strategies, and techniques by scientific institutions to prevent and
181 detect natural catastrophes promptly by:
182
- 183 a. Requesting United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization to determine the
184 proportion of gross domestic product that Member States currently are encouraged to grant to research
185 and experimental development to eventually increase the number of researchers per 1,000,000
186 inhabitants;
187
- 188 b. Supporting projects from educational institutions, such as universities, especially in LDCs, which
189 invite the youth to get involved into the process of preventing natural disasters and other emergencies;
190
- 191 c. Hosting bi-annual awareness conferences in educational institutions to share new findings and expand
192 on new solutions to current issues;
193
- 194 17. *Suggests* the application of Iris Guard in Jordan, 2017, to be used as a structural framework for Member States
195 in collecting and conduction budgetary data, allowing States to follow funds and improve budgets.



Code: GA3/1/7

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2
3 *Reaffirming* the rights and freedoms entitled to all persons sufficient for the health and well-being of oneself and
4 one's family as enshrined in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, particularly in Articles 2 and 25,

5
6 *Recalling* the right of all persons to life with dignity, the right to receive humanitarian assistance and the right to
7 protection and security under the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, as stated in the
8 *Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*,

9
10 *Commending* the work of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in assessing the needed funding for areas
11 affected by humanitarian crises while working with international actors to identify the direction of these funds,

12
13 *Further commending* the success of the United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNVP) in recognizing and
14 mobilizing local volunteers in United Nations humanitarian missions,

15
16 *Referring to* General Assembly resolution 66/454 on 2012 that recognizes that volunteerism is an important
17 component of any strategy aimed at sustainable development and humanitarian response,

18
19 *Considering* the vulnerability of women, children, and the elderly to suffer disproportionately in the wake of
20 disasters and other emergencies without access to appropriate technology as reported in United Nations Population
21 Fund (UNFPA) *State of World Population 2015 report*,

22
23 *Acknowledging* the importance of voluntary coordination efforts in the face of humanitarian crises, as addressed in
24 General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991 and affirming the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR), a
25 network of national and local Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with the goal of empowering local
26 communities in humanitarian aid partnerships,

27
28 *Understanding* the White Paper collected by the Africa-Europe Higher Education Cooperating for Development,
29 *Access to Success: Fostering Trust and Exchange between Europe and Africa*, elaborated by the European
30 Universities Association, which mentions that "increased cooperation between universities in Africa and Europe can
31 be seen in a way to support capacity building and development activities, as well as to enhance academic
32 performance",

33
34 *Recognizing* the effectiveness of the Erasmus Mundus Programme, supported by the European Commission, in
35 which partnerships to enhance academic cooperation and student exchange programmes are facilitated among
36 European and other universities, in providing students valuable educational opportunities that will contribute to the
37 socio-economic development of their Member States,

38
39 *Viewing with appreciation* the work of organizations such as Sister Cities International, in promoting global cultural
40 exchanges through a network among cities,

41
42 1. *Establishes* a standardized framework called the City to Cities Programme operating under the United Nations
43 Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which will:

- 44
45 a. Group cities with a network of other cities, with due regard to the sovereignty of Member States and
46 cities, as a means of support in the event of natural disasters and other emergencies;

