

(d) To keep the situation in Chad under review and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

*100th plenary meeting  
8 December 1986*

#### 41/199. Special assistance to front-line States<sup>60</sup>

*The General Assembly,*

*Deeply concerned* at the deteriorating situation in southern Africa, which has aggravated the economic problems confronting the front-line States and other bordering States, arising from the *apartheid* policies of the Pretoria régime,

*Conscious* of the responsibility of the international community to address the problems of the region,

*Commending* the concerted and determined efforts of the countries of the region to cope with the prevailing adverse conditions by strengthening their economic co-operation and lessening their dependence on South Africa, particularly in the areas of transportation, communications and related sectors,

*Reaffirming* the importance of close co-operation between the United Nations and the front-line States,

*Mindful* of Security Council resolutions 568 (1985) of 21 June 1985, 571 (1985) of 20 September 1985 and 581 (1986) of 13 February 1986, by which the Council, *inter alia*, requested the international community to render assistance to the front-line States,

1. *Strongly urges* the international community to provide in a timely and effective manner the financial, material and technical assistance necessary to enhance the individual and collective capacity of the front-line States and other bordering States to withstand the effects of economic measures taken by South Africa, or by the international community against South Africa, in accordance with their national and regional plans and strategies;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system so that they may respond to such requests for assistance as might be forthcoming from individual States or the appropriate subregional organization, and further urges all States to respond favourably to such requests;

3. *Appeals* to all States and appropriate intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the national and collective emergency programmes prepared by the front-line States and other bordering States to overcome the critical problems arising from the situation in southern Africa;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the assistance being rendered to the front-line States by donor countries and intergovernmental organizations;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*100th plenary meeting  
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<sup>60</sup> Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

#### 41/200. Assistance to Benin, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Vanuatu

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 39/196 of 17 December 1984 on economic assistance to Haiti, as well as resolutions 40/215 on assistance to Democratic Yemen, 40/216 on assistance to Equatorial Guinea, 40/217 on assistance for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the Central African Republic, 40/220 on assistance to Sierra Leone, 40/222 on special economic assistance to Benin, 40/223 on assistance to the Comoros, 40/224 on assistance to the Gambia, 40/225 on special economic assistance to Guinea-Bissau, 40/227 on assistance to Djibouti, 40/230 on assistance to Madagascar, 40/233 on economic assistance to Vanuatu, 40/234 on assistance to Nicaragua and 40/235 on special economic assistance to Guinea, all of 17 December 1985,

*Having considered* the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,<sup>61</sup>

*Noting with satisfaction* the financial, economic and technical support that Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional, interregional and intergovernmental organizations have provided to those countries,

*Deeply concerned* that those countries continue to face special economic and financial difficulties owing to a variety of factors,

*Noting* the efforts made by Democratic Yemen in its rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in response to the devastating consequences of the floods in 1982,

*Noting* the particularly difficult problems faced by island developing countries in responding to negative and special economic circumstances, as referred to in General Assembly resolution 41/163 of 5 December 1986 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

*Noting with concern* that Vanuatu is an island developing country, that it is a geographically remote archipelago with a small but rapidly growing and unevenly distributed population, that it has a severe shortage of development capital and declining budgetary support from present donors, that its dependence on imports is overwhelming and that it has a scarcity of adequate transportation and communication links, all of which pose special development problems, making the provision of services difficult and entailing very high overhead costs,

*Deeply concerned* that Benin continues to experience serious economic and financial difficulties, characterized by a marked balance-of-payments disequilibrium, the heavy burden of its external debt and a lack of resources necessary for the implementation of its planned economic and social development programme,

*Noting in particular* that, despite the progress achieved recently in re-establishing economic stability, the situation in the Central African Republic remains precarious, as the Secretary-General emphasized in his report,<sup>62</sup> which notes that the results achieved by the Government of the Central African Republic in the context of the national action programme it has adopted are encouraging, and that more external assistance is required to finance the remainder of the projects as indicated in table 2 of the report, and appealing to the international community, including interna-

<sup>61</sup> A/41/395, A/41/522, A/41/538 and A/41/592.

