

Code: GA/2/1
Committee: General Assembly Plenary
Subject: Water and Disasters

The General Assembly Plenary,

Emphasizing the importance of evaluating and decreasing the negative consequences of natural disasters, especially flooding and earthquakes,

Acknowledging the necessity of coordination in the aftermath of earthquakes and flooding in terms of communication with victims and damage assessments to assist in response, recovery, and resilience,

Realizing the need for an international disaster and post-disaster coordination strategy for response and recovery focusing on technology and information sharing on earthquakes and flooding that can be utilized by all Member States bearing in mind the consideration of best practices,

Reaffirming the necessity of cooperative technology sharing programs similar to Turkey's Earthquake Disaster Prevention Project with Japan,

Appreciating the work of the United Nations Under-Secretary General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC) overseeing all emergencies requiring United Nations humanitarian assistance and providing coordination in times following natural-disasters through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) established in A/RES/48/57,

Noting with satisfaction the work of the United Nations Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), which seeks to ensure Member States and organizations have access to and can utilize all types of space-based information to support the disaster management cycle as established in A/RES/61/110,

Emphasizing the ability of Member States without Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to partner bilaterally or multilaterally with Member States to harness UN-SPIDER technology similar to Turkey's partnership with the European Space Agency Workshop,

1. *Calls for* Member States to enact a comprehensive coordination strategy through the USG/ERC to provide assistance after the occurrence of flooding and earthquakes through:
 - a. National damage assessment mechanisms to ensure accurate evaluations of destruction and loss;
 - b. Regional and global information and technology sharing on best practices through resource sharing and partnerships between developing and developed Member

States;

- c. Coordination of national and regional emergency relief and communication strategies to ensure that victims can receive aid quickly and adequately addressing post-earthquake and flooding scenarios;
2. *Calls upon* Member States to form best practice sharing partnerships to facilitate information and technology sharing on data and solutions relating to flooding and earthquakes through national and regional reports to the UN USG/ERC;
3. *Suggests* the implementation of national damage assessment technology to estimate and survey the extent of the damage caused by floods and earthquakes modeled after the Earthquake Disaster Prevention Project by:
 - a. Utilizing broadband tele-seismic network to provide immediate information to civilians;
 - b. Aiding in assisting and assessing the necessary response activities in flooding and earthquakes;
4. *Encourages* the distribution, upkeep and usage of satellite phones through nationally run communication ministries to local authorities in areas prone to these and other natural disasters to be utilized in the case of power outages and severed communication lines to allow for the retrieval of site specific information on damages in order to best provide damage assessments to the national government and international coordination forces and humanitarian aid to the victims;
5. *Recommends* the use of isotope hydrology technology by Member States with the oversight of national resource management agencies to research and monitor how disasters such as floods and earthquakes affect water supplies through:
 - a. Monitoring the given water flows of existing bodies of water to identify potential water hazards;
 - b. Identifying the molecular composition of the water in order to ensure it is not contaminated and is a potable water source;
6. *Suggests* the utilization of national geographical surveys conducted by Member States and/or other entities providing humanitarian assistance incorporating to locate sustainable settlement locations for disaster victims based on geophysical data gathered in post-earthquake assessments to increase human security and ensure adequate national strategies for temporary housing for victims of earthquakes and flooding following damage assessment under the auspices of UN-SPIDER.

Code: GA//2/2
Committee: General Assembly Plenary
Subject: Water and Disasters

The General Assembly Plenary,

Aware of the increasing number of events of hydrometeorological origin that constitute the large majority of natural disasters,

Understanding that global climate change directly affects the magnitude and the frequency of natural disasters including natural disasters related to water,

Realizing the importance of improving educational programs that inform the public and private sector of the most sustainable use of natural resources bearing in mind Principles 7, 8, and 9 of the United Nations Global Compact realizing that precautionary and preventative measures are less of an expense than remediation measures,

Keeping in mind the World Summit on the International Society's Declaration of Principles (2008) that emphasizes the potential benefits of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) with regard to disaster risk reduction and prevention,

Acknowledging the importance of bridging the North-South data gap as stated in the Tunis Commitment (2005) to allow new ICT to be equitable and accessible to all people,

Emphasizing efforts to reduce risks for natural disasters must be systematically integrated in programmes, plans, and policies for sustainable development and global climate change,

Recognizing the importance of programs such as the World Water Forum in the education of irrigation, water management, hydrology, water basin pollution, water usage, floods, and hydropower,

Taking note of the Global Digital Solidarity Fund which reduces the digital divide and allows developing Member States to promote technological advancement and enhance their productivity through ICT contract procurement initiatives,

1. *Recommends* that the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establish the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Reduction Division (IDD) within each United Nations Regional Commission, to be modeled after the one established in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in order to use ICT to educate, analyze and advise all Member States and other stakeholders including civil society, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international development agencies in their respective regions of the linkage between sustainability measures, global climate change, and water related disasters by:

- a. Preparing an Education for Sustainability and Natural Disaster Prevention Guide to be available on the IDD website;
 - i. focusing on the effects of human activities on the biosphere including agriculture, deforestation, manufacturing, transportation and recreation;
 - ii. educating the private sector on how to apply principles of sustainable development in the context of their economic activities;
 - b. Holding e-workshops and e-lectures designed to encourage Member States to adopt climate change adaptation and green initiatives into their development agenda by encouraging and educating the Member States in each of the UN regional commissions about the use of sustainable energy projects, including but not limited to wind and solar power initiatives;
 - c. Cooperating with United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCOs) online database on Climate Change Education (CCE) by creating teaching and learning materials, scientific articles, pedagogical approaches and multimedia material;
2. *Recommends* the regional commissions to write annual reports outlining the progress of the IDDs to be reviewed and published by ECOSOC;
 3. *Further recommends* that all Member States raise awareness among all citizens and the private sector and promote education on disaster risk reduction by:
 - a. Including sustainability, disaster risk reduction, and climate change as part of school curricula at the primary and tertiary levels to reach youth and children with information regarding disaster prevention;
 - b. Offering seminars to the private sector's industry leaders on how to encourage sustainable development and encouraging the utilization and introduction of environmentally friendly business practices placing a priority on the principles 7, 8, and 9 of the UN Global Compact;
 - c. Encouraging regional NGOs to provide academic, social, and economic advice to their respective governments on proper natural resource management with regard to sustainability and accountability;
 4. *Encourages* the implementation of hydropower educational seminars within each UN Regional Commission through the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) to educate Member States on the benefits, costs, and maintenance of hydroelectric plants, dams, and other hydroelectric facilities;
 5. *Further encourages* the use of existing funds within the Global Digital Solidarity Fund, to:

- a. Finance community-based projects that take into account local realities while attempting to provide universal access to ICT,
 - b. Provide donated and used technological devices through public and private partners associated with the fund,
 - c. Initiate dialogue, information and data sharing through ICTs between developed and developing Member States to increase human capacity and development;
6. *Suggests* the establishment of a working group called Natural Disaster Need Assessment Taskforce (NDNAT), under the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to act as liaison between the Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Reduction Division (IDD), UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) to investigate, share expertise, and information knowledge, including:
- a. Consisting of nine independent rotating experts from each of the United Nations Regional Commission's IDD, and one from IOC, WMO, IHP, and UNESCO who are specialized in natural disaster prevention that create and define standards and terminology for natural disaster prevention and climate change,
 - b. Meeting biannually in rotating cities to be decided at the end of each session with the first meeting to be held in Doha, Qatar on the 15th of January and subsequently the 15th of July in order to report and discuss the status of the natural disaster prevention through ICT development and education by the regional IDDs,
 - c. Funded annually by the State of Qatar in the amount of 4,700,000 USD, in addition to funding that is provided by willing and able Member States.

Code: GA/2/3

Committee: General Assembly Plenary

Subject: Water and Disasters

The General Assembly Plenary,

Recalling the Hyogo Framework for Action, priority for Action 3 which emphasizes the dissemination of good practices on disaster risk and facilitating the exchange of lessons and experiences on disaster prevention and response,

Recognizing the efforts of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in promoting the inclusion of disaster risk reduction (DRR) throughout educational curricula while emphasizing the need for interactive learning,

Highlighting UNICEF's DRR Report which outlines current efforts being made to include DRR in school curricula,

Reminding Member States that educating the youth through enhanced school curricula will create a more informed community capable of responding effectively to disasters,

Supporting the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction A/RES/64/200 which calls upon Member States to increase awareness for disaster risks,

Reaffirming the efforts made by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) which coordinates the implementation of the international strategy for disaster reduction,

Emphasizing A/RES/67/209 which stresses the importance of strengthening state inter-linkages and coordination efforts,

1. *Calls Upon* Member States to implement frameworks for risk reduction and disaster response consistent with the priorities of the HFA if one does not currently exist;
2. *Urges* all Member States to evaluate existing risk reduction strategies and response plans in order to strengthen existing frameworks to meet post disaster needs and update these frameworks based on the information from national, governmental, and regional organizations and data gleaned from programs such as the UN-HABITAT's H2.0 database or Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency;
3. *Encourages* all Member States to consult with university experts, existing emergency response teams, and local authorities to educate youth by creating state specific guidelines on disaster prevention and responses approved by both UNICEF and any other bodies that a Member State may deem necessary by the beginning of each year;
4. *Suggests* implementing these guidelines into school curricula as determined by Member States:

- a. Including them in each Member State's current mandatory teaching standards;
 - b. Encouraging participatory learning through activities that are already embedded in the current school system including but not limited to physical education, art, skits, and interactive games;
5. *Calls upon* Member States to further adopt DRR into their schools' curriculum by:
- a. Allocating at minimum 0.2% of existing education budgets or the amount that each Member State deems possible towards schools for DRR and disaster management so that each school is properly prepared;
 - b. Encouraging universities to adopt scholarships encouraging majors concerning or leading to DRR such as engineering, architecture, meteorology, and other applicable areas of study relevant to respective Member States;
6. *Encourages* Member States to participate in open-dialogue and best-practice sharing through available resources such as PreventionWeb under the UNISDR;
7. *Recommends* Member States prioritize training first responders in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to create more effective reactions to inevitable disasters which includes but is not limited to emphasizing basic medical training, proper aid distribution, and planned evacuation routes;
8. *Suggests* Member States establish family reunification plans to ensure that, in the event of a disaster, separated families can reunite at specified locations;
9. *Suggests* capable Member States to utilize mass media to disseminate knowledge and awareness through:
- a. Short films that target specific audiences in demonstrating proper protocol in addressing disasters;
 - b. Other advertisement initiatives including but not limited to those on public transportation and social media.