47

- 48 b. Receive voluntary funding from Member States, observers, regional governments and international
49 organizations and the private sector, including corporations, NGOs and individuals, which will be
50 provided to the partner city involved in coordinating relief efforts;
51
- 52 c. Improve the preparation of and coordination to cities struck by natural disasters by localizing efforts in
53 humanitarian aid response by empowering volunteers in local and rural areas;
54
- 55 2. *Prescribes* that cities that volunteer to participate in this programme will be paired with other cities based on:
56
- 57 a. Population:
58
- 59 i. Regarding the United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) definitions describing population
60 size, pairing meta-cities and urban corridors with smaller peri-urban and rural areas;
61 ii. Acknowledging cities, towns, or communities as one partner if the Member State recognizes
62 the city as a peri-urban city;
63
- 64 b. Their ability to support other cities;
65
- 66 c. The probability of it being struck by a natural disaster and the level of assistance that it may need;
67
- 68 3. *Designates* a panel of experts including the Humanitarian Coordinators, supervised by the Under-Secretary-
69 General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and appointed by the OCHA Director of
70 Coordination and Response Division, that:
71
- 72 a. Collect data based on potential disaster indicators that network developed cities with developing cities;
73
- 74 b. Discuss of the appropriate follow-up assessments to the cities’ headways in prevention, as well as in,
75 humanitarian responses in case of a recent natural disaster or other emergency, that would translate
76 into a summit in a different city for each follow-up at the convenience of the panel;
77
- 78 4. *Requests* that member cities will give a report every 5 years to the Under Secretary-General, OCHA director,
79 and the panel evaluating the humanitarian conditions in each region, potential disaster indicators, as well as the
80 individual responses to disasters, with emphasis on the following distinctions:
81
- 82 a. Demographics, such as age, gender, and Human Development Index (HDI);
83
- 84 b. Local economies’ and their capacity of disaster response supplies;
85
- 86 c. The type and extent of the disaster under study;
87
- 88 d. The capability of local governments and facilities to independently respond;
89
- 90 e. The capability of local people to independently respond;
91
- 92 f. The stability of the city’s infrastructure;
93
- 94 5. *Calls upon* the City to Cities Programme to address the unique needs of marginalized groups in the wake of
95 disasters by:
96
- 97 a. Considering research from the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRC) regarding the
98 disproportionate impact of disasters on vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and the elderly;
99
- 100 b. Assisting partner cities in identifying and indexing specialized NGOs within their own city that are
101 prepared to meet the specific needs of women, children, and elderly persons currently affected by
102 disasters;
103

- 104 c. Utilizing the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) risk index reporting mechanism to
105 respond to the individualized needs of varying demographics within the borders of the Member States
106 requiring humanitarian relief;
107
- 108 6. *Recommends* that Member States focus on long-term capacity building of local communities within their
109 borders, with particular emphasis on rural sectors that lack adequate resources and finances to respond
110 thoroughly and effectively to disasters by:
111
- 112 a. Collaborating with local governments, NGOs, and the private sector, with the exchange of ideas and
113 expertise amongst the network of cities, to review and improve capacity building;
114
- 115 b. Asking Member States to take steps to facilitate entry of humanitarian aid groups, such as:
116
- 117 i. Granting permission to enter disaster and conflict zones;
118 ii. Providing adequate protection for humanitarian aid groups to provide critical relief services in
119 high-risk areas;
120
- 121 7. *Further calls upon* Member States to work multilaterally with NGOs to facilitate the implementation of
122 necessary assistance to United Nations efforts by:
123
- 124 a. Facilitating the integration of relief efforts in the following types of aid:
125
- 126 i. Physical aid, such as medicine, food, and fresh water;
127 ii. Organizational aid, such as collaborations with NGOs, local police authorities, and the local
128 governments of receiving partner cities;
129 iii. Information dissemination aid, such as campaigning for aid in the partner city and calling
130 non-state actors to contribute to relief efforts;
131
- 132 b. Communicating with the partner cities requiring disaster recovery to facilitate the activities of
133 volunteer coordinators who will:
134
- 135 i. Be trained by officials appointed by OCHA;
136 ii. Train local volunteers in the regions stricken by disasters;
137 iii. Attend panel meetings to provide information about conditions;
138
- 139 8. *Further requests* the UNVP to assist the City to Cities Programme in gathering enough volunteers by:
140
- 141 a. Developing awareness campaigns designed to encourage citizens of partner cities to volunteer;
142
- 143 b. Providing training for volunteers that are willing to participate in time of natural disaster;
144
- 145 9. *Encourages* Member States to support exchange programmes such as the Erasmus Mundus Programme among
146 universities of the City to Cities Programme, in which students can study fields related to sustainable
147 development, such as urbanism, architecture and engineering;
148
- 149 10. *Stresses* that the provisions of the City to Cities Programme do not inhibit Member States from forging
150 independent multilateral partnerships related to disaster management and resolution.



