

AG/RES. 2750 (XLII-O/12)

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

(Adopted at the second plenary session, held on June 4, 2012)

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 AG/RES. 2647 (XLI-O/11) CIDI/RES. 259 (XVI-O/11) and CIDI/RES. 272 (XVII-O/12), “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 periodically assess and strengthen, when necessary, 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, mitigation, and response mechanisms;

UNDERSCORING the importance of implementing the guidelines arising from the Hyogo Framework of Action and reaffirming that disaster risk management is a priority of national public policies and their development strategies;

MINDFUL that in achieving rapid and efficient assistance to persons in disaster situations, it is essential to coordinate with the affected state and to have specific legislation on disaster risk management;

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 supporting 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 (CEPREDENAC), 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 endorse the “Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance”, contained in the General Framework, CEPCIDI/doc. 1053/12 rev. 1, to be implemented on a voluntary basis by the member states.

2. To request the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) to implement, through the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), a mechanism that takes advantage of the online database of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) to update, analyze, and systematize, periodically, the experiences and best practices implemented and/or informed voluntarily by member states in accordance with the recommendations of the “Inter-American Plan for Disaster Prevention and Response and the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance”. The necessary resources for the implementation of this mechanism shall come from voluntary contributions of member states and external funds.

3. To invite the member states to submit annual reports to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on the voluntary implementation of the recommendations contained in this Plan.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) to lend support to CIDI, through the DSD, subject to the availability of resources from voluntary contributions of the member states and/or external funds, in the implementation of this resolution.

5. To consider that the mandates given by AG/RES. 2647 (XLI-O/11) “Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States” have been fulfilled with the adoption of the present resolution; and to consider the activities of the Joint Working Group on Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance successfully concluded.

6. To request the Inter-American Council for Integral Development to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second regular session on the implementation of this resolution. The activities envisaged in this resolution shall be subject to the availability of financial resources from voluntary and/or other external financing, and in no case will be charged against the Regular Fund of the OAS Program Budget.