<sup>62</sup> A/41/592, para. 20.

tional organizations, to participate at a high level of representation at the round table of the Central African Republic's development partners to be held at Bangui in December 1986,

*Deeply concerned* that the Comoros continues to face serious economic difficulties arising from its geographical isolation and scarcity of natural resources, compounded by the recent drought and frequent cyclones,

*Noting also* that adverse climatic conditions that impede any meaningful agricultural activities, the lingering effects of recurrent drought and the presence of large numbers of refugees have a devastating impact on the economic and social development of Djibouti,

*Noting* that the instability of export markets for the principal exports of Equatorial Guinea—coffee, cocoa and wood—has affected its ability to finance its pressing needs and bearing in mind that country's continuing need for international assistance to complement its own national development efforts,

*Noting further* that, owing to the lack of external financial assistance, the Government of the Gambia has not been able to implement the six projects recommended by the Secretary-General in his report submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session,<sup>63</sup>

*Noting* that Guinea continues to face serious difficulties in the implementation of its interim programme of economic rehabilitation for the period 1985-1987,

*Noting in particular* that, in spite of efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to rehabilitate its economy, the economic and financial situation of the country, which has been worsened by drought and desertification, impedes the economic and social development process,

*Noting* that the Government of Haiti urgently requires international assistance to finance its interim programme of development to enable it to reinforce the productive capacities of the country, reduce unemployment, promote education, reinforce health coverage and strengthen public administration,

*Noting* that Madagascar's economic and social development efforts are being thwarted by the adverse effects of the cyclones and floods that afflict that country periodically, particularly those of December 1983 and January and April 1984, and that the implementation of reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes requires the mobilization of sizeable resources exceeding the country's real possibilities,

*Noting also* that, in recent years, the economy of Nicaragua has been adversely affected by various events and natural disasters, such as drought, the intense rains and floods of 1982, a sequence of natural disasters repeated during June, July, October and November 1985, and the drought of May, June and July 1986, all of which have worsened and impeded the normalization of its economic situation,

*Noting further* that the severe socio-economic problems experienced by Sierra Leone, manifested, *inter alia*, in a continuous decline, since 1980, in real gross domestic product per capita and in investments, are intractable without urgent and generous international economic assistance, and that the Government of Sierra Leone recently introduced far-reaching stabilization and structural adjustment measures, including floating the national currency from June 1986, eliminating subsidies for petroleum products and rice, liberalizing the import licensing régime,

and increasing producer prices of major agricultural commodities as an incentive for greater production,

*Noting* that Benin, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Sierra Leone and Vanuatu are classified as least developed countries,

*Having heard* the statements of Member States at the forty-first session of the General Assembly on the situations currently prevailing in those countries,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the steps he has taken to mobilize resources for carrying out the special programmes of economic assistance for those countries;

2. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the assistance provided or pledged to those countries by Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional, interregional and intergovernmental organizations;

3. *Further expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Governments of those countries to overcome their economic and financial difficulties;

4. *Notes with concern* that the assistance made available to those countries has fallen short of their urgent requirements and that additional assistance is still needed;

5. *Reaffirms* the need for all Governments and international organizations to honour the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Substantial New Programme of Action for the 1980s for the Least Developed Countries;<sup>64</sup>

6. *Appeals* to Member States, international financial institutions, the specialized agencies and organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to respond generously and urgently to the needs of those countries as identified in the reports of the Secretary-General;<sup>61</sup>

7. *Invites* the international community to contribute to the special accounts established at United Nations Headquarters by the Secretary-General for the purpose of facilitating the channelling of contributions to the countries facing special difficulties;

8. *Urgently appeals* to all international organizations, in particular the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, humanitarian organizations and voluntary agencies to continue and increase, to the extent possible, their assistance in response to the reconstruction, economic recovery and development needs of those countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps in collaboration with the programmes, organs and agencies of the United Nations system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/192 of 8 December 1986 on special programmes of economic assistance, to provide assistance for all disasters, natural or otherwise, striking those countries and to mobilize the necessary resources to enable them to meet their short-, medium- and long-term needs;

10. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to keep the question of assistance to those countries and their economic situation under review and to report to the General

<sup>63</sup> A/39/392, para. 226.

