

1999/46. International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997 and 53/185 of 15 December 1998,

Concerned about the extreme force and severe impact of the El Niño phenomenon during the period 1997–1998 and the subsequent La Niña episode in many regions of the world,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General¹²⁰ concerning the implementation of the mandates contained in General Assembly resolution 53/185 and the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session,¹²¹

Bearing in mind agreed conclusions 1999/1 of the Council adopted on 23 July 1999 at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 1999,¹²²

Noting with appreciation the concerted international efforts made, in particular through the Inter-Agency Task Force on El Niño, in close cooperation with member agencies of the Inter-Agency Committee on the Climate Agenda, to reduce the impact of natural disasters related to the El Niño phenomenon through improved scientific understanding, close monitoring and the dissemination of timely forecasts to communities affected,

Recognizing the importance of regional and subregional cooperation for the development of effective measures to reduce the negative impacts caused by the El Niño and La Niña phenomena,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;¹²⁰

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assess the feasibility of establishing an international research centre on the El Niño phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador;

3. *Welcomes* the recommendations, contained in the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session,¹²¹ on how to deal with the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Reiterates* its coordination role of providing guidance to its functional commissions on the reduction of natural disasters within the overall context of sustainable development strategies;

5. *Calls* for strengthened interregional cooperation, in particular in the scientific and technical fields, *inter alia*, to consider existing interregional opportunities as identified at the Asia-Europe Foreign Ministers meeting, held in Berlin on 29 March 1999, and the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 28 and 29 June 1999,¹²³ and by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum;

6. *Welcomes* the outcome and conclusions of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, held in

¹²⁰ A/54/135-E/1999/88.

¹²¹ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9 (E/1999/29).*

¹²² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/54/3/Rev.1)*, chap. VI, para. 5.

¹²³ A/54/448, annex.

Guayaquil from 9 to 13 November 1998,¹²⁴ and the convening of a second Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, which will be held in Lima from 20 to 24 September 1999;

7. *Calls* for the continued and full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 52/200 and 53/185 as an integral function of the successor arrangements to be made following the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

*44th plenary meeting
28 July 1999*