Code: GA3/1/8

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2
3 *Recalling* the report of the Secretary-General 71/353 (2016) on the outcome of the 2016 World Humanitarian
4 Summit (WHS), which stated the importance of integrating human rights into humanitarian response and gives
5 special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable groups during natural disasters and other emergencies including
6 but not limited to children, women, ageing and displaced persons,

7
8 *Affirming* General Assembly resolution 71/141 of 2016 and General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 1991, which
9 state that the United Nations humanitarian response must be elaborated with respect to principles of humanity,
10 neutrality, impartiality, international law and State's sovereignty,

11
12 *Noting with concern* General Assembly resolution 71/226 of 2016, which delineates vulnerable populations
13 including vulnerable persons such as women, children, refugees and persons in minority communities are
14 disproportionately affected before, during and after natural disasters, and other emergencies occur,

15
16 *Guided by* the guidelines provided by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), that
17 emphasizes on institutionalizing disaster risk reduction policies and programs in mainstreaming gender-sensitivity,

18
19 *Recognizing* the significance of utilizing the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Education and
20 Emergencies: A Resource Tool Kit in order to address the difficulties to maintain educational programs following
21 large emergencies,

22
23 *Recalling* the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* and its fourth priority on enhancing
24 disaster preparedness for effective response, improve recovery rehabilitation and reconstruction, especially through
25 disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies, and noting the importance of integrating vulnerable populations in the
26 elaboration of those strategies,

27
28 *Noting with appreciation* the documents put forth by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on
29 protecting the rights of stateless persons, refugees, and individuals who are not nationals of the country in which
30 they live, and the importance of the continued findings of refugee abuse put forth by Human Rights Watch, included
31 in its annual World Report,

32
33 *Acknowledging* past efforts of Member States to implement the *Hyogo Framework for Action* and integrate DRR
34 strategies to have sustainable development politics,

35
36 *Recognizing* the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) manual on Gender Approach in Conflict and
37 Post-Conflict Situations that aims to provide guidelines to Member States to evaluate the needs pertaining to the
38 most vulnerable parts of their population when facing natural disasters and other emergencies,

39
40 *Conscious* of the valuable work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on the cluster aid system and the
41 value this system has as an intermediary between the aid suppliers and the IASC,

42
43 *Confident* that the goal of infrastructure recovery following natural disasters and other crises can be advanced in
44 tandem with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, target 5, which focuses on reducing the damage of disasters
45 on cities,

46
47 *Keeping in mind* the 2014 Report on *Preventing Corruption in Humanitarian Operations* carried out by
48 Transparency International, which states that lack of accountability, is the biggest challenge towards the proper
49 allocation of aid used for disaster relief procedures and mechanisms,

50
51 *Mindful* of the importance of the Refugee Coordination Model put forward by the Office of the United Nations High
52 Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) and the methods it employs to facilitate refugee care and coordination,
53
54 *Recalling* UNHCR's Evaluation and Policy Unit report and its ability to improve refugee camps living conditions
55 through the use of information sharing tools such as or provided by ProgRes,
56
57 *Further noting* the 1995 *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*, which emphasizes the need for access to safe
58 water and sanitation facilities as crucial part of good health being especially for vulnerable populations such as
59 women,
60
61 *Reaffirming* the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and pointing out SDG 5, which aims to achieve gender
62 equality and empower all women and girls,
63
64 *Recalling* the *Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Transformative Agenda 2011* introducing the Cluster Approach
65 and the Clusters following success in improving the coordination of humanitarian response in the event of natural
66 disasters and other emergencies,
67
68 *Affirming* the role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the cluster approach in coordinating the health
69 cluster and the responsibility of that cluster to coordinate in providing healthcare in the aftermath of a disaster,
70
71 *Deeply concerned* of the status of displaced and vulnerable peoples, and the utmost importance of addressing health
72 related problems in terms of extreme living circumstances that precede a crisis,
73
74 *Acknowledging* the work of WHO, at a national scale, by implementing a Comprehensive Mental Health Action
75 Plan for 2013-2020 and recognizing the lack of coordination in matters of mental health at an international level,
76
77 *Recalling* the joint publication, *Mental Health of Refugees*, between the UNHCR and WHO, put forth in 1996,
78 which described the prevalence of mental health issues among refugees,
79
80 *Acknowledging* the importance of the IASC Guidelines for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency
81 Settings brought forth by the WHO,
82
83 *Noting with deep concern* the lack of adequate funding for healthcare services for displaced persons who are not
84 classified as refugees under the *1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*,
85
86 *Conscious of* the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) *Gender Toolkit 2012*,
87 which states that data and statistics on the particular situation of children, women and ageing population when
88 facing natural disasters and other emergencies are essential to enable Member States to elaborate relevant DRR
89 strategies and efficient reconstruction plans that address their specific needs,
90
91 1. *Calls upon* Member States to increase attention to the different challenges before during and after natural
92 disasters and other emergencies, while paying particular attention to vulnerable populations by tailoring
93 messages to specific groups through diverse dimensions of communication;
94
95 2. *Requests* Member States to create vocational training programs oriented towards vulnerable populations with
96 the intention of stimulating local economies and expanding disaster relief jobs such as meteorologists,
97 seismologist technicians, engineer technicians, nurses and teachers;
98
99 3. *Further recommends* the increased establishment of working relationships via triangular cooperation through
100 best practice sharing as outlined in the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation's *Good Practices in*
101 *South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*;
102
103 4. *Recommends* that Member States' national and local legislation includes the participation of women amongst
104 other vulnerable groups of society in the decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of
105 national DRRs and rebuilding strategies responding to natural and manmade disasters;