<sup>64</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 1-14 September 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.82.1.8), part one, sect. A.

Assembly at its forty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*100th plenary meeting  
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#### 41/201. Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, by which it established the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and, *inter alia*, recognized the need to ensure prompt, effective and efficient responses, in times of natural disaster and other disaster situations, that would bring to bear the resources of the United Nations system, prospective donor countries and voluntary agencies,

Recalling also its resolution 36/225 of 17 December 1981, by which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Office of the Co-ordinator, called for the strengthening and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office, and stressed the need to ensure prompt delivery of concerted relief through an efficient and effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance,

Recalling further its resolution 37/144 of 17 December 1982 and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including Economic and Social Council resolutions 1983/47 of 28 July 1983 and 1984/60 of 26 July 1984, in which the Assembly and the Council, *inter alia*, stressed the need to strengthen and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the Office of the Co-ordinator in order to attain an effective co-ordination system of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance, and recognizing that, as a result of those resolutions and decisions, there is now in place a workable system to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate, on a worldwide basis, relief activities carried out by the United Nations system, in co-operation with Governments and voluntary agencies, including the collection and dissemination of information on disaster assessment, priority needs and donor assistance,

Convinced that there is a clear distinction between immediate humanitarian emergency response and longer-term development assistance and that there is a need to respond to these in a co-ordinated manner, and noting in this regard the different nature and functions of the Office of the Co-ordinator and the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting that the number of disasters to which the United Nations system was called upon to respond has increased from twelve in 1980 to fifty-three in 1985,

Recognizing, in this connection, the importance of the contribution of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other competent voluntary and non-governmental organizations,

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

Deeply concerned about the additional economic burden placed upon the developing countries by devastating natural disasters and other disaster situations, as well as the disruption of the development process in those countries,

Appreciating the contributions made by donors to support international relief operations, including those made to the Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Recognizing that shortage of resources has been one of the major constraints on an effective response of the United Nations to disaster situations and continues to hamper the full achievement of the aim of a rapid and effective response to the needs of countries affected by disasters and that, if the shortage is to be overcome, efforts will be required by the international community to provide both funds and assistance in kind,

Recalling, in this regard, its resolution 35/107 of 5 December 1980, in which it reaffirmed the necessity of ensuring a continued sound financial basis for the Office of the Co-ordinator,

Noting with appreciation that the agreements between the Office of the Co-ordinator and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, which define areas and means of co-operation, have helped to strengthen the collective response of the United Nations system to disasters,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator<sup>58</sup> and of the statement made by the Co-ordinator before the Second Committee on 21 October 1986;<sup>65</sup>
2. Reaffirms the sovereignty of individual Member States, recognizes the primary role of each State in caring for the victims of disasters occurring in its territory and stresses that all relief operations should be carried out and co-ordinated in a manner consistent with the priorities and needs of the countries concerned, and that the material and other assistance provided by the international community should be appropriate to the particular needs of the populations of the disaster-affected areas;
3. Recognizes the importance of disaster preparedness and prevention activities, and calls upon the Office of the Co-ordinator, Governments and organizations concerned to ensure that due priority attention is given to them;
4. Reaffirms the mandate of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, established by the General Assembly in resolution 2816 (XXVI) as the focal point in the United Nations system for disaster relief co-ordination, and calls for the reinforcement and improvement of the capacity and effectiveness of the Office, without prejudice to any decision taken by the General Assembly in the context of the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;<sup>66</sup>
5. Affirms that the Office of the Co-ordinator plays an active role in executing United Nations Development Programme-assisted projects in the field of disaster preparedness;
6. Reiterates its call to all Governments and competent organs and organizations to co-operate with the Office of the Co-ordinator in order to improve, in particular, the flow of information to Governments and organizations concerned, so that a more complete picture of relief activities, assistance received and further requirements may be provided to all concerned;
7. Calls upon those contributing assistance in kind to provide, when appropriate, special grants to cover the

<sup>55</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Second Committee, 18th meeting, paras. 28-32.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).