Code: GA/2/4
Committee: General Assembly
Subject: Water and Disasters

The General Assembly,

Recalling A/RES/56/165 and A/RES/60/195, which stress the importance of a technical approach to prevent and manage the effects of disasters,

Reaffirming the guidelines within the Hyogo Framework for Action, such as the use of risk maps, statistics, warning systems, and the creation of national disaster reduction plans for Member States,

Taking into consideration the discrepancies between countries in terms of development, specifically focusing on technology availability,

Emphasizing the role of early warning systems as a corner stone of preparation, as well as an opportunity to reduce the effects of disasters,

Bearing in mind the importance of keeping communication channels open for the purposes of collecting and sharing information so other countries can benefit from the expertise of Member States in developing risk reduction techniques,

Encouraging the implementation of information sharing techniques such as the UN-HABITAT H2.0 database,

Recognizing the importance of incorporating integrated urban water management to address floods,

Stressing the importance of preventive measures in order to mitigate the risks of water related disasters,

Further recognizing the success of the integration of information and technology through regional centers of United Nations Platform for Space Based Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) by improving efficiency,

Seeking Member States to provide early warning technology in order to allow adequate time to address disasters,

Recognizing the importance of collecting and sharing information with technology such as, but not limited to, social media,

Taking note of the experience of countries that use the mobile phone alerting system specifically by means of sending messages,

Stressing the need for Member States to demonstrate the determination required to utilize scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards,

Recognizing the devastating effects of the cyclone Haiyan in the Philippines in November 2013 and the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami in March 2011,

Stressing the importance of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Incident and Emergency Center in its response to the 2011 Fukushima disaster,

Emphasizing the need for a surveillance and monitoring mechanism for Member States,

1. *Recommends* the construction of storm water management systems, especially in vulnerable geographical locations in order to provide structural measures (i.e. hydraulics) to be upgraded in urban areas;
2. *Suggests* that hydro-climatic data becomes public goods to share on the national, regional and global level;
3. *Invites* all Member States to adopt their respective Inter Agency Standing Committee process under the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) to better utilize and share technologies between developed countries and developing countries;
4. *Recommends* *firms* supports for the use of technological developments such as 'Adept Water Technology' to create potable water areas where clean water is unavailable;
5. *Fully supports* the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) which provides clean water to the world by transferring advanced technologies assistance to the developing countries in order to achieve an environmental sustainability and also drinkable water to disasters' affected people;
6. *Recommends* Member States to implement Early Warning System on the regional level to facilitate an accurate and decisive prevention plan:
 - a. suggesting the implementation of the European Driven Early Warning System supported by the European Union to be extended to other regions;
 - b. by cooperation between developed and developing countries, data and information sharing among the regional alert systems;
8. *Encourages* Member States to use radio channels as a tool for alerting the citizens on the local and regional levels about the emergencies that are continuously affecting the lives of the civilians especially in the vulnerable communities and also to utilize televisions for emergency broadcasting sessions to decide on the most appropriate course of action to mitigate the situation;
9. *Invites* all Member States to utilize Geographical Information System that has the specific function of recognizing the territory and the location of shelters, as well as providing basic needs such as food and non-food items;

10. *Recommends* the sustainable growth of each Member State, through cooperation and the sharing of best-practices and technology which are pertinent to the risk management, response, and recovery from natural disasters, through south-south cooperation and state level partnerships, to increase the utilization of Early Warning Systems, Member States should focus on:

- a. Risk knowledge, ensuring that individuals at the local, state and international level are well informed on the potential risks and damages associated with natural disasters and are prepared to recognize the early signs of disaster and the practical application of disaster risk reduction technologies;
- b. Monitoring and Warning Systems such as the General Directorate of the Disaster Affairs, and the partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the United States of America and the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM) which foster collaboration between states and synthesizes relevant and known information regarding early warning signs so that it can be used effectively and efficiently in conjunction with relevant technologies;
- c. Dissemination and communication of relevant information between states fostering individual state partnerships which encourage the best practices of relevant technology;
- d. Response capabilities which address the particular concerns of affected areas and take into consideration the individual capacities of each state and work to increase sustainable solutions which can be implemented through increased cooperation of Member States;

11. *Emphasizes* the need for the coordination of satellite and space related early warning systems by increased partnerships with the United Nations Platform for Space Based Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) to facilitate more effective communication, such as the partnership between EMERCOM and FEMA which has been facilitated by UN-SPIDER;