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5. *Further reiterates* the importance of the close monitoring of funding to each camp by the Joint Inspection Unit to be reported in the annual Central Emergency Response Funds grants reports as sub divisions of cluster funding and to have routine audits to be completed in timely intervals agreed upon by the multi-sector operations teams and OCHA so as to ensure accountability and transparency;
 6. *Recommends* the reporting of first response time and discrepancies between the occurrence of the crisis and the time at which aid is received carried out by the UNHCR field officers:
 - a. Focusing on the efficiency of the emergency communications and logistics clusters to ensure the mobility of all other Inter-Agency Standing Committee clusters;
 - b. Documenting and standardizing the appropriate time goals for each phase of emergency recovery: search and rescue, emergency relief, early recovery, medium to long-term recovery based on the individual natures of each crisis;
 7. *Stresses* the importance of a routine assessment of medical and food supply requirements falling under the purview of the UNHCR field officers while:
 - a. Including specifics on dates requested and date received, requested inventory, delivered inventory, broken, tampered with, or unusable items, expiration dates, and any changes in inventory, size or delivery system to better accommodate each camp;
 - b. Staying in close communication with the Service Delivery Sectors outline in the UNHCR Refugee Coordination Model;
 8. *Approves* the recording and monitoring of the status of infrastructure in the affected area, noted upon by UNHCR field officers and monitored by the Joint Oversight Committee with the help of the United Nations Habitat to create campaign initiatives through their Best Practices and Leadership Program;
 9. *Endorses* the census taking of educational and professional programs within the camps to be undertaken by UNHCR field officers:
 - a. In potential cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNICEF in order to create and help train and staff temporary schools for refugee children;
 - b. Working with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to help keep adult refugees up to date and competent in their vocational capacity, perhaps creating vocational training programs as a way of empowering them to reintegrate the work force as soon as possible;
 10. *Recommends* Member States to implement a grievance redressal system in order to responsively address and raise awareness on all forms of abuse and disempowerment within local communities to hear all sentiments of vulnerable individuals and to be able to mitigate maltreatments such as sexual harassment and abuse cases occurring in rehabilitation camps or centers including:
 - a. Psychological and physical therapy as well as faith-based recovery;
 - b. Training programs geared towards recuperation and reestablishment of vulnerable individuals to be included in the society;
 - c. Ensuring that identified perpetrators are no longer a threat or in position to continue to commit any sexual harassment or abuse through complete removal in the given rehabilitation camp or center;
 - d. Advertisement and education regarding gender equality and mainstreaming for local communities by relevant NGOs;

