Chapter III

Humanitarian and special economic assistance

In 2014, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continued to respond to humanitarian challenges due to natural disasters and conflicts. Five large-scale crises in the Central African Republic, Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan and Syria were classified as level-three emergencies requiring immediate scale-up. Besides the Ebola epidemic in West Africa where OCHA assisted with coordination in health, food security and sanitation and protection, elsewhere in the world OCHA assisted at least 52 million people with material assistance worth $12.9 billion. By the year’s end, however, the number of people in need increased to 76 million and the requirement went up to $18.05 billion. Despite donors providing record levels of funding, by December, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners had received 61 per cent or $11 billion in funding. During the year, the number of people displaced internally or fleeing as refugees exceeded 50 million—the highest since 1945.

During the year, humanitarian appeals and response plans were launched in: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Gambia, Haiti, Iraq, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, the Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Sahel region.

In June, the Economic and Social Council considered ways to strengthen the coordination of United Nations emergency humanitarian assistance. The General Assembly adopted resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters from relief to development; reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon; twentieth anniversary of the participation of the White Helmets in UN humanitarian, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development activities; the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; international cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan; and the new partnership for Africa’s development: progress in implementation and international support.
Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) estimated 800,000 people in areas controlled by the Sudanese armed forces. Humanitarian partners could not reach an estimated 2 million displaced people in Darfur. By 2013, the total number of displaced people in Darfur had reached over 400,000, bringing the total number of displaced people in the Sudan, inter-tribal conflict and sporadic clashes continued to create displacement and limit returns. In October 2013, new fighting erupted in northern Sudan, where about 300,000 people continued to live in protracted displacement with limited prospects of returning to their areas of origin. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the number of people displaced by demolitions or evictions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, increased from 886 thousand in 2012 to 1,103 thousand in 2013, and the blockade on the Gaza Strip continued to cause high levels of unemployment and food insecurity, leaving the majority of people in Gaza dependent on aid.

Africa also saw the intensification of a number of conflicts. In the Central African Republic, an estimated 2.3 million people, more than half of the country's population, were in need of assistance. In South Sudan, 1 million people faced acute food insecurity caused by displacement resulting from inter-communal violence as well as seasonal flooding. In the Sudan, inter-tribal conflict and sporadic clashes in Darfur displaced close to 400,000 people, bringing the total number of displaced people in Darfur to over 2 million. Humanitarian partners could not reach an estimated 800,000 people in areas controlled by the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-North) in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States in the Sudan. In addition, over half a million Sudanese remained in refugee camps in Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan. In Mali, 3 million people were affected by food insecurity and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at the end of the year, there were nearly 3 million IDPs—many displaced multiple times. In Somalia, for the first time in five years and despite ongoing fighting in some parts of the country, the number of people in need of life-saving assistance decreased—from over 1 million to 857,000—reflecting modest gains in food security. However, some 2 million people continued to live on the verge of food and nutrition insecurity and required support.

In the Asia-Pacific region, inter-communal tensions and violence displaced over 140,000 people in Rakhine State, and 100,000 people in Kachin. In Afghanistan, more than 124,000 people were newly displaced in 2013, bringing the total number of displaced people to 631,000. In Pakistan, approximately 1 million people remained displaced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. In addition, 1.6 million Afghan refugees resided in Pakistan, constituting the world’s largest protracted refugee situation. In the Philippines, fighting between armed groups and violent clan feuds continued in Mindanao, where over 140 people were killed and 130,000 displaced. Approximately half of the displaced returned home in late 2013.

Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda) made landfall in the Philippines on 8 November, resulting in the largest loss of life from a natural disaster that year, affecting over 14 million people, including 5.4 million children. The Government reported at least 6,200 deaths and 1,700 people missing. Over 4 million people were displaced and over 1 million homes were damaged, half of them destroyed. Haiyan came less than one month after an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale which hit the nearby island province of Bohol. In Pakistan, monsoon flooding affected approximately 1.5 million people, a significant decrease from previous years (18 million in 2010 and 5 million in 2011 and 2012). In Iran, an earthquake impacted western Balochistan in April, followed by a major earthquake in Balochistan in September, affecting 215,000 people and killing over 400.

In Africa, in the Sahel region, 11.4 million people remained food insecure while 5 million children were at risk of malnutrition. Close to 500,000 people were affected by floods in the Sahel, an estimated 233,000 of them in Niger. Heavy rains caused flooding across Mozambique, while Tropical Cyclone Haruna made landfall over southwest Madagascar. The Seychelles declared a state of emergency in three districts owing to floods and landslides. Haiti continued to recover from the multiple shocks suffered in the last few years, but critical needs remained, with an estimated 3 million people with chronic and acute needs requiring life- and livelihood-saving interventions. Following the 2010 earthquake [YUN 2010, p. 320], over 146,000 people remained displaced, living in 271 displaced persons’ sites.

In 2013, the United Nations and its partners continued to improve the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian action, including through the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee—a mechanism for inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance, bringing together UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. An important element of the transformative agenda was the introduction in 2013 of improvements to the humanitarian programme cycle concept, designed to strengthen the way in which humanitarian actors work collectively, including with and in support of Governments, in order to help meet the needs of people affected by natural disasters and conflict. The programme cycle consisted of five elements: needs assessment and analysis; strategic response planning; resource mobilization; implementation and monitoring; and operational review and evaluation. Coordination and
information management were key enablers for each of those steps, as effective, strategic and accountable humanitarian action was based on assessments and analysis of needs.

On humanitarian financing, the Secretary-General reported that in 2013, ninety-five countries, as well as numerous multilateral and regional organizations, private sector organizations and individuals, contributed a total of $14.4 billion in funding to multilateral inter-agency response plans and complementary humanitarian action. That was an increase of $1.6 billion from 2012, largely owing to the magnitude of the crisis in Syria and the response to Typhoon Haiyan, Yolanda in the Philippines. Member States and the private sector contributed $474 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund, the highest-ever annual total. Those funds enabled the Emergency Relief Coordinator to allocate $482 million for urgent humanitarian response in 45 countries and territories. More than 65 per cent of the funding was used to respond to complex emergencies, 20 per cent to natural disasters and 14 per cent went to other protracted humanitarian emergencies.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States, the UN and humanitarian actors continue to identify, understand and analyse the distinct needs, challenges and coping capacities of women, girls, boys and men, including by improving the disaggregation of sex-, age- and disability-specific data during collation and their use in analysis and programme planning; strengthen the participation of all affected women, girls, boys and men in decision-making structures; and consistently utilize the gender marker and other monitoring tools to improve gender and age analysis and track funding allocations.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 25 June [meeting 29], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2014/13 [E/2014/L.18] without vote [agenda item 7].

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council, reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council, reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance, and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect those principles,

recalling its decision 2014/211 of 23 April 2014, in which it decided that the theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its 2014 session would be “The future of humanitarian affairs: towards greater inclusiveness, coordination, interoperability and effectiveness” and that it would convene two panels, on the topics “Effective humanitarian assistance” and “Serving the needs of people in complex emergencies”;

expressing deep concern at the increasing number of attacks and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, assets and supplies, including medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, transports and facilities, and expressing deep concern about the negative implications of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

noting with grave concern at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity posed by the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, by the ongoing impact of the financial and economic crisis and by the regional food crises and continuing food insecurity, and the insecure environment and increase the need for resources for disaster risk reduction, preparedness and humanitarian assistance, including in developing countries,

expressing grave concern at the increase in the number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those associated with natural hazards and complex emergencies, at the increased impact of natural disasters and at the frequently protracted displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies, recognizing the need for burden sharing in this regard, and noting with appreciation efforts at the national and international levels that promote national capacity-building to address complex challenges in this regard,

condemning the increasing number of attacks and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, facilities, assets and supplies, including medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, transports and facilities, and expressing deep concern about the negative implications of such attacks for the provision of humanitarian assistance to affected populations,

noting with grave concern that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations in many emergency situations,

reiterating the need to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance in a comprehensive and consistent manner,

emphasizing that building and strengthening resilience at the local, national, and regional levels is critical to reducing the impact of disasters, including by saving lives, reducing suffering, mitigating damage to property and providing a more predictable and effective delivery of assistance and relief, and in this regard, while recognizing that building resilience is a long-term development process, stressing the need for continued investment in preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response capacity,

emphasizing also the importance of improving information sharing among Member States and the United Nations system and, where appropriate, with relevant humanitarian and development organizations, about risks that can lead to humanitarian crises, and of investing in building capacity, in particular for developing countries, to analyse, manage and reduce such risks and vulnerabilities to hazards, as well as, where appropriate, to improve risk analysis and its use in planning,

recognizing the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term
development and that emergency measures should be accompanied by development measures as a step towards the sustainable development of affected States, and in this regard highlighting the importance of closer cooperation between national stakeholders, including the private sector, as appropriate, and humanitarian and development actors,

Noting the contribution, as appropriate, of relevant regional and subregional organizations in the provision of humanitarian assistance within their region, upon the request of the affected State,

Recognizing that volunteerism can make an important contribution to community and nationally led efforts at all stages of humanitarian action,

Noting the importance of identifying best practices and opportunities to enhance the effective interaction and coordination between the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, donors, affected Governments, civil society, the private sector and other relevant actors and to make the best use of their expertise, available capacities, comparative advantages and resources with the overall aim of providing effective humanitarian assistance,

Recognizing the need for the United Nations system and its partners to improve and strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system in support of national efforts, and noting the efforts made by the United Nations and its partners, including through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013, in which the Assembly stated that the Council and the Assembly, especially its Second and Third Committees, need to consider and take steps towards the rationalization of their agendas, with a view to eliminating duplication and overlap and promoting complementarity in the consideration and negotiation of similar or related issues,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Requests Member States, relevant organizations and other relevant actors to ensure that all aspects and stages of humanitarian response address the specific needs, challenges and coping capacities of women, girls, men and boys, on an equal basis, taking into consideration age and disability, including through the improved collection, analysis, reporting and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, taking into account, inter alia, the information provided by States, and emphasizes the importance of the full participation of women in decision-making processes related to humanitarian response;

3. Encourages Member States, with the support of relevant organizations, as appropriate, to strengthen leadership and commitment to preventing and mitigating humanitarian crises, including through integrating risk management into national development plans, and in this regard encourages humanitarian and development organizations, in cooperation with Governments, to continue to strengthen efforts to address the underlying risks and vulnerabilities, including through considering risk management and resilience strategies;

4. Stresses that the United Nations system should continue to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships, as well as by strengthening their capacity to build resilience, mitigate disaster risks and prepare for and respond to disasters, and also encourages Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and national and local nongovernmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance;

5. Encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, together with development organizations, to continue to support national leadership in building in-country preparedness capacity, including under the Common Framework for Capacity Development for Emergency Preparedness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

6. Encourages Member States, as well as relevant regional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to continue to support adaptation to the effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, especially for those countries that are particularly vulnerable;

7. Urges States to assess their progress in strengthening preparedness levels for humanitarian response, with a view to increasing efforts to develop, update and strengthen disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, in particular priority 5 thereof, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities, including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, to give increased priority to and mainstream disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, in particular through supporting national and local efforts in that regard;

8. Encourages States, the United Nations system and all stakeholders to continue to engage in the consultations on the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action, culminating at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015;

9. Welcomes the growing number of initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account, as appropriate, the Guidelines, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area,
in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other partners;

10. **Encourages** efforts to enhance cooperation and coordination of United Nations humanitarian entities, other relevant humanitarian organizations and donor countries with the affected State, with a view to planning and delivering emergency humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of early recovery as well as sustainable rehabilitation, reconstruction and development efforts;

11. **Also encourages** efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and quality education in humanitarian emergencies, in particular for the well-being of all girls and boys, to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

12. **Requests** the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to lead the efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance, urges relevant United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and relevant development actors, including civil society, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance, and encourages Member States to improve their cooperation with the Office;

13. **Also requests** the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve dialogue with Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

14. **Encourages** United Nations humanitarian organizations and other relevant organizations, while strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, to continue to work in close coordination with national Governments, taking into account the primary role of the affected State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of such assistance within its territory;

15. **Requests** the United Nations system and other relevant actors to continue to improve and strengthen humanitarian coordination mechanisms, notably at the field level, including the existing cluster coordination mechanism, and by improving partnership and coordination with national and local authorities, including the use of national/local coordination mechanisms, where possible;

16. **Welcomes** the continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity in order to provide a timely, predictable, coordinated and accountable response to humanitarian needs, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in that regard, in consultation with Member States, including by strengthening support to and improving the identification, selection and training of United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators;

17. **Requests** the United Nations to continue to identify solutions to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Development Group to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, in order to ensure full implementation of the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system;

18. **Also requests** the United Nations to continue to develop specialist technical expertise and capacity to fill gaps in critical humanitarian programming and to procure emergency relief material rapidly and cost-effectively, and locally when appropriate, in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination and provision of international humanitarian assistance;

19. **Recognizes** the benefits of the effectiveness of the humanitarian response, including by engaging and coordinating with relevant humanitarian actors, and welcomes in this regard the ongoing efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and the private sector, encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts, which can cooperate effectively to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence, and also encourages the United Nations system to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

20. **Notes** the increasing challenges facing both Member States, in particular developing countries, and the international humanitarian response system in responding effectively to all humanitarian emergencies, in particular the underfunded and forgotten emergencies, and in this regard stresses the need to enhance existing partnerships and build new ones, strengthen financing mechanisms, broaden the donor base and engage other partners to ensure adequate resources for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

21. **Expresses concern** at the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of food and shelter, water and sanitation, health care, fuel, firewood and alternative energy and telecommunications in humanitarian emergencies, and notes with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels that promote effective cooperation in that regard;

22. **Encourages** Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to continue to assess and improve, together with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how innovation can be more systematically promoted through increasing investment in research and development leading to innovation, identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner, and promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and evaluations, including those from recent large-scale natural disasters, that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages all relevant stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities, including through access to information and communication technologies;
23. Requests the United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence basis for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of and make further progress in respect of strategic planning and common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

24. Encourages Member States to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of information with humanitarian organizations of the United Nations, in order to support preparedness efforts and to improve the effectiveness of needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

25. Recognizes that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need to enhance the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

26. Calls upon the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately addressed;

27. Urges all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to fully commit to and duly respect the guiding principles contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/182, including the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality as well as the principle of independence, as recognized by the Assembly in its resolution 58/114 of 17 December 2003;

28. Calls upon all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and delivery of supplies and equipment in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

29. Calls upon all parties to armed conflicts to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law;

30. Calls upon all States and parties to comply fully with the provisions of international humanitarian law, including all the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, in order to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories, and in this regard urges the affected States to accelerate the implementation of humanitarian assistance, reaffirms the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles;

31. Encourages Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including food, shelter, health, clean water, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources with the aim of ensuring the immediate restoration of safe conditions of life, alleviating the immediate effects of humanitarian emergencies and contributing towards long-term recovery and reconstruction, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

32. Recognizes the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States;

33. Requests the United Nations to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including affected States, and all other stakeholders, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, premises, facilities, equipment, transports and supplies operating within their borders, and in other territories under their effective control, recognizes the need for appropriate collaboration between humanitarian actors and relevant authorities of the affected State in matters related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and urges Member States to ensure that perpetrators of crimes committed against humanitarian personnel on their territory or in other territories under their effective control do not operate with impunity and are brought to justice as provided for by national laws and in accordance with obligations under international law;

34. Also urges Member States to continue to take the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, premises, facilities, equipment, transports and supplies operating within their borders, and in other territories under their effective control, recognizes the need for appropriate collaboration between humanitarian actors and relevant authorities of the affected State in matters related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel, requests the Secretary-General to expedite his efforts to enhance the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and urges Member States to ensure that perpetrators of crimes committed against humanitarian personnel on their territory or in other territories under their effective control do not operate with impunity and are brought to justice as provided for by national laws and in accordance with obligations under international law;

35. Encourages the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include as part of their risk management strategy the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities, and all relevant actors, in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

36. Emphasizes the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, reaffirms the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles;

37. Encourages Member States, the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make new contributions and to consider increasing and diversifying their existing contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, including consolidated and flash appeals, the
Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds such as the country-based pooled funds, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, as a means of ensuring flexible, predictable, timely, needs-based and, where possible, multi-year, non-earmarked and additional resources to meet global humanitarian challenges, encourages donors to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship, reiterates that contributions for humanitarian assistance should be provided in a way which is not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development, recognizes the need for more diversified funding bases, and encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to consider making further use of multi-year consolidated appeals, as appropriate.

