

13. *Stresses* the need for close co-operation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information, *inter alia*, in the implementation of the aims established for the World Campaign and the need for the United Nations to harmonize its activities in the field of human rights with those of other organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, with regard to the dissemination of information on international humanitarian law, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with regard to education for human rights;

14. *Requests* the Secretariat, in the implementation of the World Campaign, to take advantage, as much as possible, of the collaboration of non-governmental organizations for, *inter alia*, the dissemination of human rights materials, with a view to increasing universal awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

15. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-seventh session, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General, to give priority consideration to this question with a view to providing appropriate guidance on the aims and activities of the World Campaign;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution for consideration under the item entitled "Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

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#### 45/100. Humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 43/131 of 8 December 1988,

*Recalling* that one of the principles of the United Nations is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion,

*Reaffirming* the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States, and recognizing that it is up to each State first and foremost to take care of the victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations occurring on its territory,

*Deeply concerned* about the suffering of the victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations, the loss in human lives, the destruction of property and the mass displacement of populations that results from them,

*Concerned* about the fate of persons who, following such displacement, are in an extremely precarious situation, particularly in a country other than that of which they are nationals,

*Considering* that the abandonment of the victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations with-

out humanitarian assistance constitutes a threat to human life and an offence to human dignity,

*Strongly desiring* that the international community should respond speedily and effectively to the needs for emergency humanitarian assistance expressed in particular through the Secretary-General,

*Concerned* about the difficulties and obstacles that victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations may encounter in receiving humanitarian assistance,

*Convinced* that, in providing humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines or health care, for which access to victims is essential, rapid relief will avoid a tragic increase in the number of victims,

*Recalling*, in this regard, the Cairo Declaration<sup>47</sup> adopted by the World Food Council at its fifteenth session, proposing, *inter alia*, an international agreement on the transport of emergency food aid,

*Aware* that alongside the action of Governments and intergovernmental organizations, the speed and efficiency of this assistance often depend on the help and aid of local and non-governmental organizations working in an impartial manner and with strictly humanitarian motives,

*Reaffirming* the need for the intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with humanitarian assistance to co-operate as closely as possible with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator or any *ad hoc* mechanism set up by the Secretary-General in the co-ordination of aid,

*Concerned* about the effectiveness of such assistance, which requires an accurate evaluation of needs, efficient preparation of actions and effective co-ordination in conducting them,

*Recalling* that, in the event of natural disasters and similar emergency situations, the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality must be given utmost consideration by all those involved in providing humanitarian assistance,

1. *Reaffirms* the cardinal importance of humanitarian assistance for the victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations;

2. *Reaffirms also* the sovereignty of affected States and their primary role in the initiation, organization, co-ordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within their respective territories;

3. *Stresses* the important contribution made in providing humanitarian assistance by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working impartially and with strictly humanitarian motives;

4. *Invites* all States whose populations are in need of such assistance to facilitate the work of these organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines and health care, for which access to victims is essential;

5. *Appeals*, therefore, to all States to give their support to these organizations working to provide humanitarian assistance, where needed, to the victims of natural disasters and similar emergency situations;

<sup>47</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/44/19)*, part one.

6. *Notes with satisfaction* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>48</sup> on the implementation of resolution 43/131 and the suggestions which he makes concerning means of facilitating humanitarian assistance operations, in particular the possibility of establishing, on a temporary basis, where needed, and by means of concerted action by affected Governments and the Governments and intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, relief corridors for the distribution of emergency medical and food aid;

7. *Urges* States in proximity to areas of natural disasters and similar emergency situations, particularly in the case of regions that are difficult to reach, to participate closely with the affected countries in international efforts with a view to facilitating, to the extent possible, the transit of humanitarian assistance;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue, within existing resources, the necessary consultations with Governments and intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations with a view to determining means of facilitating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance to the victims of natural disasters or similar emergency situations, including the establishment of relief corridors, on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General and on the terms set out in paragraph 6 of the present resolution, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to study, within existing resources, the possibility of preparing, on the basis of information furnished by Governments and the relevant governmental and non-governmental international organizations and taking into account the work already done in this area by the United Nations, in particular by the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, an indicative list of persons and bodies with expert knowledge of the delivery and management of emergency humanitarian assistance whom the United Nations could call upon, with the consent of the States concerned, to make an accurate and speedy assessment of the needs and a realistic determination of the best means of delivering the aid;

10. *Decides* to consider this question at its forty-seventh session.

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#### 45/101. New international humanitarian order

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983, 40/126 of 13 December 1985, 42/120 and 42/121 of 7 December 1987 and 43/129 of 8 December 1988 relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>49</sup> and the comments made by various Governments regarding the humanitarian order and the work done in this regard by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues,

*Noting* the actions being taken by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system with regard to the humanitarian issues, examined by the Independent Commission, that fall within their respective mandates,

*Recognizing with concern* the continuing need further to strengthen international responses to growing humanitarian challenges and to adjust actions of governmental and non-governmental organizations to new realities in a fast-changing world,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of creative humanitarian action at the international as well as the regional and national levels to alleviate human suffering and to promote durable solutions to humanitarian problems,

*Convinced* of the need for active follow-up to the recommendations and suggestions made by the Independent Commission, and noting the role being played in this regard by the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues set up for the purpose,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continuing active support to the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

2. *Encourages* Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to provide their comments and expertise to the Secretary-General regarding the humanitarian order and the report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues;

3. *Invites* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and further strengthen its essential role in following up the work of the Independent Commission;

4. *Invites* Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of concern to them in order to identify opportunities for future action;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations and the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and to report on the progress made by them to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

6. *Decides* to review at its forty-seventh session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

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#### 45/102. Promotion of international co-operation in the humanitarian field

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 42/121 of 7 December 1987 and 43/130 of 8 December 1988,

*Noting* that one of the purposes of the United Nations, set forth in its Charter, is to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of a humanitarian character,

*Recalling also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>5</sup> which proclaims, *inter alia*, that recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable

<sup>48</sup> A/45/587.

<sup>49</sup> A/45/524.