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11. *Calls for* the prevention of human rights abuses, a duty to be undertaken by, but not limited to, UNHCR field officers with a special emphasis on the vulnerability of women, children and elderly refugees to human rights abuses through the creation of image-based information pamphlets to be used in refugee camps describing the human rights violations these vulnerable groups may be most susceptible to, which can be easily used in and translated from one language to another while familiarizing vulnerable populations within refugee camps with the Human Rights Council Complaints Procedure Form upon their arrival at the camp;
 12. *Affirms* the need to document best medical practices in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases by reporting any outbreaks to the WHO immediately and remaining aware of the increased risk of vibrio diseases caused by the lack of sanitary water sources and promoting the education and treatment of mental health with a specific focus on victims of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety;
 13. Requesting that the NGO Committee on Mental Health works with the Post-Disaster Health Initiative (PDHI) to most efficiently expand mental health access to the most vulnerable persons;
 14. *Urges* a partnership between UNHCR, WHO, and UNISDR to increase their cooperation and promote open dialogue by creating a PDHI, a comprehensive plan to effectively coordinate in providing healthcare access for vulnerable displaced persons through:
 - a. Recognizing that displaced persons face similar traumas as refugees, such as loss of home, livelihood, and family members;
 - b. Ensuring access to mobile mental healthcare, including counselors and psychiatrists trained to talk through trauma and medicate;
 - c. Providing mobile healthcare that is affordable, accessible, and efficient to all displaced by disasters;
 - d. Designating kits that are specifically designed to the needs of people according to their immediate geographical environment with respect to prevalent diseases, surrounding climate, and gender or age specific care;
 15. *Endorses* registering NGOs in disaster prone areas to facilitate medical capabilities, such as Doctors Without Borders, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), Partners in Health and International Medical Corps, through a conjunct board between the UNHCR, WHO, and UNISDR to create training programs for displaced professional doctors, nurses, therapists, or qualified volunteers, and coordinates their activities, in the provision of health services, under the conditions that:
 - a. All NGOs who have yet to work with WHO, UNHCR, or UNISDR prior to providing healthcare services to displaced persons shall be vetted, and approval shall be given to members of the organization based on the absence of criminal records, valid medical credentials, and valid migration status in the country of work;
 - b. The training shall consist on the provision of basic services such as the injection of vaccines, the diagnosis and basic treatment of illnesses caused by displacement after natural disasters due to lack of nutrition and clean water;
 - c. The training shall include the provision of services to promote mental health and social stability through programs that include counseling that properly addresses the psychological traumas of individuals related to fear of returning to their places of nationality, as well as the ability to effectively communicate in the local language as well as the displaced individual's native language, in order to bridge the gap;

- 216 16. *Encourages* Member States to engage with the PDHI in order to enhance coordination for psychosocial health
217 care by supporting the improvement of social well-being for the most vulnerable displaced persons, especially
218 for children, woman and older persons, by:
219
- 220 a. Considering social inclusivity when making improvements in mental healthcare for older persons;
221
 - 222 b. Educating family members and volunteers on how to assist handicapped persons with special needs or
223 handicapped challenges through the use of:
224
 - 225 i. Already existing schools, community centers, and religious centers for hosting the meetings
226 with local communities;
 - 227 ii. Local and subnational governments with available public spaces;
228
 - 229 c. Emphasizing reciprocation between generations through the promotion of family members caring for
230 each other;
231
 - 232 d. Providing assistance for the most vulnerable to attend social events, such as family gatherings,
233 religious services, and other community events;
234
 - 235 e. Emphasizing the dignity of self-fulfillment of older persons by keeping them socially engaged with
236 their local communities;
237
- 238 17. *Recommends* annual review conferences involving UNHCR, WHO, UNISDR, and any Member States or NGOs
239 who have participated in the PDHI through the following measures:
240
- 241 a. Working towards the delegation of Regional Rapporteurs for the Post-Disaster Health Initiative by
242 inviting regional intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) or Member States to reach a consensus on
243 representation at the conferences;
244
 - 245 b. Requesting that UNHCR, WHO, and UNISDR produce periodic reports on the number of displaced
246 persons who gained healthcare access through the PDHI;
247
 - 248 c. Calling upon all NGOs registered with the aforementioned conjunct board to submit detailed
249 summaries of their work with the PDHI over the previous year to the Secretary General of the United
250 Nations and the President of the General Assembly;
251
- 252 18. *Calls upon* the WHO to reallocate any available funds provided by international donors exclusively for the use
253 of PHDI, and further recommends financial assistance from the following sources:
254
- 255 a. Any willing and able Member States;
256
 - 257 b. Flash Appeals through the OCHA that would be requested in case of urgent cases of humanitarian
258 assistance;
259
- 260 19. *Further recommends* the UNICEF to encourage its Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme to
261 partner with Member States in order to increase their capacity and to increase focus on the unique needs of
262 women and children during natural disasters and other emergencies;
263
- 264 20. *Calls upon* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to continue to work
265 with willing and able Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to promote the protection of
266 women before, during, and after disasters by promoting gender perspective trainings for humanitarian aid
267 workers;
268
- 269 21. *Requests* that Member States follow the standards of UNDP's Gender Approach in Conflict and Post Conflict
270 Situations, which outlines tools for gender mainstreaming in humanitarian response, in order to assess the
271 impact of natural disaster and other emergencies in relation to vulnerable groups;