38. Recognizes that building preparedness is a long-term investment that will contribute to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including a reduction in the need for humanitarian response, and therefore further encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to provide effective, predictable, flexible and adequate funding for preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities, including from humanitarian and development budgets, and stresses that international preparedness efforts reinforce and support national and local preparedness capacities and institutions;

39. Welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016, aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices in the humanitarian field to improve the coordination, capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian response, and requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure an inclusive, consultative and transparent preparatory process;

40. Requests the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 12 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/135 [A/69/L.40 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 69 (a)].

Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Deeply concerned about global challenges, such as the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, climate change, the negative impacts of the volatile food prices on food security and nutrition and the rapid urbanization of populations, and about their effect on the increasing vulnerability of populations and impact on the need for and provision of humanitarian and development assistance,

Noting the substantial increase over the last decade in global humanitarian funding requirements, welcoming non-traditional donors, emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, flexible and additional resources for humanitarian assistance, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, with a view to ensuring fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors and across humanitarian emergencies, and recognizing in this regard the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Emphasizing that strengthened needs analysis, risk management and strategic planning, in coordination with affected States, including through the use of open and disaggregated data, are crucial elements to ensure a better informed, more effective, transparent and collective response to the needs of people affected by crises,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and to take into account the needs of affected populations, including persons with disabilities,

Expressing its deep concern about the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response system and their capacities as a result of the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, and reaffirming the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, inter alia, by providing adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, including investment in disaster preparedness and capacity-building, and by working towards building back better in all phases from relief to development,

Expressing grave concern about the current unprecedented outbreak of the Ebola virus disease and its adverse impact on the affected countries, underscoring that the control of outbreaks of major infectious diseases requires proper early warning, preparedness, resilience-building, cross-sectoral action and greater national, regional and international collaboration, and in this regard stressing the continued need for a coordinated response to the Ebola outbreak,

Recognizing that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to natural hazards and need adequate international cooperation, as appropriate, to strengthen their resilience in this regard,

Recognizing also that economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

Recognizing further, in this respect, that building national and local preparedness and response capacity through, inter alia, appropriate and conducive public policies and international assistance, is critical to a more predictable and effective response and contributes to the
achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including enhanced resilience and a reduced need for humanitarian response,

**Emphasizing** that enhancing international cooperation on emergency humanitarian assistance is essential, and reaffirming its resolution 68/103 of 13 December 2013 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development,

**Emphasizing also** the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

**Condemning** the increasing number of deliberate threats and violent attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities, including medical personnel, their facilities and other humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, in a majority of cases affecting locally recruited personnel, noting with concern the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, and in this regard welcoming the efforts such as the Health Care in Danger project of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, together with States, internationally recognized non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law by raising awareness and promoting preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from such violence,

**Recognizing** the high number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including the increasing number of internally displaced persons, of whom a majority are women and children, who are forcibly displaced owing to conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, and who are often displaced for protracted periods, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs,

**Recognizing also** the importance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which include a vital legal framework for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

**Noting with grave concern** that violence, including gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations during and after humanitarian situations,

**Noting with appreciation** the efforts that the United Nations continues to make to improve humanitarian response, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, enhancing predictable and adequate funding and strengthening the accountability of all stakeholders, and recognizing the importance of strengthening emergency administrative procedures and funding to allow for an effective and needs-based response to emergencies,

**Recognizing** that, in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, the organizations of the United Nations system should continue to consult and work in close coordination with national Governments,

1. **Welcomes** the outcome of the seventeenth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2014;

2. **Requests** the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue her efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system, including through the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. **Also requests** the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve dialogue with all Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

4. **Encourages** Member States and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to improve dialogue and collaboration on humanitarian issues, including on policy, in order to foster a more consultative and inclusive approach to humanitarian assistance;

5. **Welcomes** the continued efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in order to effectively cooperate to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

6. **Encourages** Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to assess and improve, together with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how innovation can be more systematically identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner and to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and approaches, including those from large-scale natural disasters, that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities, including through facilitating access to information and communication technologies;

7. **Welcomes** innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

8. **Calls upon** the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance.
assistance at the global and field levels, including through existing cluster coordination mechanisms and in support of national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing efficiency, transparency, performance and accountability;

9. Recognizes the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations, and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue strengthening the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United Nations country teams, including by providing necessary training, identifying resources and improving the identification of and the selection process for United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators, and enhancing their performance accountability;

11. Calls upon the Chair of the United Nations Development Group and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue enhancing their consultations before presenting final recommendations on the selection process for resident coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations;

12. Requests the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Development Group to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, in order to ensure the full implementation of the management and accountability system of the Group and the resident coordinator system;

13. Recognizes that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing country contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

14. Also recognizes that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need for enhancing the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

15. Reaffirms the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, reiterates the importance of strengthening the effectiveness of national and local preparedness in line with priority five of the Framework, notes the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013, and encourages States, the United Nations system and all stakeholders to continue to engage in the consultations on the successor to the Framework, culminating at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015;

16. Calls upon Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to build the capacity at all levels of government and within local organizations and communities to better prepare for hazards and respond to and recover from disasters;

17. Calls upon Member States and the international community to increase and commit adequate, timely, flexible and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to build resilience, including through complementary humanitarian and development programming and by further strengthening national and local capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and furthermore encourages closer cooperation between national stakeholders and humanitarian and development actors in this regard;

18. Encourages the United Nations system, humanitarian organizations and development organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream preparedness, early action and early recovery into their programming, acknowledges that preparedness, early action and early recovery should receive further funding, and in this regard encourages the provision of timely, flexible, predictable and adequate resources, including from both humanitarian and development budgets, as appropriate;

19. Urges Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security;

20. Expresses concern about the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter and food and healthcare services in humanitarian emergencies, and noting with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels that promote effective cooperation in this regard;

21. Encourages the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems, especially early warning systems, for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards;

22. Welcomes the growing number of initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account the Guidelines, as appropriate, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other partners;

23. Encourages States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and of national
and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing timely, effective and predictable humanitarian assistance, and encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, under the Common Framework for Preparedness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Development Group and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and through support to programmes aimed at enhancing the coordination capacities of affected States;

24. **Calls upon** Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, where appropriate, including through prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

25. **Encourages** Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to examine their own financing mechanisms in order to improve, where possible, fast and flexible financing for preparedness, response and the transition from relief to recovery;

26. **Takes note of** the efforts of Member States, the United Nations and the international community to strengthen preparedness and local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity, and **calls upon** the United Nations and relevant partners to continue support in this regard;

27. **Encourages** efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and quality education for all, especially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

28. **Encourages** the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible harmonized data, in order to ensure better assessment of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response;

29. **Calls upon** relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the humanitarian programme cycle, in particular the development of strategic response plans and humanitarian needs overview, including consolidated appeals processes in consultation with the affected States in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action, to meet the needs of people affected by humanitarian emergencies;

30. **Encourages** Member States to provide humanitarian funding based on, and in accordance with, the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

31. **Encourages** Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to explore innovative risk-sharing mechanisms and to base risk management funding on objective data;

32. **Requests** Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including disaster preparedness and needs assessments, take into account the specific humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities of all components of the affected population, in particular girls, boys, women, older persons and persons with disabilities, including in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and recovery programming and post-humanitarian emergency reconstruction, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the gender marker, and emphasizes the importance of full participation of, in particular, women and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes related to humanitarian response;

33. **Calls upon** United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and taking into account environmental impact, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

34. **Calls upon** the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately assessed and effectively addressed;

35. **Calls upon** donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs, including for underfunded and forgotten emergencies, to consider providing early and multi-year commitments to pooled humanitarian funds and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, encourages efforts to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship and to improve burden-sharing among donors, and in this respect encourages the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make relevant contributions, complementary to those of other sources;

36. **Calls upon** Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to identify better ways of working to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, in order to effectively meet the needs of affected populations;

37. **Calls upon** Member States that are in a position to do so and development and humanitarian partners, in their efforts to provide flexible resources, to consider ways of better mainstreaming the need for preparedness and building resilience in the provision of humanitarian and development assistance, including reconstruction and rehabilitation, inter alia, with a view to ensuring smooth transition from relief to development;

38. **Encourages** humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding;

39. **Calls upon** all Member States that are in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions to
humanitarian emergencies, and in this context reiterates that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding;

40. **Welcomes** the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their practices and processes in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

41. **Calls upon** all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund, and emphasized that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

42. **Encourages** Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

43. **Encourages** Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

44. **Reaffirms** the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

45. **Also reaffirms** the obligations of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel, facilities, transports and activities, which must not be whichered and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required;

46. **Calls upon** States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, in accordance with national law and their obligations under international law;

47. **Urges** all Member States to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies in a strengthened manner and to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute gender-based violence, and calls upon States, the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, harmonize response and strengthen capacity, with a view to preventing and reducing such violence and ensuring that humanitarian relief is provided in a way that mitigates the risk of gender-based violence, and to ensure that support services to victims and survivors of such violence are given due priority, beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response;

48. **Recognizes** the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and, in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States and encourages humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, including with development organizations, to better address the needs of internally displaced persons in support of Member States to promote durable solutions;

49. **Calls upon** all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

50. **Welcomes** the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the approach taken by the Secretary-General to focus the efforts of the security management system on enabling the United Nations system to “stay and deliver” its most critical programmes even in high-risk environments by effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, including in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and to adapt quickly to changes in local security conditions;

51. **Encourages** the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include, as part of their risk management strategy, the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

52. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report on actions taken to enable the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy staff quickly, effectively and flexibly, to procure emergency relief materials and services rapidly, cost-effectively and locally, where applicable, and to quickly disburse funds in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

53. **Welcomes** the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016, aimed at sharing knowledge and best prac-
ties in the humanitarian field to improve the coordination, capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian response, requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure an inclusive, consultative, transparent preparatory process, encourages Member States and stakeholders to participate in and contribute to the process and outcome of the Summit, and encourages the Secretary-General to further engage Member States regarding the process and outcome of the Summit;

54. Encourages Member States to give appropriate consideration in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda to disaster risk reduction, including building resilience and national and local preparedness and response capacity;

55. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2015, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including on the process and update on the World Humanitarian Summit, and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

UN and other humanitarian personnel

In response to General Assembly resolution 68/101 [YUN 2013, p. 1908], the Secretary-General in a September report (A/69/406) provided an update on the safety and security of UN personnel over the preceding year and on the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security (DSS) to implement that resolution.

The UN security management system was responsible for the safety and security of more than 150,000 UN personnel in 187 countries. Some 30,000 United Nations personnel served at headquarters locations while more than 120,000 served in non-headquarters duty stations, including field offices.

In 2013, the total number of United Nations personnel affected by significant security incidents decreased to 1,216, compared to 1,793 in 2012, 1,759 in 2011 and 1,438 in 2010. A total of 28 UN personnel lost their lives in significant security incidents, compared to 35 in 2012, 70 in 2011 and 24 in 2010; and 18 UN personnel lost their lives as a result of violence in 2013, while 10 were killed in safety-related incidents. A total of 226 personnel were injured in significant security incidents (compared with 321 in 2012, 311 in 2011, 232 in 2010), 82 as the result of violence and 144 in safety-related incidents.

The continuing high number of abductions of UN personnel since 2010 remained a serious concern. In 2013, 17 UN personnel were abducted, following 31 abductions in 2012, 21 in 2011 and 12 in 2010. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UN personnel remained in captivity for eight months. Most of the abductions and hostage-taking incidents occurred in the Sudan, Syria and Yemen. During the first six months of 2014, nine UN personnel were abducted and later released. One internationally-recruited staff member abducted in October 2013 in Yemen remained in captivity. Female UN personnel accounted for some 40 per cent and almost 36 per cent of all personnel affected by robberies and almost 100 per cent of those affected by sexual assaults were female. DSS had continued to provide support and engage with non-governmental organizations on security. In April, the UN security management system promulgated its Saving Lives Together framework, which provided a basis to facilitate security cooperation between the United Nations and its implementing and operational partners. In addition, DSS, in cooperation with concerned UN entities, concluded an independent review of Saving Lives Together to enhance the framework and develop new operational guidance.

The Secretary-General highlighted three factors that could prompt the world community to make concerted efforts to ensure the protection of UN and humanitarian personnel: (a) the current and evolving global security environment marked by unconventional and diverse threats against UN and humanitarian personnel; (b) the increasing requirement by Member States for the United Nations to be present in dangerous places, including in areas of active armed conflict and volatile post-conflict environments; and (c) the undeterred commitment of the United Nations to operate, regardless of the environment, in order to carry out life-saving programmes and to promote peace, human rights and development. While physical security was a core component of UN security management, the sustainable security management approach required a multidimensional approach. That included the need to view security management as a joint effort with host Governments and Member States. The protection of UN and humanitarian personnel was the collective responsibility of the international community.

The General Assembly, in resolution 69/133 of 12 December (see p. 000), on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, urged all States to make every effort to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and refugee law as applicable, related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel.

Resource mobilization

Central Emergency Response Fund

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was originally established in 1992 with the name Central Emergency Revolving Fund [YUN 1992, p. 584] as a
cash-flow mechanism for the initial phase of humanitarian emergencies. In 2005, by General Assembly resolution 60/124 [YUN 2005, p. 991], the Fund was renamed and upgraded with the purpose of promoting early action and response, enhancing response to time-critical requirements, and strengthening core elements of humanitarian response in underfunded crises.

In 2014, $460.8 million in CERF funds supported aid agencies responding to crises in 45 countries. Some $291 million—almost two thirds of total allocations—kick-started aid operations in emergencies ranging from the conflicts in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Iraq to natural disasters in Bolivia and Nepal. Another $170 million went to life-saving programmes to help people in underfunded humanitarian crises, such as in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Myanmar and Somalia. More than half of CERF funds ($235 million) went to projects supporting conflict-affected people, mainly in Ethiopia, CAR, South Sudan and Sudan. Driven by humanitarian demands related to crises in those countries, the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and persistent needs across much of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, almost three quarters ($338.7 million) of total CERF funding went to emergency activities on the African continent. That was the largest proportion of CERF funding that region had ever received in a year. CERF allocated more than half of all its funding to providing food, clean water, and sanitation and health services and supplies.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 68/102 [YUN 2013, p. 869], in June [A/69/96] the Secretary-General reported on the Central Emergency Response Fund, covering 2013. The Emergency Relief Coordinator had allocated a record $482 million from the rapid response and underfunded emergency grant windows and $27 million from the loan facility of the Fund to support activities in 45 countries and territories. Member States and the private sector contributed $477.3 million to the Fund for 2013, the highest-ever annual total. During the year, the secretariat of the Fund completed the implementation of the management response plan for the five-year Independent Evaluation of the Fund, given that all recommendations directly under its control had been implemented successfully.

