

No. 26055

**MEXICO
and
GUATEMALA**

Agreement on cooperation for the prevention of and assistance in cases of natural disasters. Signed at Guatemala City on 10 April 1987

Authentic text: Spanish.

Registered by Mexico on 29 June 1988.

**MEXIQUE
et
GUATEMALA**

Accord de coopération pour la prévention et les secours en cas de catastrophes naturelles. Signé à Guatemala le 10 avril 1987

Texte authentique : espagnol.

Enregistré par le Mexique le 29 juin 1988.

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA ON COOPERATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF AND ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF NATURAL DISASTERS

The Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala, recognizing the importance of strengthening their cooperation with a view to establishing mechanisms for coping with emergency situations, and

Aware of the potential threat of natural disasters in their common border area and concerned over their probable effects on the physical safety of the inhabitants of the said border area and on their property and surroundings,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

A Mexico-Guatemala Consultative Committee on the Prevention of and Assistance in cases of Natural Disasters shall be established with the object of reducing, so far as possible, their effects on the populations of border areas.

The said bilateral Committee shall have the following membership:

- For Mexico: Accredited representatives of the Secretariat of the Interior, the Secretariat of Foreign Relations and the Secretariat of National Defence;
- For Guatemala: Accredited representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Defence.

The Chairmanship of the Consultative Committee shall be shared by a duly accredited representative of each country.

Article II

The Committee shall determine the means of cooperation required and shall develop measures to deal with natural disasters, of whatever origin, with the object of ensuring the physical safety and protecting the property of the inhabitants of the common border area who may be affected.

The Committee shall likewise recommend to the parties specific programmes of cooperation in preventing and preparing for possible disasters and also of support and assistance for protection, rescue and relief during and after a disaster in the border area.

The Committee shall have the following objectives:

1. Analysis of the potential risks and probable effects of possible disasters and of the areas especially vulnerable;

¹ Came into force on 22 March 1988, the date on which the Parties notified each other of the completion of the required legal procedures, in accordance with article X.

2. Studies of and exchange of information on techniques for providing assistance to the population and assessing damage;
3. Studies and exchange of information on techniques to ensure adequate communication and supplies to meet disaster situations;
4. Analysis of new techniques for disaster response;
5. Exchange of information and technical personnel;
6. Promotion of symposia, conferences and training programmes on natural disasters.

Article III

The Committee may serve as a forum for the exchange of information relative to prevention, relief and rehabilitation in cases of natural disasters occurring outside of the common border area if the affected Party so requests.

Article IV

The Committee may establish joint working groups to carry out specific tasks in pursuance of its objectives.

The said working groups shall be composed of representatives of governmental organizations that are involved by virtue of their functions and spheres of competence in the action to be taken and of such public and private organizations as may be called upon to that end.

Article V

In accordance with applicable national legislation, the Parties shall expedite the entry into, stay in and exit from its territory of personnel involved in cooperation programmes and of materials and equipment they utilize.

Article VI

Within the limits of the resources available to them, the Parties shall establish the timetable and scope of cooperation activities, unless they decide otherwise.

Article VII

This Agreement shall not affect the international commitments of either Party in the field of cooperation in cases of natural disasters, nor shall it restrict their right to solicit international support for the pursuit and achievement of the agreed objectives.

Article VIII

The Parties shall review this Agreement every three years, in order to decide whether or not it should be modified. However, either Party may request consideration of possible amendments during meetings of the Committee.

Article IX

The Committee shall meet in the manner and on the dates approved by both Parties.

Article X

This Agreement shall enter into force as from the notification by both Parties, through diplomatic channels, of their compliance with the necessary legal requirements.

This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of three years and shall be automatically extended for periods of equal duration, unless one of the Parties notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate it 30 days before the end of each period.

SIGNED in Guatemala City, on the 10th of April 1987, in two original copies in Spanish, both being equally authentic.

For the Government
of the United Mexican States:

[*Signed*]

MANUEL BARTLETT DÍAZ
Secretary of the Interior

For the Government
of the Republic of Guatemala:

[*Signed*]

JUAN JOSÉ RODIL PERALTA
Minister of the Interior