

ECOSOC Resolution 2005/4

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and Economic and Social Council and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Welcoming the fact that at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2005, the Council considered the theme “Strengthening of the coordination of the United Nations humanitarian assistance, including capacity as well as organizational aspects”,

Also welcoming the fact that the Council held a panel discussion on Lessons learned from the recent Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami disaster,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;¹

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster² as well as of the report of the Secretary-General on the transition from relief to development;³

3. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to strengthen, within their respective mandates, essential common humanitarian services that are coordinated through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee so that these services can be provided in a predictable, efficient and effective manner;

4. *Also requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to engage systematically with relevant authorities and organizations at the regional and national levels to support efforts to strengthen humanitarian response capacities at all levels, in particular through preparedness programmes, with a view to improving the overall adequacy of the deployment of resources;

5. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should make efforts to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to develop further appropriate mechanisms for the identification and/or development of specialist technical expertise and

¹ A/60/87-E/2005/78.

² A/60/86-E/2005/77.

³ A/60/89-E/2005/79.

capacity to fill gaps in critical humanitarian programming sectors in order to improve the capacity of the United Nations system to respond to humanitarian needs;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations and States, to discuss ways to help assess the effectiveness of the United Nations humanitarian response;

8. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should improve its ability to make the best use of existing humanitarian capacities at all levels;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to identify and use, as appropriate and available, local resources and expertise from within the affected country and/or its neighbours in response to humanitarian needs;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with States and relevant organizations, to further develop and improve, as required, mechanisms for the use of emergency standby capacities, including, where appropriate, regional humanitarian capacities, under the auspices of the United Nations, inter alia, through formal agreements with appropriate regional organizations, and to report on this issue to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session through the Economic and Social Council;

11. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to develop more systematic links with Member States offering military assets for natural disaster response in order to identify the availability of such assets;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity of and the support to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including through the provision of necessary training, the identification of resources and improving the identification and selection of United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators, to help provide a timely, predictable and appropriate response to humanitarian needs and to further improve United Nations coordination activities at the field level;

13. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations entities, under the coordination mandate of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, to improve the development of common needs assessments and work towards more effective prioritization, including reviewing the Consolidated Appeals Process Needs Assessment Framework and Matrix;

14. *Stresses* the importance of rapid access to funds for an effective United Nations humanitarian response in the initial phases of a humanitarian emergency, before an appeal is launched, or in cases of unanticipated humanitarian needs, as well as for addressing core needs in underfunded emergencies;

15. *Emphasizes* the need to establish reliable, predictable and timely funding to meet humanitarian needs, including those in underfunded emergencies;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue efforts, including through consultations with States, to address the need to establish finance mechanisms to enable timely allocation of humanitarian resources in response to the Consolidated Appeals Process so as to address gaps in the United Nations humanitarian response;

17. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it improve functioning of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, inter alia, through the possible inclusion of a grant facility component based on voluntary contributions, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on this issue for consideration by the Assembly at its sixtieth session;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to strive to broaden the donor base for humanitarian response, including by engaging the private sector, as well as to strengthen efforts to further enhance transparency and accountability with respect to the channelling and utilization of resources;

19. *Recommends* to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations humanitarian organizations work, as appropriate, with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat in order to better ensure that humanitarian issues are accounted for from the earliest stages of planning and design of United Nations multidimensional integrated peacekeeping operations with humanitarian components and that the mandates of such operations continue to respect the need for their humanitarian activities to be carried out in accordance with humanitarian principles;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

*28th plenary meeting
15 July 2005*