During the year, 57 per cent of funds supported projects in conflict-related emergencies. Most conflict-related allocations went to projects in the Sudan ($41.9 million), Syria ($40.4 million), Somalia ($19.8 million) and Mali ($17.9 million). With additional allocations to address the needs of Syrians who had fled to Lebanon ($17.5 million), Jordan ($14.8 million) and Iraq ($10 million), the Fund allocated a total of $82.7 million to respond to the conflict in Syria. Fund grants to support life-saving activities following natural disasters, including an earthquake in the Philippines, floods in Mozambique and drought in Bolivia, totaled $80.5 million. In terms of humanitarian sectors, funding for food assistance ($113.7 million), health care ($75.2 million) and water and sanitation ($58.2 million) totaled more than 51 per cent of all Fund allocations. Of all regions, Africa received the largest grant allocation in 2013 (56 per cent).

In regard to agencies receiving funds directly from CERF in 2013, and consistent with previous Fund allocations, the World Food Programme remained the biggest recipient (30 per cent), followed by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) (24 per cent). The next largest recipients were the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture organization of the United Nations, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) that combined received 39 per cent of the Fund’s grant allocations.

**Advisory Group meetings.** At its May meeting [A/68/795] (Geneva, 14–15 May), the CERF Advisory Group—established by Assembly resolution 60/124 to advise the Secretary-General, through the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on the use and impact of the Fund—considered a number of policy issues, including the CERF risk management plan, the independent review of its Performance and Accountability Framework, and the evaluation of UNHCR of its utilization of CERF funds. The Group also received an update on the resource mobilization and communications efforts of the CERF secretariat.

The Group noted that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Humanitarian Financing Task Team was considering best practices from individual agencies, which could lead to improvements across the board in the timeliness of disbursement of CERF funds to recipient agencies’ implementing partners. The Group encouraged the CERF secretariat to continue strengthening its partnership with IASC members within the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team. The Group welcomed the piloting of the new CERF application template, which had improved the accuracy and timeliness of available data and increased the transparency and accountability of CERF to stakeholders.

The Group received an update on the semi-annual CERF risk action plan and acknowledged its importance for risk mitigation and advocacy purposes. The Group requested that the CERF secretariat proceed with drafting standard operating procedures to guide the actions to be taken by CERF, including timely information exchange with donors, should the CERF secretariat be made aware of a potential misuse of funds by an implementing partner.

The Group appreciated the UNHCR evaluation of the utilization of CERF funds, and encouraged UNHCR and the CERF secretariat to act on the recommenda-
tions from the evaluation in a timely manner. The Group noted that some recipients were currently in the process of conducting their own study—such as the WFP—and also encouraged other recipients of CERF funds, in particular UNICEF, to conduct similar evaluations, as recommended by the five-year evaluation of CERF.

At its October meeting [A/69/713] (New York, 23–24 October), the Advisory Group discussed how to deal with the potential misuse of CERF funds and the challenge of communicating potential misuse to donors. The Group reaffirmed that any misuse of CERF funds should be treated in accordance with existing oversight rules and mechanisms of the recipient agencies and be informed by the ongoing system-wide efforts to ensure coherence of treatment of fraud within the United Nations. The Group also considered a number of policy issues, including the CERF risk management plan; progress made following the recommendations from the independent review of the Performance and Accountability Framework; and the independent country reviews of the added value of CERF in the Sudan and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

The Group appreciated the opportunity to exchange views with other representatives of IASC and welcomed the ongoing work of the IASC Humanitarian Financing Task Team on best practices to accelerate the implementation of CERF-funded projects. The Group took note of the variety of systemic and contextual factors affecting the timeliness of disbursement and implementation, including the potentially competing requests for strengthened accountability and risk management systems. The Group reiterated that rapid disbursement of funds was central to the Fund’s life-saving mandate and key for maintaining the reputation of CERF as an effective humanitarian financing mechanism. The Group called upon the senior management of IASC members to demonstrate continuous measurable improvements, and requested the CERF secretariat to develop targeted key messages on the timeliness of disbursement for the donors’ representatives to raise at meetings of the Executive Board of the respective recipient agencies.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 12 December [meeting 70], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/134 [draft A/69/L.37 & Add. 1] without vote [agenda item 69].

Twentieth anniversary of the participation of volunteers, “White Helmets”, in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

The General Assembly, Reaffirming its resolution 50/19 of 28 November 1995, 52/171 of 16 December 1997, 54/98 of 8 December 1999, 56/102 of 14 December 2001, 58/118 of 17 December 2003, 61/220 of 20 December 2006, 64/75 of 7 December 2009 and 67/84 of 13 December 2012, Reaffirming also its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996, Recalling its resolution 49/139 B, in which it welcomed the establishment of a national volunteer corps called “White Helmets”, undertaken in order to strengthen the standby capacity of developing countries, to support United Nations activities in the area of humanitarian emergency assistance, as well as in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, Recalling also its resolution 66/67 of 5 December 2011 on the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, in which it noted that the momentum created by the Year had contributed to the vibrancy of volunteerism globally with the involvement of more people, from a broader cross-section of societies, Recognizing, in the light of the increasing number and growing magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the need to utilize fully the national potential of countries to provide the United Nations system, on a standby basis, with support for its activities in the area of humanitarian emergency assistance, as well as in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, which should contribute to more coordinated responses in these fields, Recalling its resolution 50/19, in which it encouraged voluntary national and regional actions aimed at making available to the United Nations system, through the United Nations Volunteers, national volunteer corps such as the White Helmets on a standby basis, in accordance with accepted United Nations procedures and practices, in order to provide specialized human and technical resources for emergency relief and rehabilitation, and in that regard noted with satisfaction the establishment, in particular in developing countries, of national volunteer corps such as the White Helmets, Recognizing the efforts being made by the White Helmets initiative to strengthen national, subregional and regional agreements in Latin America and the Caribbean, Noting that in the 20 years since the launch of the White Helmets initiative, developing countries in a position to do so have shown a growing commitment to assisting communities in need through the provision of technical, human and material resources and cooperation, both in their fight against hunger and poverty and in the context of emergency response and international humanitarian assistance, and in this regard recognizing the efforts of the White Helmets initiative, Welcomes the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of its first resolution on the White Helmets initiative, and in line with resolution 67/84 reiterates its invitation that the Secretary-General, on the basis of the work experience acquired by the White Helmets in the international field, suggest measures to enhance the collaboration of the
White Helmets initiative with the United Nations system and report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session in a separate section of the annual report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

**Humanitarian action**

The Consolidated Appeal Process tool was used for the last time in 2013 and replaced with the humanitarian needs overviews (HNOs), a joint multi-sectoral analysis and prioritization of needs at a country level. The purpose of HNOs was to support humanitarian partners in developing a shared understanding of the evolution and impact of a crisis; to ensure that credible evidence and a joint analysis of needs underpinned an effective and prioritized humanitarian response; and to reliably identify priority needs, vulnerable groups and most-affected areas.

The total global financial requirement in 2014 to cover humanitarian needs rose to $18.05 billion—the highest amount ever requested in a single year and exceeded the $12.9 billion requested in 2013.

Around 61 per cent ($11 billion) of the 2014 requirement was funded in assistance to people in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Gambia, Haiti, Iraq, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, the Niger, Nigeria, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Philippines, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Yemen and the Sahel region.

In 2014, three major crises with significant regional impact—Central African Republic, South Sudan and Syria—dominated humanitarian response efforts.

Discrepancies in funding among crises were evident during the year. The appeals and plans for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (47.4 per cent), Mali (49.6), Somalia (49.1 per cent), Chad (36.6 per cent) were less than for Afghanistan (90.0 per cent), Central African Republic (68.2 per cent), Iraq (70.9 per cent) and Yemen (60.1 per cent).

In 2014, the largest response to plans and appeals was by the United States (32.1 per cent), followed by the European Commission (11 per cent), United Kingdom (9.3 per cent), Saudi Arabia (5.3 per cent) and Germany (4.5 per cent).

For 2014, the humanitarian country team endorsed four strategic objectives for humanitarian action in the CAR: provide life-saving humanitarian, multi-sectoral packages to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, migrants and returning persons; protect conflict-affected people from harm, specifically vulnerable groups (e.g. unaccompanied minors, women, single-headed households, migrants, unaccompanied children and the elderly); ensure access to basic services to returnees; restore resilience to affected communities.

The humanitarian crisis in the CAR that erupted in December 2013 and continued in 2014 had affected the whole country leaving thousands of civilians killed, more than 446,000 refugees and internal displaced people that culminated at 930,000 people at the peak of the crisis. The Emergency Relief Coordinator declared CAR as a level three emergency—throughout the year—to support the scale-up of the humanitarian response to provide assistance to 43 per cent of the total CAR population. While violence and killings exacerbated during the first half of the year, it reduced in the second half of the year with the signature of the Brazzaville agreement but continued in significant proportions.

**Chad**

The UN humanitarian response plan for Chad in 2014 sought $618.5 million, of which 36.6 per cent ($226.5 million) was received.

For 2014, the strategic objectives of the humanitarian community in Chad were to track and analyse risk and vulnerability, integrate findings into humanitarian and development programming; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding earlier to warning signals, by reducing post-crisis recovery times and by building capacity of national actors; and deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

As at June 2014, over 2 million people (17 per cent of the population) were food insecure in Chad. In addition, the volatile security situation in Sudan and Nigeria continued to prompt population movements to Chad. An estimated 375,000 Sudanese refugees who had fled violence in Darfur over the past ten years remained in a dozen refugee camps in the east. Over 126,000 people had arrived in Chad from the CAR since 2013. On 30 July, over 1,100 people, mostly women and children, fled attacks by Boko Haram on their village in Nigeria to a Chadian military outpost in western Chad. Some of the shelters in temporary transit sites and camps were destroyed by heavy rains in June and resources were inadequate for repairing or replacing them.
Democratic Republic of the Congo

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2014 sought $832.1 million, of which 47.4 per cent ($394.2 million) was received.

For 2014, the strategic objectives of the humanitarian country team in DRC were to strengthen the protection of the civilian population and improve access to food, basic goods and services in areas affected by violence and armed conflict; contribute to reducing morbidity and mortality due to acute malnutrition in areas of nutritional crisis; contribute to reducing excessive morbidity and mortality in populations affected by epidemics; and strengthen protection of the population and improve access to food, basic goods and services in areas affected by natural disasters.

During the year, DRC remained vulnerable to a wide range of crises natural (outbreaks and natural disasters) and man-made (conflicts and malnutrition) which caused large-scale human suffering, including the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. In the East of the country, inter-communal tensions and/or between ethnic/economic armed groups (including Government forces) continued, and more than 2.7 million people remained displaced across five provinces (Oriental, North and South Kivu, Katanga, Maniema) as a result of the violence that erupted regularly since 2000. During the year, the continued armed clashes resulted in the new displacement of several thousand people.

South Sudan

The UN humanitarian response plan for South Sudan in 2014 sought $1.8 billion, of which 88.5 per cent ($1.59 billion) was received.

Aid organizations developed a three-year strategy for providing life-saving relief while also improving preparedness, mitigating against future shocks, strengthening national capacity and laying the groundwork for development. The three pillars of the 2014–2016 humanitarian strategy were to respond to immediate humanitarian needs; enhance preparedness and build resilience of households and communities to shocks; and build capacity and strengthen systems of institutions to deliver basic services.

By the end of 2013, a crisis had engulfed the country, causing large-scale violence and displacement, and changing the operating environment for aid agencies. In January, a Crisis Response Plan was developed to cover the first three months of 2014, focusing on immediate, life-saving response to the most urgent humanitarian needs. In the same month the Emergency Relief Coordinator declared the crisis a level-three emergency. As the year unfolded and the emergency continued, a further revision in June extended the Crisis Response Plan to December, appealing for US $1.8 billion. By the end of the year, more than 1.5 million people had been displaced across 185 locations within DRC. Over 100,000 of those were living in eight protection-of-civilians sites. An estimated 237,000 people in 21 host community locations were also in need of assistance. Further, some 488,500 people had fled the country as refugees.

The Sudan

The UN humanitarian response plan for Sudan in 2014 sought $1.8 billion, of which 88.5 per cent ($1.59 billion) was received.

For 2014, the strategic objectives of the Sudan humanitarian country team were to reduce morbidity and mortality rates to below emergency thresholds and improvement in well-being; protect conflict-affected and displaced persons more effectively from violence and exploitation; ensure that the most vulnerable households, groups and communities were better able to mitigate risk and withstand shocks and stresses; and achieve progress towards durable solutions for IDPs and affected communities in targeted localities.

A total of 6.9 million people (about 20 per cent of Sudan’s population) were in need of humanitarian assistance. By the end of the year, there were 3.1 million people in protracted displacement, including a new displacement of an estimated 400,000 people in Darfur, the highest number of displaced people in any single year since the conflict began in Darfur in 2003. In parts of the Sudan, Global Acute Malnutrition levels for children under five years stood at 28.2 per cent (state level) and as high as 42 per cent (locality level), which far exceeded the internationally accepted “critical” emergency threshold of 15 per cent. In addition, 1.4 million people had been facing food insecurity in the country. Since conflict erupted in South Sudan in December 2013, over 120,000 people had sought protection in the Sudan; mostly in White Nile, Khartoum and South Kordofan states.

Cameroon

The UN humanitarian response plan for Cameroon in 2014 sought $125.8 million, of which 58.2 per cent ($73.2 million) was received.

The strategic objectives for Cameroon during 2014–2016 were to collect data on risks and vulnerabilities, analyse them and integrate the results into humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks in responding to early warning signals, reducing the duration of the post-crisis recovery and building the capacity of national actors; and provide people in emergency situations with coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.
As at mid-year, four regions of the country were struggling with humanitarian crises. Food insecurity was worst in the Far North where severe acute malnutrition rates were the highest in the country (outside refugee populations), peaking respectively at 9 per cent and 6 per cent. The North and Far North were the worst affected by measles and cholera outbreaks. Refugees from Nigeria were mostly concentrated in the Far North while those from the car were sheltering in the East and Adamawa Region.

Republic of Congo

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Republic of Congo in 2014 sought $14.3 million, of which 36.2 per cent ($5.2 million) was received.

Many had fled violence in the car to seek refuge in the Republic of Congo, already host to thousands of refugees from neighbours including the drc and Rwanda.

In April, the Central Emergency Response Fund allocated $2 million to help humanitarian partners provide emergency assistance to refugees from the car. In December, the Emergency Relief Coordinator approved $1.7 million for the provision of critical health services in the Republic of Congo.

Central African Republic

2014 Central Emergency Response Fund emergency assistance to refugees from Central African Republic

West Africa

Ebola

The UN inter-agency plan for Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone to tackle the Ebola virus outbreak in 2014 sought $2.27 billion, of which 68.9 per cent ($1.56 billion) was received.

In December 2013, a two-year-old boy in Guinea died from an unexplained infectious disease, which was the start of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. That event was not identified as Ebola and did not trigger any alarms at the time as it happened in a remote part of Guinea and in a part of Africa where Ebola was not considered to be a risk. Subsequently, the virus was transmitted in social and healthcare settings and through funerals and burials and the disease spread until it was officially declared an Ebola outbreak in Guinea in March 2014. The cases were then confirmed in Liberia and, by May 2014, in Sierra Leone.

As at September, a total of 4,847 cases were reported and 2,419 died in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone—the three countries with intense transmission of the virus, and in Senegal and Nigeria where there was localized transmission of the virus. The humanitarian community identified five strategic objectives to deal with the public health emergency: stop the outbreak; treat the infected; ensure essential services; preserve stability; and prevent outbreaks in countries that were unaffected.

By the end of 2014, the cumulative total of cases stood at 20,206 with 7,905 deaths across the affected countries.

Burkina Faso

The UN humanitarian response plan for Burkina Faso in 2014 sought $99.3 million, of which 49.6 per cent ($49.2 million) was received.