12. *Invites* Member States to contribute to the aforementioned information database which will be set up under the UNISDR:

- a. by fostering partnerships between Member States and regional UN-SPIDER offices, enhancing the use of relevant technologies;
- b. by coordinating and synthesizing space and satellite information gained from UN-SPIDER regional offices with the ground information collected by individual Member States and relevant bodies and the information database of the UNISDR;

13. *Recognizes* the partnerships between UN-SPIDER and Member States and fostering international partnership at the regional, state and local level all Member States can be better prepared in the event of a natural disaster, and sustainably enhance the prevention, response, and reconstruction capacities through efficient and applicable use of relevant technologies;

14. *Recommends* Member States partner with international organizations and NGOs, in order to equitably distribute technology resources;

15. *Calls upon* Member States to actively participate in the use of UNISDR Prevention Web in order to provide information in the native languages of disaster affected countries;

16. *Encourages* the promotion of educational programs provided by specialized engineers to be held in developing countries as long-term means for disaster prevention and self-dependency in order to:

- a. develop practice guidelines for water-resistant buildings and warning system plans to improve a concrete risk reduction program;
- b. promote the Basic Education for Growth Initiative such as the program supported in Japan in order to provide universal primary education;
- c. transfer proper technologies to developing countries in order to reduce the vulnerability and to allow these countries to become self sufficient in times of disasters and crisis;

17. *Encourages* Member States of the IAEA to review nuclear security guidelines and recommends the implementation of an emergency response workshop with the goals of:

- a. testing emergency response equipment;
- b. upgrading high capacity pumps to improve backup cooling;
- c. improving nuclear security safe guards in regard to monitoring, lightening, and communication systems;
- d. implementing nuclear security programs to train and educate nuclear power plant employees and emergency responders;
- e. installing multilevel built in safety features to withstand natural and water related disasters.

Code: GA//2/5
Committee: General Assembly Plenary
Subject: Water and Disasters

The General Assembly,

Alarmed by the dramatic impact of water-related natural disasters, causing great casualties to people all over the world; as seen in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in November 2013, posing a threat to vulnerable parts of civil society, especially children, elderly people and women,

Expressing deep regret at the astonishing number of lives lost each year to the preventative scourge of unclean water,

Taking note of the Charter of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the Code of Conduct of Stichting Oxfam International, as well as the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Disaster and Relief by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), all of which codify and standardize international responses to natural disasters on the humanitarian aid level,

Noting further the commitments of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and NGOs, such as the White Helmets Commission, to reduce mortality rates caused by water-related disasters and assist in disaster risk reduction by coordinated support to Member States,

Recalling the sixth Millennium Development Goal to combat infection diseases,

Guided by Hyogo Framework for Action, established by A/RES/60/195 on the International Strategy on Disaster Reduction, which works towards education of people to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels in endangered societies, and emphasises the need for further action towards awareness raising in terms of water and disaster,

Fully aware of the need for transparency measures in the allocation of funds concerning humanitarian aid pertaining to natural and man-made disasters,

Welcoming the results of conferences on water and disasters related to sanitation, hygiene and preventative measures for waterborne diseases, such as the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Fifth South Asia Conference on Sanitation,

Further recalling A/RES/64/292 on the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, and A/RES/65/157, which emphasize the necessity of access to clean water and sanitation,

Commends the efforts of existing bodies within the United Nations humanitarian aid framework, such as the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, which distributes funds for projects related to the prevention and treatment of waterborne diseases by the United Nations

Children's Fund (UNICEF), or hygiene projects, including the provision of clean drinking water, by the World Health Organization (WHO),

Expressing its hope for further improvements of cooperation between the aforementioned Agencies through regular information exchange and reporting mechanisms,

1. *Renews* the invitation within A/RES/54/219 for Member States to evaluate multi donor trust funds such as the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction as a means of providing immediate relief for areas suffering from disasters;
2. *Calls upon* Member States to continuously work closely with international non-governmental organizations, such as MSF, Oxfam and IFRC, and to put their existing guidelines into action through:
 - a. Facilitating their work by creating regular reports and updating their data bases on the population in endangered and vulnerable areas;
 - b. Making the aforementioned information available to international NGOs upon occurrence of a natural disaster in an exclusive online source, provided and managed by the UNISDR, which these NGOs can easily access;
3. *Encourages* all Member States to collaborate on the creation of a concrete common Global Action Plan for Fast Disaster Response, following the example of the Fifth South Asia Conference on Sanitation, which will focus on:
 - a. International, governmental and local levels to alleviate the impact of water-related natural and human-made disasters by facilitating a three-level exchange through
 - i. The creation of a specialized sub-committee of the UNISDR named Fast Disaster Response Committee, which will attend an annual forum hosted and sponsored by New Zealand and that will look upon concrete strategies on how Member States can work collaboratively in supporting one another when natural disasters strike;
 - ii. Utilizing mechanisms already in place within existing regional coalitions;
 - iii. Including private sectors into the discussions on the above mentioned strategies;
 - b. Adding disaster risk reduction programmes to national education systems and school curricula to mitigate the lack of awareness within the local communities on the subject of water sanitation, food security and hygiene in a post-disaster context;
 - c. Fostering a spirit of mutual accountability between Member States to assist one another when natural disasters occur;
 - d. Acknowledging the current state of technological development and providing detailed guidelines for states on how to quickly access available humanitarian goods for disaster relief, such as

portable tents developed by United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the provision of orally administered vaccines which can be provided at a low cost, hygiene products, disaster-preparedness kits containing water-proofed handbooks outlining courses of action to take during times of disasters in the regional language, flashlights and whistles to first responders;

