

AG/RES. 2647 (XLI-O/11)

EXISTING MECHANISMS FOR DISASTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AND
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AMONG THE MEMBER STATES

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 7, 2011)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2314 (XXXVII-O/07), “Natural Disaster Reduction, Risk Management, and Assistance in Natural and Other Disaster Situations,” AG/RES. 2372 (XXXVIII-O/08), “Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Natural Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty–White Helmets Initiative,” AG/RES. 2492 (XXXIX-O/09), “Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States,” CIDI/RES. 245 (XV-O/10), “Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States,” and CIDI/RES. 259 (XVI-O/11), “Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States”;

TAKING NOTE of the “Diagnostic and Suggested Course of Action” of the Joint Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States (GTC/DAH-12/11 rev. 3 corr. 1);

ALSO TAKING NOTE of the Report prepared by the Chair on the five substantive meetings of the Joint Working Group (GTC/DAH-11/11);

HIGHLIGHTING the participation, proposals, and recommendations of the member states and of 37 experts and officials of countries, of bodies of the inter-American system, and of international, regional, and subregional agencies and organizations at five substantive meetings of the Joint Working Group;

EMPHASIZING the need to continue assessing and, when necessary, strengthening the hemispheric mechanisms to adapt them and to bring them into line with the new realities and complexities of disasters and to the new framework for action in the international arena;

REAFFIRMING the importance of facilitating and utilizing mechanisms to further joint efforts and enlist the community and its organizations in assessing its problems and developing prevention and response mechanisms;

UNDERSCORING the advisability of implementing the guidelines arising from the Hyogo Framework of Action on public policies to continue specific risk management and emergency policies;

MINDFUL that in achieving rapid and efficient assistance to persons in disaster situations, it is essential that conflicts of jurisdiction and/or competence arising from a lack of specific legislation on disaster risk management be avoided;

CONVINCED of the importance of migration, customs, and tax agreements, among others, to facilitate the receipt, donation, or transit of humanitarian inputs in disaster or emergency situations;

EMPHASIZING the importance of strengthening regional and subregional emergency and risk management agencies and the importance of closer ties among the inter-American system, national agencies, and subregional risk management entities, taking into account existing mechanisms and activities such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE), and the Specialized Meeting on Social and Natural Disaster Risk Reduction, Civil Defense, Civil Protection, and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU), reinforcing complementarity without duplicating efforts;

REITERATING the importance of reaching a commitment among member states that will allow the timely and effective exchange of information, tools, successful experiences, and best practices among countries, international agencies, regional and subregional institutions and organizations, social actors, and civil society entities, in respect of risk management, disaster assistance, avoiding duplication of efforts, and combining synergies of existing mechanisms in the interest of the region,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the “Diagnostic and Suggested Course of Action of the Joint Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States” ([GTC/DAH-12/11 rev. 3 corr. 1](#))

2. To extend the mandate of the Joint Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States for 1 (one) additional year so that it may design an Inter-American Plan for the Coordination of Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance, to reflect, *inter alia*, the diagnostic and to take into account the existing national, subregional, regional, and multilateral mechanisms and agencies, in order to seek out complementarities and avoid the duplication of efforts.

3. To instruct the Joint Working Group that in designing this Plan, it consider the instruments and mechanisms that exist in the inter-American sphere.

4. To urge the member states to consider:

- a. Strengthening the subregional mechanisms and their Forum on Coordination and Cooperation of Subregional Agencies for Disaster Risk Management in the Americas as key actors, to increase the level of regional coordination; (*this paragraph will be placed in the position of the current 4.bis*)
- b. Strengthening national comprehensive risk management capabilities by enhancing response coordination and international humanitarian assistance; (*this paragraph will be placed in the position of the current 4.a*)
- c. Informing the OAS General Secretariat, through the permanent missions of the member states, of the respective National Coordination

Authorities for emergency situations in the member states with a view to increasing the levels of regional coordination;

- d. Developing, in accordance with their possibilities and needs, tools to optimize humanitarian assistance processes, such as supply management, operating guidelines, manuals, etc.;
- e. Promoting the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as a contribution to the development of internal legal structures with a view to generating action protocols, improving and adapting laws, closing gaps, and enlisting the involvement of the public, private, and community sectors; and
- f. Supporting the process of regional meetings on international humanitarian assistance mechanisms, helping to prevent the duplication of efforts and focusing on building specific tools to improve regional coordination mechanisms, such as designing a compendium of regional standards, developing formal foreign ministry procedures and operating manuals for humanitarian assistance, and adopting subregional models for supply management, virtual coordination tools, recovery of traditional knowledge and practices, etc.

5. To instruct the General Secretariat:

- a. To report on the status of implementation of the agreements that the General Secretariat has concluded with, *inter alia*, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), and the World Food Programme (WFP);
- b. Making use of the installed capacity of the OAS, based on interaction among the OAS offices in the member states, the foreign ministries of the member states, and their missions to the Organization, to encourage the use of standardized systems on the problems of disasters that exist, including on the basis of requests from the relevant subregional agencies;
- c. To establish and disseminate an updated registry of civil society organizations and other social actors working in the field of humanitarian assistance on which the OAS and the member states can call in the event of an emergency, based on the resources that exist within the Organization;
- d. To publicize, expedite, and facilitate the work of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM);

- e. To activate the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) in the event of emergency situations requiring international assistance in the region; and
- f. To disseminate the International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

6. To instruct the Working Group that in preparing the Plan referred to in the first operative paragraph, it follow up on and take into consideration, as appropriate, the activities described in operative paragraphs 2 and 3, as well as other specialized meetings that could offer contributions.

7. To instruct the General Secretariat to develop a resource mobilization strategy to sustain the work of the Joint Working Group.

8. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second regular session on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of whose activities shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources. The execution of the activities described in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.