The humanitarian community in Burkina Faso identified three strategic objectives for 2014: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities and analyze them and integrate the results into the humanitarian and development programming; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding to the warning signals, reducing the duration of post-crisis recovery and building the capacity of national actors; and provide to persons in emergency situations with coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

At the end of the 2014–2015 crop year, Burkina Faso recorded a provisional gross national cereal production of around 4.6 million tonnes, a 4.8 per cent decrease from the previous year and an increase of 7.2 per cent compared to the five-year average. However, the results did not cover the entire territory. Of the 45 provinces in the country, 13 were in deficit. Around 144,000 children were in the category of severely malnourished during the year.

Mali

The UN humanitarian response plan for Mali in 2014 sought $481 million, of which 49.6 per cent ($238.7 million) was received.

To respond to the humanitarian situation in Mali, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities, analyze them and integrate the results into the humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding to the warning signals, reducing the duration of post-crisis recovery and building the capacity of national actors; and provide to persons in emergency situations with coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

As at August, life-saving assistance was urgently needed across Mali, with hundreds of thousands of people in need of water, food, and protection. Almost half a million children under five, mainly in the south, suffered from acute malnutrition, while 1.5 million people did not have enough to eat. A deteriorating security worsened the food crisis and limited the access to water, health care and education. Protection
from violence and increasingly from sexual violence against women was a priority. As at 31 December, the number of IDPs was 61,621 persons, down from 86,216 in October the same year. The number of Malian refugees registered in neighbouring countries also decreased in mid-November 2014.

Mauritania

The UN humanitarian response plan in 2014 sought $90.9 million, of which 69.3 per cent ($63.1 million) was received.

To respond to the humanitarian situation in Mauritania, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for 2014: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities, analyze them and integrate the results into humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding to early warning signals; reducing the duration of post-crisis recovery and building the capacity of national actors; and provide persons in emergency situations with coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

As at mid-year, Mauritania hosted the largest number of Malian refugees in the region. One in four Mauritianis was food insecure, with 190,000 Mauritanians severely food insecure and 126,000 children under the age of five malnourished. The loss of assets and purchasing power during the 2012 food crisis and the debts incurred by households due to the crisis had been compounded by chronic poverty and limited access to basic services. The 2013–2014 harvest only met 40 to 50 per cent of outstanding needs and 40,000 people were yet to recover from the torrential rains in July 2013. Renewed tensions in northern Mali disrupted the voluntary return of Mali refugees who took shelter in Mauritania.

Niger

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Niger in 2014 sought $305.2 million, of which 68 per cent ($207.5 million) was received.

To respond to the situation in the Niger, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for 2014: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities, analyze and integrate the results into humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks; and provide coordinated and integrated assistance to persons in emergency situations.

As at mid-year, close to 360,000 children were affected by severe malnutrition and nearly 580,000 by moderate malnutrition. Four million people, the equivalent of nearly 24 per cent of the population, were food insecure. In addition, Niger hosted an increasing number of refugees, including 50,000 from Mali and 70,000 from Nigeria.

Gambia

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Gambia in 2014 sought $18.3 million, of which 23.9 per cent ($4.4 million) was received.

To respond to the situation in the Gambia, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives: track and analyse risk and vulnerability; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks; and deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

As at June, 48,600 children were malnourished while roughly 496,000 people were at risk of food insecurity. Additionally, the 2013 floods in Gambia affected about 29,000 people in the country mostly in the Greater Banjul Area, many of whom were yet to recover.

While Gambia was not experiencing an acute humanitarian crisis of the scale of some of its Sahel neighbours, however, the lack of support to recover from the impact of previous and recurring disasters (drought, floods and storms, disease outbreak among human and livestock) had pushed some households from being under pressure to the crisis phase.

Nigeria

The UN humanitarian response plan for Nigeria in 2014 sought $93.4 million, of which 19.1 per cent ($17.8 million) was received.

The humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for Nigeria in 2014: track and analyse risk and vulnerability, integrating findings into humanitarian and development programming; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding earlier to warning signals, by reducing post-crisis recovery times and by building capacity of national actors; and deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

As at mid-year, up to 9.5 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance across Nigeria. Nearly 4.2 million were food insecure and 539,000 children under five suffered from severe acute malnutrition. At the beginning of the year, 3.3 million people were displaced in Nigeria.

A deteriorating security situation in the northeast coupled with serious concerns about the security landscape in the lead up to the February 2015 elections created urgent humanitarian needs in the Northeast and the Middle Belt of the country, in addition to a worrying cholera outbreak. Since May 2013, the northeast states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe had been under a state of emergency due to a violent insurgency that had killed at least 2,000 people in 2014 alone, and internally displaced nearly 650,000 people. Over 60,000 people had fled the state of emergency states into neighbouring countries such as Cameroon,
Chad, and the Niger. Access to the northeast of Nigeria was highly constrained given the frequency of insurgent attacks. Basic services, notably schools and health facilities, were systematically destroyed by insurgents.

**Senegal**

The UN humanitarian response plan for Senegal in 2014 sought $64.1 million, of which 32.6 per cent ($20.9 million) was received.

To respond to the situation in Senegal, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for 2014: collect data on risks and vulnerabilities; analyze them and integrate the results into humanitarian programming and development; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding to early warning signals, reducing the duration post-crisis recovery and strengthening the capacity of the national actors; and provide persons in emergency situations coordinated and integrated assistance necessary for their survival.

A mid-year assessment noted that a combination of inadequate rainfall and recurrent floods had hampered agricultural productivity and livestock survival in rural Senegal and had taken a toll on chronically vulnerable urban households. Almost ten per cent of children under five countrywide were acutely undernourished. Life-saving measures to meet the needs of the most vulnerable were underway, including for the protection of 14,000 refugees. Activities aimed at building the resilience of communities in view of the persistent food and nutrition crisis were ongoing.

**Horn of Africa**

**Djibouti**

The UN humanitarian response plan for Djibouti in 2014 sought $74.1 million, of which 28.1 per cent ($20.8 million) was received.

The humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives for Djibouti in 2014 and 2015: reduce the impact of drought, restore livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of affected persons; prevent epidemic, epizootic and zoonotic risks and reduce their impact on the drought-affected populations and livestock; and strengthen protection and improve access to food and other basic services for refugees and vulnerable migrants.

In mid-2014, the country had suffered from high rates of severe acute malnutrition as a result of prolonged drought within Djibouti and across the Horn of Africa. Persistent drought had drastically reduced the flow and quality of water in Djibouti and had led to people suffering from acute diarrhoea and respiratory infection, also heightening the risk of malaria. The death of livestock in times of severe drought led to major consequences for the livelihood of nomads. Competition for scarce natural resources was rife among local people and refugee communities.

**Sahel**

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Sahel in 2014 sought $49.8 million, of which 46.8 per cent ($23.3 million) was received.

To respond to the situation in the Sahel, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives from January 2014 to December 2016: track and analyse risk and vulnerability, integrating findings into humanitarian and development programming; support vulnerable populations to better cope with shocks by responding earlier to warning signals, by reducing post-crisis recovery times and by building capacity of national actors; deliver coordinated and integrated life-saving assistance to people affected by emergencies.

Although the 2013 harvest equaled the average for the past five years, the number of food insecure people across the region exceeded 20 million. It was estimated that more than 50 per cent of severe acute malnutrition cases were in the Niger, Chad, Mali and Burkina Faso.

Across the Sahel an estimated 1.5 million people were displaced (768,000 refugees and 800,000 internally displaced) as a result of violence in the Central African Republic, northern Nigeria and northern Mali. There were some 140,000 Malian refugees in Mauritania, the Niger and Burkina Faso. Thousands of refugees continued to arrive in Cameroon in a very poor state of health, while Chad was host to 400,000 refugees from the Sudan, Nigeria and the Central African Republic.

**Somalia**

The UN humanitarian response plan for Somalia in 2014 sought $933.1 million, of which 49.1 per cent ($457.9 million) was received.

In response to the humanitarian situation in Somalia, the humanitarian community adopted four strategic objectives for 2014: provide timely and quality life-saving assistance to people in humanitarian emergency; enhance resilience of vulnerable households and communities; improve the protective environment; and strengthen the capacity and coordination of non-governmental organizations, affected communities and local, regional and national level authorities; to prevent and mitigate risks and implement effective emergency preparedness and response.

An estimate as at midyear noted that widespread food insecurity was expected to worsen over the second half of the year due to a poor rainy season, a disrupted planting season and supply routes blocked by armed conflict. More than a million people were internally displaced. Of particular concern were the...
369,000 displaced people living in appalling conditions in Mogadishu where acute malnutrition rates and mortality levels had already surpassed emergency thresholds.

**Asia**

**Afghanistan**

The UN humanitarian response plan for Afghanistan in 2014 sought $406.4 million, of which 90 per cent ($365.6 million) was received.

Humanitarian partners in Afghanistan identified four strategic priorities: provide emergency health care and prioritize access to critical services; respond to needs of internally displaced people and returning refugees; prevent protection infringements; and respond to natural disasters.

The intensification of conflict in Afghanistan resulted in civilian loss of life and injury reaching unprecedented levels with 10,548 civilian casualties reported—the highest number of civilian deaths and injuries in a single year since 2009. Military operations in neighbouring Pakistan led to some 250,000 people seeking refuge in Afghanistan. Emergency levels of acute malnutrition required urgent action, while floods in April destroyed more than 8,000 people's homes. Extensive displacement occurred in rural areas in Western and Central Afghanistan with 156,200 people displaced by conflict as compared to 125,300 in 2013.

**Occupied Palestinian Territory**

The UN humanitarian response plan for the Occupied Palestinian Territory sought $931.1 million, of which 54.4 per cent ($506.4 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified two strategic objectives: enhance the protection of populations in Gaza, Area C, the Seam Zone and East Jerusalem by promoting respect for international humanitarian and human rights law, preventing or mitigating the impact of violations, improving equitable access to essential services and ensuring the effective integration of protection considerations in service provision interventions; and help improve the food security and access to livelihoods of vulnerable communities with particular focus on Gaza, Area C, the Seam Zone and East Jerusalem by improving economic access to food.

Humanitarian needs increased dramatically in 2014, which began with recovery from the impact of the December 2013 winter storm, one of the worst in the last 50 years, followed in the summer by the longest and most deadly round of hostilities since the beginning of the occupation in 1967. Throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Palestinian civilians continued to be exposed to a range of protection threats, including threats to life, liberty and security; destruction or damage to homes and other property; forced displacement; restrictions to freedom of movement and access to livelihoods; and lack of accountability and effective remedies.

**The Philippines**

The UN humanitarian response for the Philippines in 2014 involved the Bohol Earthquake Action Plan that sought $33.8 million of which 49 per cent ($16.6 million) was received; the Typhoon Haiyan Strategic Response Plan that sought $775.7 million of which 60.5 per cent ($469.1 million) was received; and the Zamboanga crisis response plan that sought 12.8 million of which 46.7 per cent ($6 million) was received.

As at mid-2014, Typhoon Rammasun had swept through four regions of the Philippines and floods affected some parts of Mindanao. The country was still in transition following the impact of Typhoon Haiyan-Yolanda in November 2013 and particular attention was being paid to shelter and early recovery/livelihoods. Armed conflict between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the splinter/rebel groups continued across Mindanao and were exacerbated by violent clan feuds and rivalry between different factions of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Nearly 26,000 people remained displaced in transitory sites and evacuation centres in Zamboanga following fighting between AFP and a splinter group of the MILF in September 2013.

**Syria**

**Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan.** The Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP) for 2014 sought $2.26 billion, of which 50.9 per cent ($1.15 billion) was received.

In 2014, SHARP identified five overarching strategic objectives: advocate for the protection of civilians, and in particular of those with specific vulnerabilities and prioritize their needs in accordance with principles of international law, international humanitarian and human rights law; improve the provision of appropriate life-saving emergency services and relief supplies for affected people in Syria, especially in the sectors of food and agriculture, water, sanitation, health, nutrition, shelter, education and essential non-food items; expand early recovery, and restoration/stabilization of livelihoods, supporting the rehabilitation of vital public services affected by the crisis and creating an environment for humanitarian assistance to enhance the resilience of affected communities; enhance the operational capacity of national and international humanitarian responders and support existing local and community coping mechanisms; and ensure adequate levels of preparedness to respond to further emerging humanitarian needs.
Regional Response Plan. The Syria Regional Response Plan for 2014 sought $3.74 billion, of which 63.6 per cent ($2.38 billion) was received. It was one of the largest appeals ever presented for a refugee emergency. Over 100 partners—UN agencies as well as national and international NGOs—were working together to address the needs of Syrian refugees and assist the countries in the region who have so generously taken them in. The Plan called for further efforts to benefit host communities, who offered front-line protection and essential support to refugees.

Yemen

The Yemen humanitarian response plan in 2014 sought $596 million, of which 60.1 per cent ($357.9 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified five strategic objectives for humanitarian response in Yemen: provide effective and timely life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people; assist and protect people affected by crisis, including refugees and migrants as well as returning Yemenis; strengthen the capacity of national actors to plan for and respond to humanitarian emergencies; address the underlying causes of vulnerability to reduce the need for continued humanitarian assistance and increase resilience working along with development partners, including the Government; and ensure meaningful participation and equitable access to services, resources, and protection measures for women, girls, boys, and men.

At the end of 2014, Yemen continued to be a large-scale humanitarian crisis. More than half the population of the country—14.7 million people—remained in need of assistance. Some 10.5 million people were food insecure, of whom 4.5 million were severely food insecure and an estimated 1,080,000 children under five suffered from acute malnutrition, of whom 279,000 children were severely acutely malnourished. In addition, about 13.1 million Yemenis had no access to improved water sources or to adequate sanitation facilities, with rural areas the worst affected. A further 8.6 million people had insufficient access to health.

Iraq

The UN humanitarian response plan for Iraq in 2014 sought $1.11 billion, of which 70.9 per cent ($788.9 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified three strategic objectives: respond to the protection needs of civilians, including those displaced and otherwise affected by the conflict, with due regard to human rights and international humanitarian law; provide life-saving assistance and ensure access to essential services for displaced and vulnerable individuals in a manner that supported the Government’s responsibility as first responder; and improve the access of conflict-affected people to livelihoods and durable solutions to enable them to restore their self-sufficiency and build resilience.

The internal armed conflict in Iraq had escalated since January and prompted a protection crisis impacting millions of Iraqis. About 20,000 civilians had been killed or injured across Iraq between January and September. An estimated 5.2 million people were in urgent need of humanitarian and protection assistance due to ongoing violence and insecurity. That included approximately 1.8 million people newly displaced since the beginning of the year, some 1.5 million individuals in affected host communities, another 1.7 million vulnerable Iraqis who were not displaced but remained in areas directly impacted by the conflict and some 215,000 Syrian refugees. Nearly half of all those newly displaced were children. Humanitarian access to at least 2.2 million Iraqis in need was severely compromised in areas under the control of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and affiliated armed groups.

Myanmar

The UN Myanmar humanitarian response plan in 2014 sought $192 million, of which 67.2 per cent ($129 million) was received.

For 2014, the humanitarian community identified four strategic objectives for Myanmar: save lives by reducing mortality and morbidity amongst affected populations in Rakhine and Kachin as well as populations newly affected by conflict or disaster; ensure adequate access to basic services and the restoration of livelihoods for all displaced and conflict-affected populations in Rakhine and Kachin, while linking up with recovery and development efforts; ensure a protective environment for vulnerable people and individuals at risk among the displaced population in Rakhine and Kachin; strengthen preparedness efforts and ensure that response capacity was adequate to meet the basic humanitarian needs of people newly affected by conflict, inter-communal violence or natural disasters throughout Myanmar.