4. *Further encourages* Member States to ensure transnational cooperation in the event of disasters by:
 - a. Evaluating the varying relief and support capacities of each Member State in the occurrence of a natural disaster;
 - b. Providing aid where affected States require further assistance, all beyond the obstacle of differentiating political, religious or social ideologies;
5. *Reminds* all Member States to work in collaboration with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) which will facilitate the implementation of transnational actions and initiatives through:
 - a. Overseeing the operational coordination across borders in disaster situations, in partnership with willing and capable Member States;
 - b. Assessing situations and needs;
 - c. Agreeing on common priorities;
 - d. Developing common strategies to address issues such as access of aid organizations and relief workers;
 - e. Mobilizing funding and other voluntary contributions of donor states;
6. *Suggests* the establishment of national specialized agencies under the supervision of the government to ensure that the distribution of humanitarian aid is effective and beneficial to all affected by an occurred natural disaster, and has the function of:
 - a. An advisory board, composed of representatives of these Agencies along with governmental officials, to identify the fastest way of enabling the above mentioned NGOs to get timely access into affected areas;
 - b. Reporting their annual evaluation to UNOCHA to ensure that the distributed funds were utilized properly;
7. *Further suggests* Member States to implement disaster loss data bases gathered by national research institutions in order to:
 - a. Identify risk areas and access damages;

- b. Prevent further casualties of water disasters;
 - c. Move forward with post-disaster reconstruction and recovery;
 - d. Facilitate the effective transfer of response and recovery efforts between Member States and involved aid agencies;
8. *Recommends* the international community to forge partnerships with the private sector under the auspices of the United Nations Global Compact in order to craft cohesive plans that best mitigate the harms that water-related disasters cause;
 9. *Further recommends* Member States to create public-private partnerships with producers of basic sanitation products, in which mitigating waterborne diseases after disasters occur should be the focus and which enable quick distribution of such products in the case of emergency through regionally available resources;
 10. *Emphasizes* the importance of close cooperation with the civil society and governments through awareness-raising campaigns, training of aid response teams and leadership training to help the population deal with challenges once disaster strikes;
 11. *Fully encourages* Member States to incorporate waterborne diseases awareness into existing disaster relief programs and education initiatives.

Code:GA/2/6

Committee: The General Assembly Plenary

Subject: Water and Disasters

The General Assembly Plenary,

Reaffirming the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),

Recalling the International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties of 1969 and the International Convention for Prevention of Pollution from Ship (MARPOL) of 1973,

Further recalling the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter of 1972, as well as the Protocol Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Pollution by Substances Other Than Oil of 1973,

Taking note of the absence of an implementation mechanism of the provisions of the International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties of 1969 and MARPOL of 1973,

Bearing in mind the devastating consequences of oil spills and natural gas leaks on the environmental safety of water bodies, such as the environmental disasters caused by the Torrey Canyon oil spill in 1967, the Exxon Valdez oil spill in United States, the Limburg oil spill in the Gulf of Aden off Yemen in 2002, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010,

Acknowledging the importance of preserving biodiversity and marine and terrestrial ecosystems together with the livelihoods that depend on them,

Realizing the serious threats posed to marine and terrestrial environments by oil pollution, incidents involving ships, offshore drilling units, pipelines and oil handling facilities,

Noting that the failure to adequately secure the transportation of oil, natural gas, and other forms of energy through waterways can lead to natural disasters,

Recalling A/RES/65/147 which welcomes the agreement of the Lebanon Recovery Fund to host the Eastern Mediterranean Restoration Trust Fund, based on voluntary contribution,

1. *Reaffirms* the global responsibility of all Member States in protecting the environmental safety of territorial and international waters and the economic livelihoods which depend on them;