- 272
273 22. *Invites* Member States to implement national policies that encourages inclusion of vulnerable groups across all
274 areas of public and private sectors into the elaboration of DRR strategies by:
275
276 a. Securing proper representation of vulnerable people groups in DRR strategies by recommending a
277 quota system to elevate participatory decision making;
278
279 b. Consulting experts to represent vulnerable people groups to encourage national policy protecting these
280 groups in their participation in society;
281
282 23. *Encourages* the increase of North-South and South-South cooperation in the vein of sharing Sex and Age
283 Disaggregated Data (SADD) and statistics in order to provide relevant information to Member States in need;
284
285 24. *Further encourages* that Member States produce reports including, funding, efficiency, safety, rehabilitation,
286 reintegration and anticorruption on vulnerable parts of their population by, collecting SADD according to the
287 age groups recommended by The Sphere Project handbook, pointing out issues pertaining to children, women,
288 and elders, and integrating those data and issues into DRR Strategies at a national level.



Code: GA3/1/9

Committee: General Assembly Third Committee

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

1 *The General Assembly Third Committee,*

2
3 *Guided by the content of Article 13(b) of the 1945 Charter of the United Nations, Articles 25 and Article 26 of the*
4 *1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for*
5 *Sustainable Development, which promotes the fundamental human right that everyone should have access to an*
6 *adequate standard of living and education, including in disaster situations, without discrimination based on race, age,*
7 *sex, language, or religion,*

8
9 *Acknowledging the need for improvement in education, coordination, disaster relief and preparedness, as noted in*
10 *the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,*

11
12 *Reaffirming the Sendai Framework, Article 23, calling for “an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of*
13 *vulnerabilities, capacities and exposure of persons and assets”,*

14
15 *Taking into account the role that language and appropriate translation practices play in the process of information*
16 *management and coordination, especially in relation to disaster relief and preparedness, as discussed in the United*
17 *Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report,*
18

19 *Regretting the barriers that developing countries face in mitigating natural disasters, such as lack of ability to create*
20 *and maintain technical infrastructure that helps integrate methodologies and knowledge from databases, such as the*
21 *United Nations Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) and*
22 *the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) which improve upon information exchange,*
23

24 *Reaffirming the success of the European Union’s Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Natural and Manmade*
25 *Disasters in Eastern Partnership Countries (PPRD East 2) regarding the management of disaster risk by developing*
26 *and connecting knowledge on risk exposure and vulnerability to various imminent threats,*
27

28 *Recognizing the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Sustainable*
29 *Development Goal 17, which outlines the critical nature of global partnerships in the effort to alleviate human*
30 *suffering,*

31
32 *Recalling the General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, which discusses the strengthening of the*
33 *coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,*
34

35 *Fully aware of the effect and influence that existing National Action Plans (NAPs) of Member States can have on*
36 *media and other educational programs, such as Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCC), that*
37 *aim to educate young people about risk management, including efforts such as the #Serbiafloods campaign through*
38 *social media,*
39

40 *Keeping in mind the increased demand for further connectivity, such as “eGovernment” initiatives that connect*
41 *citizens and local governments and help to identify specific needs within their borders by promoting networking,*
42

43 *Further recalling the General Assembly resolution 60/124 of 8 March 2006 and the creation of the Central*
44 *Emergency Response Fund (CERF), thereby providing a platform designed to enable rapid funding to humanitarian*
45 *responders in crisis-stricken areas,*
46

47 1. *Draws attention to the importance of Member States to acknowledge the importance of including all members*
48 *of society regardless of race, age, sex, language, or religion, for having an all-inclusive environment:*
49