As at mid-year, tensions remained high throughout Rakhine State where over 143,000 people (the majority of them were Rohingya) were in camps following inter-communal violence that erupted in 2012. Buddhist and Muslim communities remain segregated, and the Muslims face severe movement restrictions, seriously impacting livelihoods and access to basic services. An estimated 36,000 people living in isolated communities were also in need of humanitarian assistance. About 800,000 Muslim Rohingya living in Rakhine State were de facto stateless. An estimated 100,000 people remained displaced in Kachin State as a result of the fighting between the armed forces of Myanmar and the Kachin Independence
Army, which started in June 2011. Approximately half of the internally displaced persons were located in areas beyond government control. Sporadic fighting continued displacing some 2,700 people to four camp locations in southern Kachin State, 600 in northern Shan state and an unconfirmed number had fled across the border to China. An estimated 400,000 people were internally displaced in rural areas of south-eastern Myanmar.

Disaster response

In 2014, 319 disasters were recorded, which affected 141 million people in 107 countries and caused $110 billion in damages. The number of disasters was roughly the same as in 2013, however, the number of affected people increased from 97 million in 2013. That could be explained by an increase in the number of droughts—the only disaster category that registered an increase in 2014—and droughts accounted for 39 per cent of affected people. In terms of mortality, floods and landslides accounted for 63 per cent of fatalities. Forty-eight per cent of disasters occurred in Asia. Over 85 per cent of people killed and 86 per cent of those affected were also in Asia. As in 2013, China, the Philippines and India remained the top three countries in terms of the number of people affected in 2014.

For the second consecutive year, China had the largest number of people affected by natural disasters (58 million), followed by the Philippines (10 million) and India (5.7 million), while the top five costliest disasters were in India (Cyclone Hudhud, $7 billion), Japan (winter damage, $5.9 billion), India and Pakistan (floods, $5.1 billion), Brazil (drought, $5 billion) and China (earthquake, $5 billion).

International cooperation

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/103 [YUN 2013, p. 881], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/303] on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.

The most devastating disaster during the year was Typhoon Haiyan (locally known as Yolanda), which made landfall in the Philippines on 8 November and affected over 14 million people, including 5.4 million children. National authorities recorded 6,300 deaths and 1,061 people missing. Haiyan came on the heels of a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the nearby island province of Bohol in the Philippines on 15 October, killing over 220 and damaging or destroying the homes of more than 367,700 people. Flooding in Pakistan impacted 1.5 million persons (compared with 18 million in 2010, 5 million in 2011 and 4.8 million in 2012).

In the Sahel region, 11.3 million people remained food insecure (compared with 18 million in 2012), while 5 million children were threatened by malnutrition. The combined effects of an increase in food prices, limited trade and access to markets owing to insecurity and high levels of poverty and debt led to the selling of assets and low purchasing power among the most vulnerable. In addition, close to half a million people across the region were affected by floods.
Heavy rains and flooding caused loss of life and destruction in many countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Uganda. Following the heavy rainy season, drought-like conditions impacted Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience helped to strengthen coherent and coordinated UN system engagement in supporting Member States to accelerate progress in disaster risk reduction. It provided the framework for the UN system to extend a risk-based approach to its humanitarian and development programmes and to enhance preparedness for effective support to national- and community-level response and recovery efforts. Nevertheless, humanitarian and development actors needed to redouble their efforts to ensure a more comprehensive, coherent, systematic and people-centred approach to managing risks. The shift from response to prevention was fundamentally a political challenge and real change would happen only if Governments actively took the lead to reform the current institutional architecture within their own countries.

Funding was a critical enabler for a shift towards a more anticipatory approach. Funding reflected priorities and only 0.5 per cent of all international aid in the past 20 years went towards preparedness and prevention activities. Moreover, only 1 per cent of development aid targeting the top 40 recipients of humanitarian assistance was spent on disaster risk reduction. Funding was also poorly targeted. For instance, the Index for Risk Management indicated that South Sudan had the highest risk of humanitarian crisis, yet it remained forty-sixth in the list of official development aid per capita. Basing funding on an objective and shared risk assessment would help to prioritize funding flows and promote better coordination and burden-sharing among donors. Flexible long-term financing would also enhance investments in risk management. Among his recommendations, the Secretary-General urged that Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other stakeholders to prioritize risk management and shift towards an anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses.


Among major events organized were the Central American expert meeting on the use of space-based information in early warning systems (San Salvador, El Salvador, 31 March–1 April) that brought together 30 experts from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the United Nations; the United Nations/Germany Expert Meeting on the Use of Space-based Information for Flood and Drought Risk Reduction (Bonn, Germany, 5–6 June) attended by 57 experts from 18 Member States; the United Nations International Conference on Space-based Technologies for Disaster Management: Multi-hazard Disaster Risk Assessment (Beijing, 15–17 September) attended by 110 participants from 32 Member States; and the Sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction pre-conference event (Bangkok, 22 June).

On 5 December, in resolution 69/85 (see p. 000), the General Assembly noted the progress made within the UN-SPIDER framework, and encouraged Member States, on a voluntary basis, to provide the programme with the additional resources necessary to address the increasing demand for support successfully and in a timely manner.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 23 December (meeting 76), the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/243 [draft A/69/L.49 & Add. 1] without vote [agenda item 69 (a)].

**International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, as well as all its resolutions on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development, and recalling the resolutions of the humanitarian segments of the substantive sessions of the Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Reaffirming further the Hyogo Declaration, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and the common statement of the special session on the Indian Ocean disaster: risk reduction for a safer future, as adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, and bearing in mind that the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action is coming to an end in 2015,

Taking note with appreciation of the results of the midterm review of the Hyogo Framework for Action, and noting the results of the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013, and recognizing it as the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction,
Recognizing that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to adopt a framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015,

Noting the determination of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as expressed in its decision 2/COP.18, to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, due to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020,

Emphasizing the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

Emphasizing also that the affected State has the primary responsibility in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory and in the facilitation of the work of humanitarian organizations in mitigating the consequences of natural disasters,

Emphasizing further the primary responsibility of each State to undertake disaster risk reduction and management, including through the implementation of and follow-up to the Hyogo Framework for Action, as well as response and early recovery efforts, in order to minimize the impact of natural disasters, while recognizing the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of affected countries which may have limited capacities in this regard,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity to deal with the consequences of natural disasters, given the effects of global changes, including the impact of climate change, the ongoing adverse impact of the global financial and economic crisis and the negative impact of volatile food prices on food security and nutrition, and other key factors that exacerbate the vulnerability of populations and exposure to natural hazards and the impact of natural disasters,

Expressing its deep concern also that rural and urban poor communities in the developing world are the hardest hit by the effects of increased disaster risk,

Noting with concern that persons with disabilities, older persons, women and children are disproportionately affected in natural disasters,

Acknowledging the impacts of rapid urbanization in the context of natural disasters and that urban disaster preparedness and responses require appropriate disaster risk reduction strategies, including in urban planning, and early recovery strategies implemented from the initial stage of relief operations, as well as mitigation, rehabilitation and sustainable development strategies,

Noting that local communities are the first responders in most disasters, underlining the critical role played by in-country capacities in disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, as well as response and recovery, and acknowledging the need to support efforts of Member States to develop and enhance national and local capacities which are fundamental to improving the overall delivery of humanitarian assistance,

Recognizing the high numbers of persons affected by natural disasters, including in this respect internally displaced persons, and the need for Member States to address the humanitarian and development needs arising from natural disaster-induced displacement, including through national policies and resilience-building, and with the support of the United Nations and relevant humanitarian and development organizations, and encouraging all relevant actors to consider making use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in support of efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, response and the early recovery phase, and of strengthening the response capacity of countries affected by disaster,

Recognizing the progress made by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) in its mission, encouraging Member States to provide all support necessary, on a voluntary basis, to UN-SPIDER, including financial support, to enable it to carry out its workplan for 2014–2015, and reiterating the importance of enhancing international coordination and cooperation at the global level in disaster management and emergency response through greater access to and use of space-based services for all countries and by facilitating capacity-building and institutional strengthening for disaster management, in particular in developing countries,

Noting the progress in the establishment of the Global Framework for Climate Services to develop and provide science-based climate information and prediction for climate risk management and for adaptation to climate variability and change, and looking forward to its implementation,

Welcoming the important role played by Member States, including developing countries, that have granted necessary and continued generous assistance to countries and peoples stricken by natural disasters,

Recognizing the significant role played by national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, as part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in disaster preparedness and risk reduction, disaster response, rehabilitation and development,

Emphasizing the need to address vulnerability and to integrate disaster risk reduction, including preparedness, into all phases of natural disaster management, post-natural disaster recovery and development planning, through close collaboration of all relevant actors and sectors,

Reaffirming that strengthening resilience contributes to withstanding, adapting to and quickly recovering from disasters,

Recognizing that efforts to achieve economic growth, sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be adversely affected by natural disasters, and noting the positive contribution that those efforts can make in strengthening the resilience of populations to such disasters,
Recognizing also the clear relationship between emergency response, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of short- and medium-term recovery leading to long-term development and that certain emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development;

Emphasizing, in this context, the important role of development organizations and other relevant stakeholders in supporting national efforts to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Expresses its deep concern at the increasing impact of natural disasters, resulting in massive losses of life and property worldwide, in particular in vulnerable societies lacking adequate capacity to mitigate effectively the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences of natural disasters;

3. Calls upon Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to accelerate the full implementation of the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015; Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, in particular those commitments related to assistance for developing countries that are prone to natural disasters and for disaster-striken States in the transition phase towards sustainable physical, social and economic recovery, for risk-reduction activities in post-disaster recovery and for rehabilitation processes, and in this regard encourages States, the United Nations system and all stakeholders to continue to engage in the consultations on the successor to the Framework, culminating at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held inSendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and to implement the successor framework;

4. Emphasizes the need to promote and strengthen disaster preparedness activities at all levels, in particular in hazard-prone areas, and encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to increase funding and cooperation for disaster risk reduction activities, including disaster preparedness;

5. Encourages Member States to provide dedicated financial contributions to preparedness, response and recovery efforts in a harmonized, flexible and complementary approach that fully utilizes and helps to coordinate humanitarian and development funding options and potential;

6. Calls upon all States to adopt, where required, and to continue to implement effectively, necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to mitigate the effects of natural disasters and integrate disaster risk reduction strategies into development planning, as well as to incorporate a gender perspective into policies, planning and funding, and in this regard requests the international community to continue to assist developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition, as appropriate;

7. Acknowledges that climate change, among other factors, contributes to environmental degradation and to the increase in the intensity and frequency of climate and extreme weather events, both of which amplify disaster risk, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries;

8. Welcomes the growing number of initiatives undertaken at the national and regional levels to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account the Guidelines, as appropriate, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and other partners;

9. Also welcomes the effective cooperation among the affected States, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and other relevant organizations, such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and civil society, in the coordination and delivery of emergency relief, and stresses the need to continue such cooperation and delivery throughout relief operations and medium- and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future natural hazards;

10. Reiterates the commitment to support, as a matter of priority, the efforts of countries, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities at all levels in order to reduce risks, prepare for and respond rapidly to natural disasters and mitigate their impact;

11. Urges Member States to develop, update and strengthen early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action, taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities to continue to support national efforts in this regard;

12. Also urges Member States to improve their response to early warning information in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action, and encourages all stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;

13. Encourages Member States to consider elaborating and presenting to the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction secretariat their national platforms for disaster reduction in accordance with the Hyogo Framework for Action, and also encourages States to cooperate with each other to reach this objective;

14. Recognizes the importance of applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, and encourages Member States, taking into account their specific circumstances, and the United Nations system to continue to apply the approach to their preparedness activities, including by give-
ing due regard to, inter alia, secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents;

15. Stresses that, to increase further the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance, particular international cooperation efforts should be undertaken to enhance and broaden further the utilization of national and local capacities and, where appropriate, of regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, which may be made available in closer proximity to the site of a disaster, and more efficiently and at lower cost;

16. Encourages innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by natural disasters to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce lifesaving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

17. Stresses, in this context, the importance of strengthening international cooperation, particularly through the effective use of multilateral mechanisms, in the timely provision of humanitarian assistance through all phases of a disaster, from relief and recovery to development, including the provision of adequate resources;

18. Encourages all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, to take appropriate measures to reduce and discourage the sending of unsolicited, unneeded or inappropriate relief goods in response to disasters;

19. Encourages all Member States to facilitate, to the extent possible, the transit of emergency humanitarian assistance and development assistance, provided in the context of international efforts, including in the phase from relief to development, in full accordance with the provisions of resolution 46/182 and the annex thereto, and in full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law;

20. Encourages Member States to put in place, as appropriate, customs measures to improve effectiveness in responding to natural disasters;

21. Reaffirms the leading role of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point within the overall United Nations system for advocacy for and coordination of humanitarian assistance among United Nations humanitarian organizations and other humanitarian partners;

22. Welcomes the important contribution of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system to the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance in supporting Member States, upon their request, and the United Nations system in preparedness and humanitarian response, and encourages the continued incorporation into this mechanism of experts from developing countries that are prone to natural disasters;

23. Also welcomes the important contribution of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group to the effectiveness of international urban search and rescue assistance, and encourages Member States to continue to support the Advisory Group, in line with General Assembly resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002;

24. Urges Member States, the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to consider the specific and differentiated consequences of natural disasters in both rural and urban areas when designing and implementing disaster risk reduction, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, humanitarian assistance and early recovery strategies, giving special emphasis to addressing the needs of those living in rural and urban poor areas prone to natural disasters;

25. Welcomes the continued efforts of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations, traditional and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in situations of natural disasters, in order to cooperate effectively in providing humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence;

26. Recognizes that information and telecommunications technology can play an important role in disaster response, encourages Member States to develop emergency response telecommunications capacities and encourages the international community to assist the efforts of developing countries in this area, where needed, including in the recovery phase, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not acceded to or ratified the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations to consider doing so;

27. Encourages the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invites Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite-derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery;

28. Recognizes the opportunities for new technologies, when utilized in a coordinated fashion and based on humanitarian principles, potentially to improve the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian response, and encourages Member States, the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to consider engaging, inter alia, with the volunteer and technical communities in order to make use of the variety of data and information available during emergencies and disaster risk efforts;

29. Encourages Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and international financial institutions to enhance the global capacity for sustainable post-disaster recovery in areas such as coordination with traditional and non-traditional partners, identification and dissemination of lessons learned, development of common tools and mechanisms for recovery needs assessment, strategy development and programming, and incorporation of risk reduction into all recovery processes, and welcomes the ongoing efforts to this end;

30. Encourages Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of data disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability, using, inter alia, the existing information provided by
States, and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments that lead to targeted and more effective assistance, and taking into account the environmental impact;

31. Calls upon United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for effective humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

32. Encourages Member States to take steps to develop or to improve data collection and analysis and to facilitate the exchange of information with humanitarian organizations of the United Nations, in order to support preparedness efforts and to improve the effectiveness of a needs-based humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations system, as appropriate, and other relevant actors to continue to assist developing countries in their efforts to build local and national capacities for data collection and analysis;

33. Encourages Member States, regional organizations, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to improve the identification, mapping and analysis of risks and vulnerabilities, including the local impact of future disaster risk drivers, and the development and implementation of appropriate strategies and programmes to address them, and in this regard encourages all the relevant stakeholders to support Governments in capacity development, including at the regional and local levels, through the sharing of expertise and tools and the provision of necessary resources, as appropriate, to ensure that effective disaster management plans and capacities are in place in accordance with national priorities for disaster risk management;