2. *Reminds* Member States to sign and ratify the International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties of 1969; MARPOL of 1973; the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter of 1972; the Protocol Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Pollution by Substances Other Than Oil of 1973; the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Co-operation of 1990; as well as the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships of 2001;
3. *Establishes* an ad-hoc committee to be called the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Implementation of the Prevention of Marine Disasters (AHCIPMD) under the General Assembly which shall:
 - a. Function for the duration of three-years with the possibility of extension;
 - b. Report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations annually on the progress of the work of the Committee;
 - c. Meet bi-annually at the United Nations Headquarters in New York;
4. Recommends the mandate of the AHCIPMD to include:
 - a. Recommendations on the minimum manufacturing standards of oil tankers and transport companies, and/or organizations to prevent failures during construction and transportation;
 - b. Recommendations on the legal responsibility of flagship, ownership, and nationality of the crews of the oil and natural gas tankers;
 - c. Recommendations on accountability guidelines in situations of oil spills and natural gas leaks in territorial and international waters;
5. *Recommends* that the body of AHCIPMD consist of environmental, energy, and legal experts from UN agencies such as, but not limited to, the UN Secretariat, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and the International Seabed Authority (ISA);
6. *Appreciates* a one-time contribution of 100,000,000 USD from the State of Qatar, in addition to voluntary contributions by any other willing and able Member States to fund the functioning and programming of AHCIPMD;
7. *Requests* that the UN General Assembly Sixth Committee formulate recommendations addressing the enforcement mechanisms of the International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties of 1969; the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other

Matter of 1972; MARPOL of 1973; the Protocol Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Pollution by Substances Other Than Oil of 1973; the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Co-operation of 1990; and the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships of 2001 to be presented to this plenary in its next session;

8. *Suggests* the parties to the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC) to amend to the Convention to:
 - a. Change the interval time between re-examining the containers of oil and natural gas tankers from 30 to 20 months;
 - b. Specify the optional re-examinations of containers to take place every ten months;
9. *Condemns* the systemic targeting of oil operations in armed conflict due to its severe negative environmental impacts, such as destruction of natural habitat and loss of ecosystem diversity;
10. *Recommends* the establishment of the Middle East and North African Oil Spill Restoration Trust Fund (MENASRTF) to be hosted by the Qatari Investment Authority through voluntary contributions from Middle Eastern and North African Member States, oil companies, and private donors to:
 - a. Provide logistical and technical support to Member States, especially Middle Eastern and North African States, adversely affected by the oil spill such as skimmers and dispersants;
 - b. Ensure the integrated environmental-friendly management, such as cleaning-up oil spills to a responsible disposal of oil waste by providing the financial means;
11. *Suggests* that the UN Secretariat provide technical and logistical assistance to MENASRTF in order for the Trust Fund to be utilized effectively;
12. *Further suggests* that MENASRTF publish frequent, detailed expenditure and financial reports to be:
 - a. Drafted by the Trust Fund's Steering Committee that will consist of members from each Middle Eastern and North African Member State to be appointed by the Qatari Investment Authority every four years;
 - b. Reviewed by the UN Secretariat to further ensure the sustainability of the Trust Fund.

Code: GA/2/7
Committee: General Assembly
Subject: Water and Disasters

The General Assembly,

Considering the extensive damage caused by Typhoon Haiyan on November 7-8, 2013 in the Republic of the Philippines,

Affirming the importance of reducing the vulnerability of economies to natural hazards by focusing on Disaster Risk Reduction strategies,

Recognizing the destructive nature and global impact of natural hazards and the need for a comprehensive method to deal with the resulting damages and to apply preemptive mitigation techniques that reduce the vulnerability of developing or at risk countries,

Acknowledging the effectiveness of the Emission Trading Scheme in the European Union reducing carbon emissions through transnational cooperation, as can be seen by China's successful implementation of ETS within their region,

Reiterating the effectiveness of the ETS, as stated in Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol, which can be implemented as a cost effective program on an international scale allowing the economic and environmental cooperation of Member States in conjunction with the Durban Platform,

Desiring more regional programmes pertaining to DRR elicited within the Hyogo Framework for Action, established by A/RES/60/195 and resolution A/RES/67/209, which highlight the importance of international, state and local cooperation,

Reaffirming the efforts made by the United Nations Office for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) which coordinates the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Recognizing the continually growing financial costs of disaster relief, the need for a more efficient allocation of funds relating to development, humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction aid and the necessity for improved coordination to manage funds in a more efficient manner,

Further recognizing that the private sector, like businesses with global supply chains in developing states, have an interest and valid stake in the stability of their investments and encouraging them to fund sustainable development initiatives in developing countries vulnerable to natural hazards,

Noting with approval that the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) has a strategic policy initiative for private sector entities that commit to aligning their operations and strategies for useful local environmental initiatives,

Noting that only one percent of development aid goes toward DRR, yet the financial costs that results from natural hazards are much larger and have grave consequences to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process, which includes humanitarian action plans and corresponding funding requirements of \$8.5 billion to meet the needs of fifty-one million people across sixteen major global crises,

Acknowledging the importance of bridging the North-South data gap to empower developing Member States to access, support, and contribute to information sharing and preventative measure dialogues,

Fully aware of the contributions made by the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Pilot Program to underdeveloped States in the Pacific Island,

1. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, UN agencies, and other actors to increase cooperation and coordination in order to help create effective and efficient prevention policies:
 - a. By aiding partnerships between Member States with similar economies in addition to geographical regions, recognizing that similar economies are well-suited to collaborate;
 - b. By suggesting the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) establish recommendations for countries affected by seasonal natural hazards;
 - c. By increasing cooperation between international organizations and private sectors such as the World Economic Forum, UNGC, and non-governmental organizations that create workshops which advocates for awareness-raising activities on water and disaster;
2. *Recommends* Member States to implement Emissions Trading Schemes (ETS) as climate policy instruments to effectively reduce carbon emissions through transnational cooperation:
 - a. By including interested Member States in existing ETS groups;
 - b. By assisting in the development of scope, cap settings, allowance allocation, monitoring, reporting and verification, market oversight and compliance mechanisms of additional ETS regional bodies;
3. *Invites* all Member States to recognize the significance of the Global Green Growth Forum (3GF), which has the potential to reduce the environmental degradation without hindering economic growth, by:
 - a. Creating strong national green initiatives suited to each Member State;
 - b. By taking into account each Member State's economic situation;

- c. By creating appropriate initiatives based on their capacities in accordance to the Durban platform;
4. *Encourages* Member States to focus support on implementing effective national, regional, and global initiatives to improve resilience efforts by fully supporting the usage of catastrophe risk instruments to reduce financial vulnerability to natural hazards of developing countries whom are heavily afflicted by natural hazards;
5. *Calls for* the creation of a support system similar to the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Pilot Program, which offers immediate funding to Pacific Island Countries in the aftermath of severe natural disasters and catastrophes:
 - a. By inviting contributions made by developed Member States as well as agencies such as the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative (PCRAFI) with the financial support of the government of Japan, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the purpose of equipping pacific islands with the tools and ideas for disaster risk managements as well as financially support these islands in the events of a disaster in order to lessen the economic costs;
 - b. Supporting the usage of catastrophe risk instruments to reduce financial vulnerability concerning disasters in developing Member States that are heavily effected by catastrophes;
6. *Calls Upon* Member States to incorporate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies into development planning in accordance with policies and mandates set out by UNISDR, recommending infrastructure be built to withstand natural hazards, by ensuring:
 - a. Houses are built on higher ground where possible;
 - b. Hospitals are capable of enduring earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters;
 - c. Schools can be used as shelters from natural disaster and be used in relief efforts there after;
7. *Suggests* UN agencies with funds related to development, humanitarian, disaster relief, and DRR need to reevaluate the allocation of funds, focusing on DRR strategies in an effort to alleviate the financial costs of damage and loss caused by natural disasters;
8. *Reminds* Member States to utilize the national adaptation strategies under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to improve coordination and coherence for maximum cost-effectiveness;
9. *Encourages* the use of existing funds within the Global Digital Solidarity Fund (GDSF), which allows developing Member States to access and contribute to information sharing:
 - a. By creating an information system wherein both developing and developed Member States are able to initiate dialogue and share data on green initiatives and preventative

measures for best practice amongst Member States in the hope to reduce the frequency and intensity of natural disasters;

- b. By incorporating the first annual summit, scheduled to take place in Tehran, Iran on the 14th of September 2014 and open to all Member States, especially those involved in the GDSF, and stakeholders to assess improvement and additional needs concerning Member States regarding the GDSF as well as planning for the next summit's location and funding, with funding for this summit being provided by Iran;
10. *Encourages* Member States to support Public-Private Partnerships by creating opportunities for cooperation through micro-credit financing of people who are affected by disasters.

Code: GA/2/8
Committee: General Assembly Plenary
Subject: Waters and Disasters

The General Assembly,

Expressing deep concern for the devastations caused by the recent natural disaster, Typhoon Haiyan, in the Philippines and the lack of worldwide coordination in such disaster relief efforts,

Acknowledging the need to encourage psychological assistance of post-disasters victims to ensure a comprehensive approach that encompasses a holistic medical aspect,

Reaffirming A/RES/67/84 adopted to strengthen the coordination of UN humanitarian assistance towards natural disasters, relief, and development alongside the “White Helmets”,

Convinced that the Disaster Prevention Programme can aid in mitigating disaster risks involves effective initiatives which improve the coordination of incoming relief efforts,

Considering the Ten Essentials of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign of the UNDISR,

Emphasizing the past and recent efforts of UN bodies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which aids areas affected by water and natural disasters, such as ActionAid, which also helps facilitate the integration of women’s participation in preventative disaster efforts,

Deeply concerned that natural disasters have caused immense devastation with loss of life resulting in long-term-social, economic and environmental damage, and that many countries lack the capacity and preparation to respond to such devastations,

Reiterating A/RES/67/87, which calls for strengthened humanitarian response, coordination, policy-making, performance, funding and accountability to respond to disasters and water-related issues,

Encouraging all Member States to invest and enhance in systematical measures, which support vulnerable groups, such as *Disaster Preparedness for the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid* (DIPECHO),

Realizing that women play a crucial role in water management and mobilizing communities to reduce the impact of weather and climate related hazards as climate change becomes more evident and a gender-sensitive perspective is thus necessary, such as *Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis* (SEAGA),

Recalling the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA) Action 3, which calls for a gender perspective in all disaster risk management policies plans,

Bearing in mind “Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Natural Disasters” Report, which addresses sexual and gender-based violence during disasters,