- 50 a. Through campaigns that promote knowledge of differences and similarities between all people that
51 result in the inclusion of all persons;
52
- 53 b. To allow all members within a community to participate in education for enhancing disaster risk
54 management;
55
- 56 2. *Recommends* that, building upon the conclusions of the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and the
57 Workshop on the National Implementation of the Sendai Framework, the United Nations hosts regional
58 conferences, under the supervision of its regional commissions, on facilitating the implementation of the Sendai
59 Framework in all Member States for:
60
- 61 a. Encouraging policymakers present at the conference to establish national policies that connect private
62 investment with development of risk reduction infrastructure and research and development (R&D);
63
- 64 b. Discussing how developed countries can integrate and share successful programs into the national
65 context of developing countries while providing critical resources, such as funding and expertise on
66 successful education programs;
67
- 68 c. Urging developing countries to implement policies that allows for non-governmental organizations
69 (NGOs) cooperation with state actors to realize the Cluster Approach;
70
- 71 d. Sharing Member States' experience and knowledge about launching exercise, simulations, and drills to
72 help disaster responders and relief workers test and evaluate plans in the region;
73
- 74 3. *Welcomes* the contributions from NGOs to provide consultation, experience and knowledge to Member States
75 helping to advance sustainable and resilient societies through:
76
- 77 a. Mobilization of NGOs to educate the populace in their specific disciplines by:
78
- 79 i. Expanding participation of NGOs in regions where disasters are of regular occurrence;
80 ii. Creating programs to educate the public and promote a system of response unique to Latin
81 American nations;
82 iii. Publicizing the existence of NGOs and their participation in their region(s);
83
- 84 b. Formulation of curricula centered around disaster preparedness to be implemented in primary,
85 secondary, as well as postsecondary/higher education which will be:
86
- 87 i. Formulated by individual Member States as they see fit;
88 ii. Supported by necessary resources requested from the UN such as, but not limited to,
89 manpower, material resources, experience with disasters and preparedness, and the facilitation
90 of international collaborations regarding education in specific areas relating to disaster
91 preparedness as well as awareness;
92
- 93 c. Partnerships between Latin American states that offer different areas of educational expertise, to carry
94 out and/or work alongside any necessary plans to the needs of individual nations;
95
- 96 4. *Invites* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to increase coordination with local and
97 regional NGOs to encourage the implementation of translation support and cross-cultural courses within, and
98 between relief coordination programs to facilitate the effective training of field workers and other humanitarian-
99 based efforts, including, but not limited to:
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- 101 a. Establishing and implementing programs to assure marginalized populations, specifically local
102 minority languages, are reached in a more effective and coordinated manner;
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- 104 b. The participation of translators that will facilitate fair and equal communication between NGOs and
105 international agencies;

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5. *Calls for* improving the effectiveness of UN-SPIDER and International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) databases by extending and permitting access to the data collected through satellite technology directly by OCHA, for the purpose of better advising locally-operated NGOs which:
 - a. Further implements the efficient distribution of information of the impacts of disasters within local communities;
 - b. Shares best practices and effective mechanisms responding to natural disasters;
 - c. Provides accurate information on the needs of local populations in case of emergencies;
 - d. Strengthens the existing data collection mechanism to be more accountable and non-discriminatory, that is inclusive of all vulnerable individuals, groups, and communities in urban and rural areas, to respond effectively to diverse needs;
 - e. Establishes an independent review mechanisms to ensure quality and integrity of data collection, through a supervisory board, consisting of independent experts and data analysts from local NGOs;
 6. *Suggests* establishing public awareness programs to adapt the aforementioned program of PPRD East 2, to apply to a global scale, which would:
 - a. Ensure a proper understanding of the specific needs of particular geographical regions according to their disaster risk profile;
 - b. Reach out to United Nation affiliated bodies such as, but not limited to, UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) program to establish and maintain partnerships between the implicated parties;
 7. *Emphasizes* the need for Member States to improve communication and cooperation between public and private actors in times of crisis by the introduction of incentives and appointing special governmental advisors and officers responsible for the coordination of public and private actors in case of emergencies;
 8. *Requests* that the Inter-Agency Sub-Working Group on Preparedness works to train the aforementioned special governmental advisors and officers, particularly in Member States without training processes;
 9. *Calls upon* all Member States to inform and instruct the public on how to react to natural and manmade disasters through the implementation of educative programs, disaster drills, and expanding educational curriculums from pre-school to college, to address all aspects of disaster prevention and preparedness;
 10. *Encourages* Member States to promote the involvement of all citizens in emergency response service employment and volunteer/extracurricular opportunities, including but not limited to:
 - a. Social services and volunteer incentivizing programs based solely in localities of respective Member States;
 - b. Local school programs, preschool to college, such as awareness events promoting inclusive student involvement including:
 - i. Creating introductory programs aimed at youth interested in pursuing higher education;
 - ii. Introducing citizens to the inherent dangers of natural and manmade disasters;
 - iii. Giving insight and training on how to respond to the emergency;
 - c. Vocational training programs in collaboration with Global Communities Partners for Good Workforce Development Programs through programs such as local fire departments, CERF and other NGOs that provide emergency services;