34. Stresses the importance of the full and equal participation of women in decision-making and of gender mainstreaming in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery strategies, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that gender mainstreaming is better taken into account in all aspects of humanitarian responses and activities, including the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the gender marker;

35. Encourages Governments, local authorities, the United Nations system and regional organizations, and invites donors and other assisting countries, to address the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls through gender-responsive programming, including means to address sexual and gender-based violence and various forms of exploitation during emergencies and in post-disaster environments, and the allocation of resources in their disaster risk reduction, response and recovery efforts in coordination with the Governments of affected countries;

36. Emphasizes the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

37. Encourages efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and quality education for all, especially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies caused by natural disasters, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

38. Encourages Member States and relevant regional and international organizations to identify and improve the dissemination of best practices for improving disaster preparedness, response and early recovery and to scale up successful local initiatives, as appropriate;

39. Requests the United Nations humanitarian and development organizations to improve their coordination of disaster recovery efforts, from relief to development, inter alia, by strengthening institutional, coordination and strategic planning efforts in disaster preparedness, resilience-building and recovery, in support of national authorities, and by ensuring that development actors participate in strategic planning at an early stage;

40. Encourages the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to support national, subnational and local governments and communities in their responsibility to develop long-term strategies and multi-year operational plans for preparedness that are embedded within disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action;

41. Calls upon the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to improve the dissemination of tools and services to support enhanced disaster risk reduction, in particular preparedness, and early recovery;

42. Calls upon relevant United Nations humanitarian and development organizations, in consultation with Member States, to strengthen tools and mechanisms to ensure that early recovery needs and support are integrated into the planning and implementation of disaster preparedness, humanitarian response and development cooperation activities, as appropriate;

43. Encourages the United Nations system and humanitarian organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream early recovery into humanitarian programming, acknowledges that early recovery is an important step towards resilience-building and should receive further funding, and encourages the provision of timely, flexible and predictable funding for early recovery, including through established and complementary humanitarian and development instruments;

44. Urges Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to prioritize risk management and shift towards an anticipatory approach to humanitarian crises in order to prevent and reduce human suffering and economic losses;

45. Encourages the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to work towards a common understanding of underlying risks, clarify roles and responsibilities according to their respective mandates and establish joint objectives and programmes to strengthen coordination and coherence among short-, medium- and long-term activities;

46. Stresses the need to strengthen resilience at all levels, and in this regard encourages Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant actors to support
efforts, as appropriate, to integrate resilience into humanitarian and development programming, and encourages humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common resilience and risk management objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding.

47. Calls upon Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, as appropriate, including by prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience and support livelihoods, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, vouchers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

48. Encourages the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to support humanitarian coordinators and resident coordinators, in order to strengthen their capacity, inter alia, to support the host Government in implementing preparedness measures and to coordinate preparedness activities of country teams in support of national efforts, and encourages the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to further strengthen the ability to quickly and flexibly deploy humanitarian professionals to support Governments and country teams in the immediate aftermath of a disaster;

49. Encourages Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to identify ways to improve the current financing architecture in order to better provide coherent, predictable and flexible longer-term funding for risk management in multi-year strategies, in particular preparedness, on the basis of a global assessment of risk, allowing for better prioritization of resources where the risk is greatest;

50. Emphasizes the need to mobilize adequate, flexible and sustainable resources for recovery, preparedness and disaster risk reduction activities in order to ensure predictable and timely access to resources for humanitarian assistance in emergencies resulting from disasters associated with natural hazards;

51. Welcomes the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund and its contribution to the promotion and enhancement of early humanitarian response, calls upon Member States, and urges the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing voluntary contributions to the Fund, including, when possible, through multi-year and early commitments, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and not to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

52. Strongly encourages giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters within the post-2015 development agenda and promoting a complementary and coherent approach between that agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

53. Invites Member States, the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions to consider voluntary contributions to other humanitarian funding mechanisms;

54. Welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016, aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices in the humanitarian field to improve the coordination, capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian response, requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure an inclusive, consultative, transparent preparatory process and encourages Member States and stakeholders to participate in and contribute to the process and outcome of the Summit, and also encourages the Secretary-General to further engage Member States regarding the process and outcome of the Summit;

55. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to improve the international response to natural disasters and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session and to include in his report recommendations on how to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided in ways supportive of the transition from relief to development.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction [YUN 1999, p. 860] was built upon the experience of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990–1999) [YUN 1987, p. 458] and embodied the principles articulated in a number of major documents adopted during the Decade. The Strategy reflected a major shift from the traditional emphasis on disaster response to disaster reduction. The United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction acted as the secretariat of the International Strategy and was mandated by the General Assembly to ensure its implementation.

Report of Secretary-General. In response to General Assembly resolution 68/211 [YUN 2013, p. 886], the Secretary-General in September [A/69/364] reported on the progress on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

For the fourth consecutive year, economic losses from disasters had exceeded $100 billion, highlighting the urgency to anticipate medium- and long-term risk scenarios and to identify concrete measures to minimize the creation of future risk, reduce existing levels of risk and strengthen social, environmental and economic resilience.

During the reporting period, over 16,300 people died and 113 million people were affected by some 358 internationally reported disasters. The deadliest single disaster was Typhoon Haiyan-Yolanda in the Philippines which resulted in 7,354 deaths or missing people. Continuing a long-standing trend, storms represented the largest (49 per cent) and floods the second largest (35 per cent) share of global economic losses associated with natural hazards. In fact, storms and floods had caused 55 per cent of lives lost and 86 per cent of economic losses between 1970 and 2012. No continent was spared. Europe experienced a series of costly and highly destructive floods, as did parts of North and South America, Australia and Southern Africa. While deaths associated with those
events were relatively low, millions of people were affected through private and public property and asset loss.

Investments in early warning and disaster preparedness had yielded positive and encouraging results and needed to be further strengthened. As illustrated in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh in India, where over a million people were evacuated in advance of Cyclone Phailin in October 2013, the commitment of States and communities to preparedness saved lives. The 8.2-magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile in April 2014, and the subsequent aftershocks, also highlighted the benefits of investing in preparedness and risk mitigation associated with seismic hazards. The enforcement of building codes was credited with the very low numbers of deaths, while the evacuation of over 900,000 people from the coast, following a tsunami warning, illustrated the benefits of investing in public awareness and early warning. The intersection of natural and technological hazards was receiving increasing attention. Countries’ exposure to technological disasters triggered by natural hazards entailing complex and cascading threats was a growing concern. The earthquake and tsunami that occurred in Japan in March 2011 [YUN 2011, p. 963], as well as ideas and guidance for the new framework.

The fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, had provided yet another wake-up call for the international community. While no single disaster event could be attributed to climate change, there was increased evidence that climate change was affecting many natural and human systems and posed significant risks to human health, ecosystems, infrastructure and agricultural production.

The Secretary-General noted that in preparation for the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction, the consultations for the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction had generated strong multi-stakeholder engagement at the global, regional, national and local levels. Government, civil society organizations and local communities, parliamentarians, local government officials, businesses and scientific institutions had contributed significant reflections on the progress made through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action [YUN 2005, p. 1016], as well as ideas and guidance for the new framework.

There was understanding that the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals, and the new climate change agreement would have to constitute a body of guidance that could lead to coherent and mutually reinforcing practical actions in areas of policy guidance, programmes and financing instruments as well as monitoring systems.

The Secretary-General recommended that Member States participate in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its preparatory process at the highest possible level; consider disaster risk in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and goals, including through an adequate system to measure progress; give due consideration to whole-of-society participation; and consider augmenting their financial contributions to the Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction.

**El Niño**

In response to General Assembly resolution 67/208 [YUN 2012, p. 921], the Secretary-General provided an update on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, which was annexed to his report [A/69/364] on progress on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (see above).

The International Research Centre on El Niño, as the global centre for research on El Niño and a World Meteorological Organization regional climate centre for Western South America servicing Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, had focused efforts on supporting countries potentially affected by the phenomenon with a range of services, including information systems supporting public policies on climate change and biodiversity, vulnerability assessment of watersheds, and targeted initiatives to support disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The Centre had consolidated its international network for climate information and supported users in over 80 countries.

The Third International Conference on El Niño-Southern Oscillation (Guayaquil, Ecuador, 12–14 November) offered an important opportunity to synthesize progress on El Niño-related research, increase understanding of the relationship between climate and society, and share experiences in El Niño vulnerability assessment methodologies. The Conference brought together scientists and professionals involved in research, observations and operational meteorological, climate and hydrological services from across the world to build new knowledge and understanding aimed at improving the prediction of El Niño and its global impacts.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second (Economic and Financial) Committee [A/69/668/Add.3], adopted resolution 69/218 without vote [agenda item 19 (d)].
International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,


Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential to seriously affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,


Reaffirming the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,

Noting the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit and welcoming its contribution to the existing political momentum with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change,

Acknowledging the importance of the ongoing efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation across sustainable development efforts, including taking into account the future impacts of El Niño in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities,

Recognizing that the El Niño phenomenon is expected to occur in late 2014 or early 2015 and that it is likely to have a global impact,

Recognizing also that most of the negative effects will occur in developing countries,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the annex to the report, entitled “Update on international cooperation to reduce the impact of El Niño/La Niña”, and calls upon the international community to make further efforts to assist countries affected by this phenomenon;

2. Recognizes the continued efforts being made by the Governments of Ecuador and Spain, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to support the International Research Centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and encourages them and other members of the international community to continue such contributions for the advancement of the Centre;

3. Welcomes the activities undertaken so far to strengthen the International Research Centre on El Niño, through collaboration with international monitoring centres, including the national oceanographic institutions, and encourages further efforts to enhance regional and international recognition of and support for the Centre and to develop tools for decision makers and government authorities aimed at reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. Notes the contributions made by the International Research Centre on El Niño, as a reference centre on El Niño, including through developing a new climatic database for El Niño/Southern Oscillation-sensitive countries, carrying out applied research in climate change and vulnerability assessments in highlands, coastal zones and marine-protected and urban areas and providing professional training in the Americas; and encourages the sharing of best practices and lessons learned with climate centres located in other El Niño-affected regions;

5. Also notes the assistance provided by Governments by the International Research Centre on El Niño in the development of early warning systems that allow for the implementation of anticipatory risk reduction measures that contribute to the reduction of the potential human, economic and environmental impacts of the phenomenon;

6. Recognizes the technical and scientific support of the World Meteorological Organization in producing regionally coordinated monthly and seasonal forecasts, in particular its establishment of a consensus mechanism for the development of updates on El Niño/La Niña conditions, which receives contributions from several climate centres, including the International Research Centre on El Niño; and encourages further efforts to enhance regional and international recognition of and support for the Centre;

7. Encourages the World Meteorological Organization, in this regard, to continue to strengthen collaboration and the exchange of data and information with relevant institutions;

8. Notes the convening of the third International Conference on El Niño-Southern Oscillation in Guayaquil from 12 to 14 November 2014, which provided an opportunity to synthesize progress on research on the El Niño phenomenon, address linkages between climate and society and share experiences on El Niño vulnerability assessment methodologies;

9. Welcomes the convening of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and acknowledges the ongoing preparatory process for the Conference, which is taking place in Geneva;

10. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the measures necessary to further enhance the services provided by the International Research
Centre on El Niño, and encourages the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

11. Calls upon the international community to urgently provide financial, technical and capacity-building support to countries that are likely to be affected by the El Niño phenomenon;

12. Underlines the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events, and emphasizes the need to further develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular developing countries;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, under the sub-item entitled “International Strategy for Disaster Reduction”, of the item entitled “Sustainable development”, a section on the implementation of the present resolution.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee [A/69/468/Add.3], adopted resolution 69/219 without vote [agenda item 19 (6)].

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,


Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),

Recalling also the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling further its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Noting the conclusion of the Secretary-General’s Climate Summit, and welcoming its contribution to the existing political momentum with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change,

Noting also the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016 and its possible contributions to disaster risk reduction,

Stressing the importance of stronger interlinkages among disaster risk reduction, recovery and long-term development planning, calling for more coordinated and comprehensive strategies that integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation considerations into public and private investment, decision-making and the planning of development and humanitarian actions in order to reduce risks, increase resilience and provide a smoother transition between relief, recovery and development, and in this regard recognizing the need to integrate a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities into the design and implementation of all phases of disaster risk management,

Noting that 26 December 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster, which struck the Indian Ocean and South-East Asian regions and killed approximately 240,000 people, affecting the lives of victims and their families, and resulted in severe socioeconomic and environmental damage,

Recalling that the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015, will review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters and adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/211;

2. Stresses the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, and encourages Member States and the relevant United Nations bodies to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development;

3. Strongly encourages giving appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction and the building of resilience to disasters within the post-2015 development agenda;

4. Recognizes the importance of the development of strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, including government-led strategies, in particular in developing countries, to achieve disaster risk reduction, reiterates the need to further develop regional initiatives and the risk reduction capacities of regional mechanisms, where they exist, and to strengthen them within national disaster management planning, where appropriate, and requests the regional commissions, within their mandates, to support the efforts of States in this regard, in close coordination with the implementing entities of the United Nations system;

5. Stresses the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters and to build resilience and strengthen coping capacities, in particular in developing countries, through, inter alia, the exchange of best practices, the transfer of technology, as mutually agreed, and technical knowledge, the provision of educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction and access to relevant data and information,
the strengthening of institutional arrangements and the promotion of community participation, recognizing that women play a vital role in disaster risk reduction, ownership through community-based disaster risk management approaches and a people-centred, holistic approach, in order to build an inclusive society and to protect livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;

6. Reiterates its appreciation to the Government of Japan for its generous offer to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and its generous pledge to cover the costs of the Conference, welcomes the voluntary contributions already made to facilitate the participation in the Conference of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and invites those States that have not yet done so to make such voluntary contributions;

7. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for hosting and covering the costs of two meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Third World Conference;

8. Welcomes the work of the ongoing preparatory process for the Third World Conference, which is being carried out in Geneva, and reiterates its decision that the Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document;


10. Reiterates its strong encouragement of and the need for effective coordination and coherence between the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the post-2015 development agenda and other relevant intergovernmental and United Nations processes, in order to build synergies;

11. Reiterates its invitation to Member States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, including regional development banks, to participate actively in the Third World Conference, and encourages major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute further to and participate actively in the Conference, according to the rules of procedure agreed upon by its Preparatory Committee;

12. Recognizes in this context the importance of the contributions and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, nongovernmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Hyogo Framework for Action, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, at the Third World Conference and during its preparatory process;

13. Stresses the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction;

14. Reiterates the importance of regional coordination in the framework of the preparatory process in order to promote broad participation in the Third World Conference, and welcomes in this regard the deliberations of the regional platforms and meetings which have been held in Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Italy, Kazakhstan, Nigeria and Thailand;

15. Takes note of the update on progress regarding the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action at the national, regional and global levels, as contained in the report entitled “Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action: summary of reports 2007–2013”, and notes the support work of intergovernmental organizations and other relevant bodies in this regard;

16. Acknowledges the importance of the work of the United Nations in disaster risk reduction, the growing demands on the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the need for increased, timely, stable and predictable resources for the implementation of the International Strategy, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to recommend options on how best to support the implementation of the natural disaster reduction strategy so as to enable the secretariat to effectively coordinate the implementation of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the outcome document of the Third World Conference to the attention of Member States, relevant international and regional organizations, multilateral financial institutions and the regional development banks, as well as relevant intergovernmental processes and conferences;

18. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventyeth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “International Strategy for Disaster Reduction”;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventyeth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the outcome of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Special economic assistance

African economic recovery and development

New Partnership for Africa’s Development

The General Assembly in 2002, by resolution 57/7 [YUN 2002, p. 910], endorsed the Secretary-General’s recommendation [ibid., p. 909] that the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), adopted in 2001 by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity [YUN 2001, p. 900], should be the framework within which the international community should concentrate its efforts for Africa’s development. During 2014, efforts continued to focus on UN and international support for NEPAD and its implementation.
Implementation and support for NEPAD

First Biennial Report of Secretary-General. In response to Assembly resolution 66/293 [YUN 2012, p. 927], the Secretary-General submitted in July the first biennial report [A/69/163] on the review of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa’s development. The interim report outlined the establishment and operationalization of the United Nations monitoring mechanism, the first such mechanism aimed at monitoring commitments made towards Africa’s development, including commitments made by African countries and their development partners. The report provided an in-depth review of the implementation of commitments in four thematic areas: agriculture, food security and nutrition; financing for development; environmental sustainability and climate change; and good governance. The report highlighted the most significant commitments made by African Governments and their development partners; examined progress towards the implementation of those commitments; identified gaps and remaining challenges; and proposed measures to ensure the accelerated implementation of those commitments and deliver on their expected outcomes.