Recognizing that reducing women’s vulnerabilities through capacity-building and instilling new skills and knowledge in disaster reduction initiatives is an effective approach to disaster reduction, as seen in the efforts achieved by UN Water Task Force on Gender,

1. *Suggest* Member States the use of the PRACTICE Strategy (Prepare Recover Analyze Care Train Implement Communicate Efficiency), a community based approach, to apply a system to prepare, mitigate, minimize, and recover before and after disasters by:
 - a. Encouraging the use of safe centers when disasters occur, such as schools, community centers, religious institutions and medical centers;
 - b. Preventing construction in high-risk areas that can be identified through technologies, such as DIPECHO or through personnel with field and technical expertise, such as the one provided by the White Helmets Commission, and other relevant bodies;
 - c. Constructing Storm-Water Management Systems and Rain-Water Harvesting Systems in every city, prioritizing high-risk areas;
 - d. Encouraging the construction of walkways and street ways in methods such as pervious/permeable concrete;
 - e. Encouraging Member States to collaborate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to apply of isotopic hydrology for pre-city planning at the local, national, and regional levels for efficient water and sanitation management in pre- and post-disaster distribution of water, to determine the amount of contaminants in water;
 - f. Allocating all available local knowledge of the topography of the local area and its high-risk factors to the local governments and hospitals to ensure that all areas can be accounted for in pre-planning strategies;
2. *Encourages* Member States to establish a mechanism under the PRACTICE Strategy, such as the Disaster Prevention Programme, in order to improve the coordination of incoming relief goods quickly and efficiently to affected peoples through specialized training for humanitarian relief responders such as:
 - a. Encouraging bi-annual training for community leaders to enable them to formulize strategies to aid the community and governments when disaster strikes;
 - b. Training communities for a gender-sensitive approach, which encourages the integration of women into relief efforts and provides specialized training methods such as UN Water Task Force on Gender through areas such as evacuation training and first aid care;
3. *Recommends* local governments to participate in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign of the United

Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR);

4. *Encourages* the application of SEAGA in pre-city planning for irrigation and agricultural systems and to strengthen the resilience of communities against disasters, which offers an approach to development and disaster risk reduction based on analysis of socio-economic patterns and different contributions by men and women;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of the implementation of gender mainstreaming in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategies in accordance with the HFA by:

- a. Analyzing local capacities to reduce risk and respond to disasters;
- b. Ensuring equal access to training and income-generating opportunities;
- c. Suggesting organizations, institutions, and governments responsible for DRR provide informative risk assessments through gender analysis and collection of sex-disaggregated data, monitor and evaluate changes in gender relations using gender sensitive indicators;
- d. Encouraging Member States to establish Women's Empowerment Centres, which can also be used as evacuation centers during times of disasters;

6. Calls upon Governments to work in partnership with medical centers, NGOs and local organizations to ensure supplies and staff are prepared for when disasters occur through mechanisms such as:

- a. Simulating training to ensure medical staff is aware and prepared in case of disasters;
- b. Ensuring records are kept up to date in what supplies are available at any given time;
- c. Encouraging collaboration between hospital staff, local communities, in particular women, and NGOs such as Medicines sans Frontiers, to ensure effective humanitarian aid is cohesive and productive;
- d. Providing training to the local community in basic disaster care to aid staff when influx of victims increase;

7. Urges all Member States to enhance measures against sexual and gender based violence during natural disasters by:

- a. Strengthening the ability of relevant authorities and institutions to apply a gender-sensitive approach in providing aid items specifically targeted at maintaining reproductive health;
- b. Providing legal help through judiciary institutions for women seeking protection from violence during and after disasters occur;

8. *Encourages* Member States to improve the protection of displaced persons, in particular women

and children, from a community-based perspective during post-disaster crisis by collaborating with NGOs and local grassroots organizations through a method such as placing vulnerable groups at the forefront of protection during evacuations;

9. *Recommends* Member States to collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop inclusion programs that properly address the needs of persons with disabilities through technical equipment and assistance for safety measures during the crisis through the Community Based Rehabilitation Centers, through measures such as:

- a. Providing an accessible transport for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) during natural disasters;
- b. Recognizes the necessity of adequate training for assisting PWD's during the evacuation or relocation process;

10. *Recognizing* the central role of regional organizations and programs, such as DIPECHO and Making Cities Resilient Campaign; NGOs, such as Medicines Sans Frontiers, Oxfam, Red Cross and Red Crescent; the private sector and other relevant international organizations, such as UN Women, UNISDR, the World Bank, and WHO in providing financial assistance and monitoring funds from organizations through reports to increase transparency and for the development of disaster relief strategies;

11. Requests UN Women to work alongside grassroot organizations to establish an annual dialogue, to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, in order to strengthen coordination efforts by:

- a. Encouraging the full participation and partnership of local communities, NGOs, and the private sector, with an emphasis on women by incorporating them in the decision making process for pre- and post- disaster planning through these partnerships;
- b. The sharing best practices by NGOs, local women leaders, and the private sector in order to disseminate information to the public;
- c. Synthesizing training for all relevant personnel and local civilians by the efforts of UN Women.