Draft resolution on natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation as a contribution to sustainable urban development

Note by the secretariat

The annex to the present note sets out a draft resolution on natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation as a contribution to sustainable urban development. It is presented as submitted by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, without formal editing.
**Annex**

The Governing Council,

*Expressing its deep concern* at the number and scale of natural disasters; the massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world,

*Recognizing* the increasing challenges facing the disaster response and preparedness capacity of Member States and the United Nations system,

*Recalling* the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015[^1], which established five priorities for action: 1) to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; 2) to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; 3) [USA: addition - to support scientific research in all aspects of disaster risk reduction, and] to use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; 4) to reduce the underlying risk factors; 5) and to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels[^2],

[Mexico/Germany/Austria: alternative -] *Also recalling* the General Assembly Resolution 65/157, on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which called upon the United Nations System to integrate the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes. Recalling the General Assembly Resolution 65/264 which calls for updating early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels,

*Recalling further* the General Assembly Resolution 65/264 which calls for updating early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels,

*Recalling further* that Member States stressed that to increase the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, additional international cooperation efforts should be taken to broaden the use of national, local, regional and sub regional capacities for disaster preparedness and response[^3],

*Emphasizing* that [Mexico: addition - in the design of disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance plans,] both member States and the United Nations System were urged to give special attention to the needs of the residents of areas prone to natural disasters[^4],

*Recalling GC resolutions 19/7 and 19/9 related to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme activities in post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction, as well as on its work, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, on human settlements needs in the reconstruction of countries and territories affected by armed conflicts or by other human-made or natural disasters,

*Taking note* of General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004, which requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within its mandate, to continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development and encouraged the Programme to continue to work closely with the members of the United Nations system,


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[^3]: GA Resolution 65/264 and GA Resolution 60/124

[^4]: Ibid. (GA Resolution 65/264 and GA Resolution 60/124)
Recalling also its resolution 22/8 of April 3, 2009 in which it emphasized the need to promote environmental sustainability in the delivery of basic services for all, including sustainable urban planning, risk reduction, early warning systems and appropriate response to natural disasters,

Recognizing regional declarations, initiatives and commitments, including the Solo Declaration adopted at the Third Asia Pacific Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development, June 2010, which underlines the importance to strengthen cooperation between member countries in developing disaster prevention mechanism as well as emergency, reconstruction and recovery of areas damaged by disasters and extreme-climate change related events,

Noting with appreciation the partnerships established by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with various disaster management and humanitarian institutions; for the development and implementation of vulnerability reduction and sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, in particular the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Noting also that the highest proportion of United Nations Human Settlements Programme operational budget is spent directly supporting countries affected by natural or human made disasters, while a minimum percentage of the resources are allocated for advocacy, policy and normative support for disaster risk reduction to Member States,

1. Requests the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strongly support, [France/Mexico: addition - within its mandate,] the implementation of regional, [Mexico: addition - sub-regional, national and local urban] risk reduction and early warning programming, [Mexico: deletion - within the established parameters,] including the production of guidelines and training programmes, collection and dissemination of best practices;

2. Requests the Executive Director to strengthen programming, in line with the General Assembly Resolution 65/157, the pertinent elements of the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan, and the Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis, for urban risk and vulnerability reduction and limiting the after-effects of disasters;

[to be further discussed: 3. Further requests the Executive Director to ensure all necessary financial and administrative mechanisms including dedicated Extrabudgetary resources, are in place to enable, upon request by Member States, rapid deployment of urban disaster management [Japan: clarification required – professionals] to address imminent urban natural disaster risk; and immediate needs under its mandate, following natural disasters;]

4. Requests the Executive Director to foster a better understanding and knowledge of the causes of urban disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities of Member States through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant [Japan: alternative – warning information] early warning data and systems, the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation;

5. Encourages the Executive Director to provide technical assistance to Member States at imminent risk of a Natural Disaster requesting support for international cooperation, including South-South, triangular and city-to-city cooperation, in disaster response, disaster risk reduction and reduction of vulnerability;

6 UN-HABITAT “Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan”: Focus Areas 1, 2, 3, 4;
7 Humanitarian Affairs and the Role of UN-HABITAT” HS/1026/08 E; Strategic Policy on Human Settlements and Crisis, Sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, pp 9, 10;
6. **Encourages** Governments to disseminate and share, with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme support, their expertise and experience in urban natural-disaster mitigation measures, including hazard mapping, early-warning systems, life saving preparedness and preventive programmes, best practices and appropriate design standards;

[Indonesia: addition - 7. Encourages Governments to actively engage on the rapid recovery and reconstruction process, including the concerted efforts for the smooth distribution of resources needed;]

[revision: 8] 7. **Invites** Governments, donors, relevant civil society groups and organizations, corporations and private sector representatives in a position to do so to contribute to the implementation of this resolution;

[Mexico: additional 9. Requests also the Executive Director to ensure in the implementation of this resolution, close coordination and collaboration with appropriate multilateral, regional and sub regional organizations and agencies; and to build upon existing regional commitments and initiatives.


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8 Like MINURVI, Solo Declaration, etc.