In terms of agriculture, food security and nutrition, Africa’s efforts were supported by many initiatives, including the Zero Hunger Challenge, launched by the Secretary-General at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [YUN 2012, p. 780] and taken forward by the 23 UN system entities that made up the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis [YUN 2008, p. 1343]. At the 24th African Union Summit (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, June 2014), NEPAD launched an alliance of diverse partners to reach six million farming families through climate-smart agriculture processes over the next seven years. Bilateral development partners also launched specific programmes, including the Yokohama Declaration 2013, adopted at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, that contained specific commitments to support agricultural development in Africa through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Efforts to mainstream nutrition in food security policies and initiatives were in their early stages, and limited information was available on results achieved, constraints, challenges and opportunities.

In terms of financing for development, official development assistance (ODA) to Africa had been essential in helping accelerate economic growth and lift people from extreme poverty over the past few decades and was expected to remain a critical source of development financing. Declines in global ODA in 2011 and 2012, caused in part by the eurozone crisis, raised key questions as to the reliability of ODA in the future. The challenges facing Africa were to enhance domestic revenue mobilization and, at the same time, to adopt the right policies and create credible institutions to leverage additional resources from external public and private sources. Although Africa’s share of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)/Development Assistance Committee aid allocation was the highest, Africa’s share of total OECD/Development Assistance Committee aid allocation had remained relatively constant, averaging around 37 per cent during the past three years. That indicated that donors were not prioritizing Africa in aid allocation, despite pledges to do so.

In terms of environmental sustainability and climate change, while Africa was doing well in limiting carbon dioxide emissions and had reduced its consumption of ozone-depleting substances, the forest cover was contracting and the continent remained far off-track for meeting targets related to water and sanitation. African countries had integrated pro-poor environmental sustainability in national development plans and sector plans. About half of the countries in Africa had reached the target of protecting at least 10 per cent of their territorial and marine areas, compared with 20 countries in 1990. A total of 53 African countries had completed national biodiversity strategies and action plans and two thirds were developing or implementing national forest programmes. In addition, as of 2013, 31 African least developed countries had developed national adaptation programmes of action on climate change and 21 of them were implementing climate adaptation projects. Those efforts notwithstanding, on average African Governments allocated less than 5 per cent of national budgets to environment ministries and support for the environment represented less than 2 per cent of total ODA to Africa.

In terms of governance, the African Union (AU) had offered a range of support to African countries’ electoral efforts. In 2013, the AU Long-Term Observer Mission witnessed elections on a pilot basis, in five countries. Its Short-Term Observer Mission witnessed elections in 13 African countries. The AU also provided Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections training workshops for officials of election management boards from eight countries. As at February 2014, 34 African countries had subscribed to the African Peer Review Mechanism, committing to a broad array of international and regional governance norms and standards. The AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption aimed to prevent, detect, punish and eradicate corruption and related offences in Africa, had forty-five signatures and 31 ratifications.

In his recommendations, the Secretary-General noted that while Africa’s new development partners...
continued to make important contributions towards the continent’s development, the lack of reliable data on their engagement made it difficult to assess the impact of their growing partnership with the continent. Africa’s new development partners should strengthen their efforts to monitor and report on their development cooperation activities in the spirit of the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. In addition, there was a need for stronger support for the delivery of impactful results in the four thematic areas.

**CPC action.** The Committee for Programme Coordination, at its fifty-fourth session (New York, 2–27 June), considered the proposed strategic framework of the United Nations support for NEPAD for the period 2016–2017 and recommended that the General Assembly approve it.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 17 July [meeting 104], the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/301 [draft A/68/L.41/Rev.1 & Add. 1] without vote [agenda item 63 (a)].

**New Partnership for Africa’s Development: progress in implementation and international support**

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 on the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,


**Recalling further** the 2005 World Summit Outcome, including the recognition of the need to meet the special needs of Africa, and recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006,

Recalling the political declaration on Africa’s development needs, adopted at the high-level meeting on Africa’s development needs on 22 September 2008,

**Recalling also** the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document, including the recognition that more attention should be given to Africa, especially to those countries most off track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

**Recalling further** that significant challenges remain in achieving sustainable development in Africa, as emphasized in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, including the importance of fulfilling all commitments to advance action in areas critical to Africa’s sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 66/293 of 17 September 2012, by which it established a United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa’s development, and looking forward to the first biennial report, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session,

**Recalling also** the holding of the high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly on the promotion of investment in Africa and its catalytic role in achieving Africa’s development objectives, including those of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development, on 17 July 2014.

**Taking note of** other initiatives, such as the first high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation on the theme “Building towards an inclusive post-2015 development agenda”, held in Mexico City on 15 and 16 April 2014.

Stressing** that addressing Africa’s special development needs should be given due attention in the post-2015 development agenda,

**Bearing in mind** that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and bearing in mind also the need for their development efforts to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,

**Noting with appreciation** the recent progress made by the 34 African countries and the 4 regional economic communities that voluntarily adopted the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and committed to ensuring an annual rate of growth in agriculture of 6 per cent and to allocating at least 10 per cent of public expenditure to the agricultural sector, as appropriate, and noting with appreciation also that, today, nine countries have reached or surpassed the 10 per cent budget allocation target, while another nine countries are currently spending between 5 and 10 per cent,

**Welcoming** the decision, taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held on 15 and 16 July 2012, to proclaim 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa,

Reiterating the need for the international community to implement all commitments regarding the economic and social development of Africa,

1. **Welcomes** the eleventh consolidated report of the Secretary-General;
2. **Reaffirms** its full support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development;
3. **Reaffirms its commitment** to the full implementation of the political declaration on Africa’s development needs, as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, adopted as the outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008;
4. **Recognizes** the progress made in the implementation of the New Partnership as well as regional and international...
support for the New Partnership, while acknowledging that much needs to be done in its implementation;

5. Takes note of the declaration of the special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, held in Abuja from 12 to 16 July 2013, on the progress made in implementing the Abuja actions towards the elimination of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa by 2030, also takes note of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS on 10 June 2011, further takes note of the declaration of the extraordinary summit meeting of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases, held in Abuja from 24 to 27 April 2001, and reaffirms the resolve to provide assistance for prevention, treatment and care, with the aim of ensuring an HIV/AIDS-, malaria- and tuberculosis-free Africa by addressing the needs of all, in particular the needs of women, children and young people, and the urgent need to scale up significantly efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care and support in African countries, to accelerate and intensify efforts to expand access to affordable and quality medicines in Africa, including antiretroviral drugs, by encouraging pharmaceutical companies to make drugs available, and to ensure strengthened global partnership and increased bilateral and multilateral assistance, where possible on a grant basis, to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa through the strengthening of health systems;

6. Also takes note of the road map on shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response in Africa, from 2012 to 2015, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, notes the revitalization of AIDS Watch Africa as an African high-level platform to advocate action, accountability and resource mobilization for response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Africa, and requests, as appropriate, and in line with other international obligations, development partners and the United Nations system to support efforts of African countries and organizations to reach the main objectives put forward in the African Union road map, including achieving diversified sustainable financing, strengthening regulatory harmonization and local pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity and enhancing leadership and governance of the responses;

7. Recognizes that HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases pose severe risks for the entire world, in particular the African continent, and serious challenges to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

8. Invites development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of diseases, including of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

9. Stresses the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, and acknowledges the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa;

10. Takes note of the declaration of the high-level meeting of African and international leaders, entitled “Toward African renaissance: renewed partnership for a unified approach to end hunger in Africa by 2025 under the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme”;

11. Expresses deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, recognizes evidence of an uneven and fragile recovery, is cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, high unemployment, particularly among young people, in-depth poverty in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stresses the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date;

12. Expresses concern about the negative consequences of the uneven global recovery, the increasing challenges posed by climate change, drought, land degradation, desertification, the loss of biodiversity and floods, and the serious challenges these impacts pose to the fight against poverty and hunger, which could pose serious additional challenges to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in Africa;

13. Recognizes that, while global growth is returning, there is a need to further strengthen the recovery, which is still uneven, stresses the urgent need for full recovery and sustained and accelerated growth, which translates into new employment opportunities, secure incomes and improved livelihoods, and reaffirms the need to continue to support the special needs of Africa and to take action to mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the crisis on the continent;

14. Notes that the rapid economic growth of some developing countries has had a positive impact on the efforts of the African continent to sustain and expand growth, despite the fact that those developing countries continue to face development challenges;

15. Expresses concern at Africa’s disproportionately low share in the volume of international trade, which stands at approximately 3 per cent, also expresses concern that official development assistance to Africa fell in 2013, and further expresses concern at the increased debt burden of some African countries;

16. Notes that foreign direct investment is a major source of financing for development, that it has a critical role in achieving development objectives and inclusive...
economic growth, including through the promotion of job creation and poverty eradication, and that it contributes to the active participation of the African economies in the global economy and facilitates regional economic cooperation and integration, and in this regard calls upon developed countries to continue to devise source-country measures to encourage and facilitate the flow of foreign direct investment, inter alia, through the provision of export credits and other lending instruments, risk guarantees and business development services;

17. Also notes the importance of promoting the formalization of informal sector activities in Africa;

18. Calls upon developing countries and countries with economies in transition to continue their efforts to create a domestic environment conducive to attracting investments by, inter alia, achieving a transparent, stable and predictable investment climate with proper contract enforcement and respect for property rights;

19. Emphasizes that economic development, including inclusive industrial development, and policies which seek to enhance productive capacities in Africa can generate employment and income for the poor and, therefore, be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

20. Reaffirms the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, in international economic decision-making and norm-setting, notes the steps taken in this regard, and emphasizes in this context the need to avoid further marginalization of the African continent;

I

Actions by African countries and organizations

21. Welcomes the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to continue their efforts towards achieving development goals, developing and strengthening institutions for governance, creating an environment conducive to involving the private sector, including small and medium-sized enterprises, in the New Partnership implementation process, developing public-private partnerships for financing infrastructure projects and attracting foreign direct investment for development;

22. Also welcomes the collaboration between the African Private Sector Forum and the United Nations Global Compact, and encourages the strengthening of this partnership in conjunction with the African Union Commission in support of the development of the African private sector and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in line with the relevant executive decisions of the African Union;

23. Notes with appreciation the efforts exerted by the African Union and the regional economic communities in the area of economic integration, as well as ongoing efforts by the African Union in the operationalization of the provisions contained in General Assembly resolutions 59/213 of 20 December 2004, 61/296 of 17 September 2007 and 63/310 of 14 September 2009, and stresses the key role of the United Nations system in supporting the African Union in the social, economic and political fields and in the area of peace and security;

24. Recognizes the important role that African regional economic communities can play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries and the international community to give regional economic communities the support necessary to strengthen their capacity;

25. Welcomes the decision by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, at its eighteenth ordinary session, on 29 and 30 January 2012, to strengthen intra-African trade, which plays an important role in promoting economic growth and development, and calls upon the United Nations system and development partners to continue to support the efforts of African countries, the African Union and regional economic communities to enhance intra-African trade;

26. Also welcomes the commitment of the African leaders to Africa’s political, social and economic integration agenda and to the ideal of pan-Africanism and African renaissance, as reaffirmed in the solemn declaration adopted on 26 May 2013 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union;

27. Takes note of the progress in the development of the African Union Agenda 2063 as a strategic vision and action plan for ensuring a positive socioeconomic transformation in Africa within the next 50 years, particularly through regional integration, industrialization, diversification of the economy and job creation;

28. Welcomes the commendable progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the completion of the peer review process in 17 countries, and welcomes the progress in implementing the national programmes of action resulting from those reviews, and in this regard urges African States that have not yet done so to consider joining the Mechanism process and to strengthen the Mechanism process for its efficient performance;

29. Welcomes and appreciates the continuing and increasing efforts of African countries in mainstreaming a gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership;

30. Encourages African countries to accelerate the achievement of the objective of food security in Africa, welcomes the commitment made by African leaders to raise the share of agriculture and rural development in their budget expenditures and ensure better governance to effectively manage the resources allocated, and in this regard reaffirms its support for, inter alia, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, under the strong leadership of African countries, in accordance with the targets set by the New Partnership;

31. Also encourages African countries to strengthen and expand local and regional infrastructure and to continue sharing best practices with a view to strengthening regional and continental integration, and in this regard notes with appreciation the work of the high-level subcommittee of the African Union on the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, which seeks to further strengthen the development of infrastructure on the African continent in collaboration with relevant development partners;
32. **Further encourages** African countries to maintain the trend of increasing investment in infrastructure development and improving the efficiency of existing infrastructure investments, in the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms needed to produce the expected results;

33. **Encourages** African countries to continue their efforts in investing in education, science, technology and innovation to enhance value addition and industrial development;

II

Response of the international community

34. **Welcomes** the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

35. **Also welcomes** the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners, as well as other initiatives, emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa and the need for their effective implementation, and in this regard recognizes the important role that North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation can play in supporting Africa’s development efforts, including in the implementation of the New Partnership, while bearing in mind that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation;

36. **Urges** continued support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and hunger, job creation and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, fulfilment of commitments on official development assistance and increased flows of foreign direct investment, and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms;

37. **Expresses deep concern** about the continuing negative effects of desertification, land degradation and drought on the African continent and, in particular, the critical situation in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa region, which have experienced one of the worst droughts in history, and underlines the need for short-, medium- and long-term measures, and in this regard calls for the continued effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, including its 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018), to address the situation;

38. **Recognizes** that Africa, which contributes the least to climate change, is one of the regions most vulnerable and most exposed to its adverse impacts, and in this regard calls upon the international community, in particular developed countries, to continue to support Africa in its adaptation and sustainable development efforts through, inter alia, the transfer and deployment of technology, on mutually agreed terms, capacity-building and the provision of adequate and predictable new resources, in line with existing commitments;

39. **Notes** the progress made at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, and looks forward to the timely implementation of the “Bali package”, including the trade facilitation agreement, and calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations;

40. **Reiterates** the important role of trade as an engine of sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, in particular its contribution to boosting job creation, given high youth unemployment in Africa, and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, and emphasizes the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade-distorting measures already taken that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, while recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize their flexibilities consistent with their commitments and obligations as members of the World Trade Organization;

41. **Also reiterates** the need for all countries and relevant multilateral institutions to continue efforts to enhance coherence in their trade policies towards African countries, and acknowledges the importance of efforts to fully integrate African countries into the international trading system and to build their capacity to compete through such initiatives as aid for trade, and, given the world economic and financial crisis, the provision of assistance to address the adjustment challenges of trade liberalization;

42. **Calls for** a comprehensive and sustainable solution to the external debt problems of African countries, and recognizes the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and debt restructuring, as debt crisis prevention and management tools for mitigating the impact of the world financial and economic crisis in developing countries;