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- i. Offering students involved in fields relevant to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 13 and 15 the opportunity to participate in a UN Development Programme (UNDP) that would operate parallel to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN over the next 13 years;
 - ii. Providing an accredited course for students who choose to participate in the aforementioned program;
 - iii. Encouraging students to return to their communities and apply the knowledge they have gained to benefit their respective local populace;
 - iv. Involving students in areas most affected by natural and/or manmade disasters;
 - d. Long term training programs including coordination with the World Health Organization and Doctors Without Borders, for first-aid training for citizens in post disaster areas;
 - e. A program that focuses on delivering critical life saving resources to older persons, who are situated in vulnerable areas that are highly affected by natural disasters such as emergency responses including, but not limited to, emergency response including ambulatory services and rapid evacuation, delivery of medical supplies, and temporary shelters;
11. *Encourages* Member States to further reconsider the lasting impact of education in disaster risk preparedness, promoted through several platforms, such as the promotion of media, including television, radio, and social media, to create widespread campaigns to educate people, especially young people in schools, about natural disasters they may be affected by and how to properly prepare and respond to said natural disasters, through:
- a. Ensuring that government officials concern themselves with the protections of its citizens through NAPs dealing with how states contribute effective and immediate aid when needed;
 - b. Enacting education reform to specifically target marginalized groups:
 - i. Asserting that marginalized groups such as the youth, elderly and impoverished populations are disproportionately impacted by natural disasters and other emergencies;
 - ii. Taking note of the policy recommendations that other developed countries have received from UNITAR representatives in humanitarian response tactics through alliances with strong response programs;
12. *Recommends* that Member States seek to implement “eGovernment” initiatives where citizens can provide feedback to their local and sub-national governments for the purposes of:
- a. Allowing Member States to identify specific citizen needs within their borders by networking between local governments and its citizens, to be submitted via internet and continual reporting in annual conferences with the national government;
 - b. Utilizing internationally-applicable databases in analyzing the scope of natural disasters to provide accurate and timely information through satellite telecommunications to local decision makers and affect citizens;
 - c. Encouraging Member States to identify resource deficiencies in providing disaster preparedness feedback to their Member State governments;
 - d. Highlighting clear areas for improvement within Member States where the United Nations or NGOs can fulfill these needs in the future;
13. *Encourages* UNISDR, UNHCR, and NGOs to assist in hosting a regional workshop to share Member States’ experience and knowledge about launching exercises, simulations, and drills to help disaster responders and relief workers test and evaluate plans in the region by:

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- a. Taking pre-existing civilian preparation training programs from within states and expanding them to those who lack such programs, to maximize their effect throughout global regions which implements intricate natural disaster evacuation drills and procedures in both the workplace and schools, and creates workshops in both the workplace and schools;
 - b. Exchanging techniques that have been successful amongst Member States about how to properly mitigate the catastrophes that result from a natural and/or manmade disasters by:
 - i. Implementing a databank amongst regional blocs regarding the anticipation of natural disasters and/or other emergencies originating from local research facilities or experts;
 - ii. Appointing independent natural disaster response experts, who have prior experience regarding natural disasters, to seek out individuals that are particularly vulnerable and develop specific and appropriate strategies for these people;
14. *Supports* the increase of voluntary contribution for funding through NGOs, such as the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to implement all the aforementioned regionally based training programs.