

ECOSOC Resolution 2006/5

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 General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Welcoming the fact that at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2006, the Economic and Social Council considered the theme “Strengthening of the coordination of United Nations humanitarian assistance: implementing improved humanitarian response at all levels, including strengthening capacity, with particular attention to recent humanitarian emergencies including severe natural disasters”,

Welcoming also the fact that the Economic and Social Council held panels on gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and chronically underfunded emergencies,

Recognizing the clear relationship between emergency, rehabilitation, and development and that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development, and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards long-term development,

Recalling the Hyogo Declaration¹ and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,² as adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;³
2. *Also takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation for El Salvador and Guatemala,⁴ on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the South Asian earthquake disaster — Pakistan,⁵ and on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster;⁶
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue 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;

¹ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

² *Ibid.*, resolution 2.

³ A/61/85-E/2006/81.

⁴ A/61/78-E/2006/61.

⁵ A/61/79-E/2006/67.

⁶ A/61/87-E/2006/77.

4. *Encourages* Member States to continue their efforts in preparedness and disaster risk reduction, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities, within their respective mandates, to support national efforts in this regard;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue 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;

6. *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;

7. *Emphasizes*, in this regard, the importance of strengthening health sector humanitarian response capacity, and calls upon the relevant entities of the United Nations and all States to cooperate in this regard;

8. *Encourages* all States to strengthen their capacity to respond to natural and man-made disasters, including by establishing or strengthening national contingency plans and developing or strengthening, as appropriate, disaster management institutions, also encourages the sharing of knowledge and experience among States, and further encourages the international community to support, upon request, national efforts in this regard;

9. *Also encourages* national Governments to create an enabling environment for capacity-building of local authorities and local and national non-governmental and community-based organizations, and encourages the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes designed to enhance the participation and contribution of local authorities and local and national non-governmental and community-based organizations, including through technical cooperation, and long-term partnerships based on the recognition of their important role in providing humanitarian assistance;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of involving, as appropriate, relevant entities, including non-governmental organizations, that provide humanitarian assistance in national and local coordination efforts, and invites those entities to participate in the improvement of humanitarian assistance, as appropriate;

11. *Invites* the relevant United Nations humanitarian entities to continue their efforts to coordinate, as appropriate, with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the provision of humanitarian assistance;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to develop more systematic links with Member States offering military assets for natural disaster response in order to identify the availability of such assets and to report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council in this regard;

13. *Recalls* the 2003 “Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies”⁷ as well as the 1994 “Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief”,⁸ and stresses the value of their use and of the development by the United Nations in consultation with States and other relevant actors of further guidance on civil-military relations in the context of humanitarian activities and transition situations;

14. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council on progress achieved in developing and improving mechanisms for the use of emergency standby capacities;

15. *Requests* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to continue to improve the analysis and reporting of comprehensive financial information through its Financial Tracking Service, and encourages Member States, multilateral and private donors, relevant United Nations humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide timely and accurate information on contributions;

16. *Encourages* the relevant United Nations entities to continue to provide timely information, through existing channels, on the results achieved in the use of funds made available for humanitarian assistance;

17. *Takes note* of the efforts by the United Nations system to further enhance the coordination of its emergency humanitarian assistance;

18. *Welcomes* efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity of and the support to the 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 to provide a timely, predictable and appropriate response to humanitarian needs and to further improve United Nations coordination activities at the field level, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in this regard;

19. *Stresses* the importance of a coordinated process of assessing lessons learned in the international response to a given humanitarian emergency;

20. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Central Emergency Response Fund, as set out in General Assembly resolution 60/124 of 15 December 2005, and looks forward to receiving the report to be submitted to the General Assembly on the use of the Fund with a view to maximizing its impact and improving its functioning;

21. *Encourages* the international community to provide humanitarian assistance in proportion to needs and on the basis of needs assessments, with a view to ensuring a more equitable distribution of humanitarian assistance across humanitarian emergencies, including those of a protracted nature, as well as fuller coverage of the needs of

⁷ Available from www.reliefweb.int.

⁸ Department of Humanitarian Affairs publication, DHA/94/95.

all sectors, and to this end requests United Nations organizations, including the United Nations country teams, to continue developing, and improving where appropriate, transparent needs-assessment mechanisms;

22. *Re-emphasizes* that the discussions of humanitarian policies and activities by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council should be continuously revitalized by Member States with a view to enhancing their relevance, efficiency and impact;

23. *Recommends* that the General Assembly, in order to have a more focused discussion on humanitarian issues, explore the possibility at its sixty-first session of reallocating to the plenary of the General Assembly the sub-items of its agenda related to the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations currently considered by the Second Committee;

24. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on humanitarian issues, based on their respective mandates and taking into account comparative advantages and existing complementarities of the two bodies;

25. *Decides* to continue to use informal settings, as they exist within its humanitarian segment, as an opportunity for Member States to be informed about and exchange views on humanitarian issues;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report lessons learned and best practices in the implementation of the pilot projects using the cluster approach, in consultation with affected countries and with the active involvement of relevant United Nations humanitarian entities;

27. *Also 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.

*30th plenary meeting
18 July 2006*