



## United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia and the Pacific

Distr.: General  
11 August 2005

### Resolution 01 (2005)

Adopted by the General Assembly at its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 11 August 2005

*The United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia and the Pacific,*

*Recalling* the basic principles of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals,

*Expressing* its deep concern about the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years,

*Bearing in mind* that the absence of an adequate infrastructure in low income countries mitigates the impact of natural disasters,

*Emphasizing* the need to strengthen the dialogue among Pacific donors and build stronger partnerships in the region so that the aid dollar is better managed and coordinated and successes are shared and broadly communicated,

*Recognizing* the urgent need of further development and use of already existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters,

*Further recognizing* the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and further strengthen community capability to cope with disaster risks,

1. *Strongly suggests* the establishment of a United Nations Organisation for Natural Disaster Relief in Asia and the Pacific (UNONDRAP) where information about natural disasters are shared and emergency operations are coordinated with a headquarter based in Bangkok;

2. *Encourages* all member states of the UNONDRAP to install regional offices which will cooperate with the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in case of natural disasters;

3. *Recommends* launching a project dealing with both long-term and short-term disaster relief that:

- a) is outlined by NGOs, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO),
- b) focuses on the continual effort to promote co-operation between Asia, the Pacific and the EU,
- c) further reminds of the importance of natural disaster prevention and effective relief,
- d) emphasizes the need of a permanent meeting of UNONDRAP;

4. *Further recommends* the completion of the Global Disaster Alert System (GDAS) in the Asian Pacific regions;

5. *Urges* the creation of National Disaster Relief Centres supplied with:

a) access to:

i) GDAS,

ii) a communication network via satellite, radio and media,

b) experts funded by the EU, Australia and the ASEM Trust Fund and trained by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to:

i) prepare the population on natural disasters and establish evacuation and emergency plans and guidelines for rescue forces,

ii) work with the pre-warning systems and cooperation among the existing regional warning centres ,

iii) setup a central information database accessible to governmental and non-governmental authorities,

iv) give psychological help in case of natural disasters,

v) organize relief operations in case of natural disasters and co-operate with other relief organizations;

6. *Expresses its conviction* of a strong and friendly co-operation between ASEM, the EU and the NGOs (especially ICRC), ASEM declares to financially support the NGOs involved in UNONDRAP (mainly ICRC) from the ASEM Trust Fund whose exact amount will be defined after the ASEM official conference taking place in March 2006;

7. *Encourages* the UNONDRAP to install sub-working committees to define all natural disaster sources;

8. *Further urges* the member states of UNESCAP to enhance their efforts to strengthen the quality, selection and training of humanitarian coordinators;

9. *Urges* in order to balance unequal office allocation of resources by donors, the European Community for Humanitarian Aid Offices (ECHO) to take on a stronger role as a financier of last resort, focusing more on its funds on forgotten crises and assessing which crises are most poorly-served by other donors and use this as a criterion in determination of its own recourse allocation;

10. *Proposes* to establish a new, additional natural disaster and environmental fund for the Asia and Pacific region, under the control of the UN Secretary General, a UNESCAP-Subcommittee and the ICRC responsible for the distribution of these, into which donors pay and draw from early on, when a crisis threatens or occurs:

a) which should contain approximately 1 billion US-Dollars a year,

b) with the goal to provide sufficient incentive for Governments as well as NGOs to contribute;

11. *Decides* to finance this Solidarity Fund by:

a) donations,

b) a new tax system: suggests the introduction of new, obliged taxes in western industrial developed countries on stock exchange business and arm deals, the percentage of these taxes depends on the GDP of each country, in order to ensure a financial source of income to give a substantial base for the Solidarity Fund which should be called United Nations Solidarity Fund (UNSF);

12. *Encourages*, in order to improve leadership at the country level, in particularly serious crises, the UN Secretary General:

a) to provide humanitarian coordinators with emergency powers to direct other UN agencies, such as UNESCAP,

b) to decide which crises are sufficiently severe to warrant this action, on the basis of advice from UNESCAP;

13. *Urges* all member states, which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Kyoto protocol in order to decrease the harm brought to nature and humanity by the climate change, which favours the probability of natural disasters;

14. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.