

Economic and Social Council

52nd plenary meeting
26 July 1996

1996/45. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1995/47 B of 27 July 1995 and General Assembly resolution 50/117 A of 20 December 1995,

Mindful of the continuing threat of natural disasters and similar emergency situations to vulnerable populations and communities worldwide,

Reaffirming the commitment to the effective implementation of the goals and overall objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Recognizing the need for concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters, with their attendant loss of human life and heavy physical and economic damage, in particular in developing countries, among which least developed countries, small island States and land-locked countries are especially vulnerable,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, containing the Principles, the Strategy and the Plan of Action, 1/ especially with regard to its call for international cooperation in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; 2/
2. Reiterates the distinct character of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction as a framework for action that facilitates the effective integration of disaster reduction into planning at all levels, in particular at the national and community levels;
3. Reaffirms that disaster reduction forms an integral part of sustainable development

strategies and national development plans of vulnerable countries and communities;

4. Calls upon States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the Decade to participate actively in its financial and technical activities, including the need to share the necessary technology to prevent, reduce and mitigate disasters, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade; 3/

5. Underlines the need for the United Nations system to ensure the integration of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, and its Plan of Action in the coordinated approach taken to the follow-up to all recent major United Nations conferences and summits and to the implementation of their respective plans of action;

6. Stresses the need for synergy between the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 4/ and the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action as they relate to natural disaster reduction;

7. Recommends that adequate consideration be given to the International Framework of Action for the Decade as part of the evaluation and overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 5/ in 1997.

Notes

1/ A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

2/ A/51/186-E/1996/80.

3/ General Assembly resolution 44/236, annex.

4/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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