43. **Welcomes** the efforts of some developed countries which are on target to meet the commitments made in terms of increased official development assistance;

44. **Expresses deep concern** at the fact that the commitment to double aid to Africa by 2010, as articulated at the Summit of the Group of Eight held at Gleneagles from 6 to 8 July 2005, was not entirely reached, and in this regard stresses the need to make rapid progress in order to fulfill the Gleneagles and other Summit commitments to increase aid through a variety of means;

45. **Underlines** the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfill their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

46. **Considers** that innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution towards assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for financing for development on a voluntary basis and that such financing should supplement and not be a substitute for traditional sources of financing, and, while highlighting the considerable progress on innovative sources of financing for development achieved to date, stresses the im-
portance of scaling up present initiatives and developing
new mechanisms, as appropriate;

47. **Welcomes** the increasing efforts to improve the
quality of official development assistance and increase
its development impact, recognizes the Development
Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council,
notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on
aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris
Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda
for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective
Development Cooperation, which make important contribu-
tions to the efforts of the countries that have made com-
mittments to them, including through the adoption of the
fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment,
harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind
that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee
effective assistance and that the specific situation of each
country needs to be fully considered;

48. **Recognizes** the need for Africa’s development
partners that are supporting agriculture and food security
in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards sup-
porting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development
Programme, using the Programme’s investment plans for
alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note
of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;

49. **Also recognizes** the need for Africa’s development
partners to align their efforts in infrastructure investment
towards supporting the Programme for Infrastructure
Development in Africa;

50. **Invites** all of Africa’s development partners, in par-
icular developed countries, to support African countries
in promoting and maintaining macroeconomic stabil-
ity, to help African countries to attract investments and
promote policies conducive to attracting domestic and
foreign investment, for example by encouraging private
financial flows, to promote investment by their private
sectors in Africa, to encourage and facilitate the transfer of
technology to African countries, on mutually agreed terms,
and to assist in strengthening human and institutional ca-
pacities for the implementation of the New Partnership,
consistent with its priorities and objectives and with a view
to furthering Africa’s development at all levels;

51. **Stresses** that the prevention, management and
resolution of conflict and post-conflict consolidation are
essential for the achievement of the objectives of the
New Partnership, and welcomes in this regard the coopera-
tion and support granted by the United Nations
development partners to the African regional and sub-
regional organizations in the implementation of the New
Partnership;

52. **Welcomes** the continued efforts of the United
Nations Peacebuilding Commission in assisting post-
conflict countries in Africa, particularly the six African
countries for which the Commission has established
country-specific configurations;

53. **Urges** the international community to give due at-
tention to Africa’s priorities, including the New Partnership,
in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda;

54. **Requests** the United Nations system to continue
to provide assistance to the Planning and Coordinating
Agency of the New Partnership and to African countries in
developing projects and programmes within the scope of
the priorities of the New Partnership and to place greater
emphasis on monitoring, evaluation and dissemination
of the effectiveness of its activities in support of the New
Partnership;

55. **Emphasizes** African ownership of the African Peer
Review Mechanism process, and invites the international
community to support the efforts of African countries, at
their request, in implementing their respective national
programmes of action arising from the process;

56. **Invites** the Secretary-General, as a follow-up
to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the United Nations
development system to assist African countries in imple-
menting quick-impact initiatives through, inter alia, the
Millennium Villages Project, and requests the Secretary-
General to include in his report an assessment of those
quick-impact initiatives;

57. **Requests** the Secretary-General to promote greater
cohere in the work of the United Nations system in
support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed
clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for
Africa, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations
system to continue to mainstream the special needs of
Africa in all its normative and operational activities;

58. **Welcomes** the establishment of a United Nations
monitoring mechanism to review commitments made re-
lated to Africa’s development, and invites Member States
and all relevant entities of the United Nations system,
including funds, programmes, specialized agencies
and regional commissions, in particular the Economic
Commission for Africa, and all relevant international
and regional organizations to contribute to the effectiveness
and reliability of the review process by cooperating in the col-
lection of data and the evaluation performance;

59. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit a
comprehensive report on the implementation of the present
resolution to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session
on the basis of inputs from Governments, organizations of
the United Nations system and other stakeholders in the
New Partnership.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to
Assembly resolution 68/301 (see above), the Secretary-
General submitted in July the twelfth consolidated
report [A/69/161] on NEPAD implementation and inter-
national support. The report highlighted policy mea-
ures taken by African countries and organizations in
the implementation of NEPAD as well as the response
of the international community and support provided
by the United Nations system. Also highlighted were
activities undertaken by the private sector and civil
society in support of NEPAD. In regard to actions initi-
ated by African countries and organizations, the NEPAD
Agency took initiatives in infrastructure development,
agriculture and food security, health, education and
training, environment and tourism, information and
communications technology, science, technology and
innovation, and gender mainstreaming, empowerment
of women and civil society participation. On the
political front, the African Peer Review Mechanism
[YUN 2003, p. 938] continued to strengthen and insti-
tutionalize good political, economic and corporate
governance throughout the continent. In January
Equatorial Guinea joined the Mechanism, bringing its membership to 34 countries. In spite of a steady increase in membership, there was slow progress in the conduct of national review exercises, partly due to financial constraints. South Africa and Mozambique submitted their progress reports on the implementation of their national programmes of action for review by the African Peer Review Forum during the twentieth summit, held in January. As at June, 17 countries had been reviewed: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

According to the International Monetary Fund, although global economic activities increased considerably in the second half of 2013, Africa continued to show strong resilience with GDP growth averaging 4 per cent in 2013, 1 per cent faster than the global average. Though the recovery in commodity prices had been important for Africa’s recovery from the global economic slowdown, efforts undertaken by African countries to reform their economies, tackle conflicts and strengthen governance had also played an important role in supporting growth. Despite improved performance, growth in Africa remained inadequate to make significant progress in poverty reduction. More remained to be done to raise growth to the 7 per cent target considered critical for sustained poverty reduction as well as for progress towards the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals targets.

In his conclusions and recommendations, the Secretary-General noted that overall progress had been made in the previous 12 months in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. In the decade since its establishment, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme had served as an important framework for agriculture development; progress had also been evident in the implementation of other NEPAD priority sectors, including health, education and gender mainstreaming. An increasing number of countries were attaching great importance to good governance, as evidenced by the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. On the international front, official development assistance to Africa increased, reversing the downward trend of the past two years. Africa’s development partners should make every effort to increase financing for Africa’s agriculture in line with relevant commitments, including those contained in the L’Aquila Food Security Initiative. While progress had been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, lack of financing remained a serious challenge and there was a need to leverage private sector participation in infrastructure through innovative public-private partnerships as underscored by the Dakar Agenda for Action. The Secretary-General underscored that gender and women’s empowerment issues must be mainstreamed into national development policy frameworks in order to undergird efforts towards gender equality and accelerate development outcomes.

Social dimension of NEPAD


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 12 June [meeting 23], the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development [E/2014/26], adopted resolution 2014/4 without vote [agenda item 17 (b)].

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development

The Economic and Social Council,


Recognizing the commitments made with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa’s development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008, and noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004, including relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa’s Development,

Recalling the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development, held in Windhoek from 27 to 31 October 2008, and the second session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Khartoum from 21 to 25 November 2010 on the theme “Strengthening social policy action towards social inclusion”, welcoming the third session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 November

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2012, recalling in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation, for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014), and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010–2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and taking note of the African Common Position on the Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

*Noting* the full integration of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development into the structures and processes of the African Union and the establishment of the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union to replace the secretariat of the New Partnership,

*Noting with appreciation* the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms needed to produce the expected results aimed at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty in the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

*Welcoming* the ministerial statements on the themes “Unleashing Africa’s potential as a pole of global growth” and “Industrialization for an emerging Africa”, adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at their fifth and sixth joint meetings, held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 March 2012 and in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013 respectively, and the consensus statement on the theme “Governing and harnessing natural resources for Africa’s development” adopted at the eighth African Development Forum, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 October 2012,

*Remaining concerned* that, while Africa continues to make steady progress towards attainment of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, this progress is, however, not enough for all countries to attain all of the Goals by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

*Expressing concern* that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and challenges posed by climate change,

*Stressing* that addressing Africa’s special development needs should be given due attention in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

*Noting* that Africa is abundantly endowed with natural resources, including many industrial minerals and agricultural resources that are exported mainly in primary form, and that the exploitation of the natural resources sector in Africa has for many years attracted foreign direct investment in capital-intensive enclave sectors that has the potential, when paired with appropriate policies, including employment-intensive policies, to spur structural transformation, create employment, contribute to poverty eradication and reduce inequality,

*Emphasizing* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

*Recognizing* the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities,

*Recognizing also* that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership, and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community, partners of the New Partnership and United Nations agencies to continue to work towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development on the African continent, and for greater synergy and effective coordination between the New Partnership and the international initiatives related to Africa, and emphasizing the importance of the close collaboration of the African Union Commission and the United Nations as the co-organizers of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development,

*Recognizing further* that investments in people, especially their social protection, health and education, are essential to enhancing agricultural productivity and performance, and thereby key to growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

*Noting with appreciation* that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 35 countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services,

*Bearing in mind* that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil
Chapter III: Humanitarian and special economic assistance

society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. Also welcomes the good progress that has been made in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in those countries and the completion of the annual progress reports and self-assessment processes, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of national preparatory processes for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism as a matter of priority and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

4. Notes the development of Agenda 2063 as the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities, and welcomes the decision on the organization of an extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to assess the progress in implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, to be organized by the African Union in September 2014;

5. Recognizes the valuable efforts made by the Steering Committee of the New Partnership in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, particularly through the mechanism of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, under which impressive progress has been recorded in the conception of many critical infrastructure projects on the continent;

6. Stresses that industrialization is a critical engine of economic and social development, and emphasizes the need to accelerate Africa’s industrialization by the adoption and implementation of specific measures and actions at the national, regional and continental levels and with the support of and in collaboration with development partners and the international community;

7. Also stresses the importance of taking measures to promote the dynamic diversification of African economies through transforming African economies from resource dependence, increasing local processing of and value addition to natural resources in order to expand the domestic economy and increase revenue, and developing new industries in order to transform lives and create opportunities for more and better jobs;

8. Welcomes the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

9. Stresses the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, and acknowledges the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa;

10. Emphasizes that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa’s growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

11. Also emphasizes that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

12. Further emphasizes that the increasingly unacceptable high levels of poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies in order to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, to promote education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

13. Emphasizes that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and services, is necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

14. Encourages African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty.

15. Emphasizes that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, infrastructural development and transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

16. Underlines the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and the target of allocating between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;
17. Stresses the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, inclusive development partnerships and transparency and mutual accountability;

18. Recognizes that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

19. Also recognizes the contributions made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

20. Welcomes the various important initiatives undertaken by Africa’s development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for Africa’s Development African Action Plan 2010–2015: Advancing Regional and Continental Integration in Africa, which remains at the centre of the continent’s engagement with partners;

21. Encourages African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and the implementation of commitments and the achievement of all development goals at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

22. Urges continuous support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, with special emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty and hunger, health, education, the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, reduced cost of sending remittances through official channels, the empowerment of women in all aspects, including economic and political aspects, the promotion of social protection systems and the conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization;

23. Underlines the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase access for smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

24. Urges Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms to enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

25. Notes the decision taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its nineteenth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 15 and 16 July 2012, to proclaim 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security in Africa to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme;

26. Recognizes the need for Africa’s development partners that are supporting agriculture and food security in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme’s investment plans for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;

27. Also recognizes that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006) has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second Decade (2008–2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of 19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

28. Urges African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, which should be aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing employment and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

29. Emphasizes the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and recognizes the importance of human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities;

30. Also emphasizes the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education, and in this regard notes the Global Education First Initiative of the Secretary-General and its objectives and invites
Member States to contribute to the Initiative, as appropriate, including through the allocation of adequate resources;

31. Urges African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of education and training programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

32. Recognizes that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

33. Also recognizes that Africa’s youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent’s development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments to take advantage of the continent’s demographic transition while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

34. Encourages Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

35. Calls upon the international community to enhance support and fulfill its commitments to take further action in areas critical to Africa’s economic and social development, and welcomes the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

36. Encourages all development partners to implement principles of aid effectiveness, as recalled in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development adopted on 2 December 2008 by the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;

37. Recognizes the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

38. Acknowledges the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

39. Expresses deep concern that illicit financial flows and poor legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks for mineral resources undermine national development efforts, encourages African countries to take measures to address these challenges, and invites development partners to continue to assist African countries in tackling illicit financial flows;

40. Encourages Africa’s development partners to continue to integrate the priorities, values and principles of the New Partnership into their development assistance programmes;

41. Encourages African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012;

42. Notes the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;

43. Emphasizes the importance for the cluster working on communication, advocacy and outreach to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership and to urge the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

44. Invites the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges commitments made by development partners;

45. Encourages the international community to support African countries in addressing the challenges of climate change by providing the financial and technological resources and capacity-building training needed to support adaptation and mitigation action;

46. Notes the decision of the General Assembly to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, enabling it to effectively fulfill its mandate, including by monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa;

47. Requests the Commission for Social Development to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

48. Invites engagement in intergovernmental efforts to continue to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system in support of Africa and to continue to support the Economic Commission for Africa in the execution of its mandate, particularly by working with its members to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda
gives due consideration to Africa’s social development priorities;

49. Decides that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership at its fifth-third session;


Report of Secretary-General. In response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/4 (see above), the Secretary-General submitted a November report [E/CN.5/2015/2] on the social dimension of NEPAD, highlighting progress made in eradicating poverty and hunger, creating jobs, improving education and health outcomes, promoting gender equality, boosting agricultural productivity, investing in infrastructure, improving governance and mobilizing resources for inclusive development.

Despite having 11 of the top 20 fastest-growing economies in the world, African countries still had much more to do to achieve broadly shared prosperity and to reduce poverty and inequality. Estimates of global poverty released in October by the World Bank showed that about 39.6 per cent of Africa’s population (437.1 million people) lived on less than $1.25 a day compared with 46.6 per cent (295.8 million people) in 1990, indicating that, despite a collective effort, Africa would not halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. The number of hungry people in Africa increased from 217 million in the period 2008–2010 to 227 million in 2012–2014, a time period when the number of undernourished people in the world declined from 840 million to 805 million. Sub-Saharan Africa had become home to more than a quarter of the world’s undernourished people. The situation in North Africa remained positive, however, the number of food-insecure people in the Sahel region had risen, from 11.3 million in 2013 to 20 million in 2014.

The total unemployment rate in sub-Saharan Africa had slightly declined, from 7.7 per cent in 2009 to 7.6 per cent in 2014. There were no improvements in unemployment levels among women; in both 2009 and 2014, the rate was 8.4 per cent. Youth unemploy-
and expand opportunities available to disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups; promote gender perspective across policies and programmes; prioritize investments in health care; encourage the international community to honour existing aid commitments, provide debt relief and make predictable disbursements of ODA; and set bold domestic resource mobilization targets for the implementation of national and regional development programmes.

On 29 December (decision 69/554), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on NEPAD: progress in implementation and international support would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.

African countries emerging from conflict

Report of Secretary-General. In October (E/2014/94), the Secretary-General presented his third report to the Economic and Social Council on integrated, coherent and coordinated support to the Government of South Sudan following the country’s independence in July 2011. The report reviewed major developments in South Sudan since July 2013, with a focus on the political crisis that erupted into violence in December. It also described the impact of the conflict on prospects for development and some of the key actions taken by the international community, including the United Nations system, to help the country to end the conflict so that development could be resumed.

A political crisis that led to a violent conflict had reversed much of the progress of the past two years. A crisis of governance within the ruling Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) led to armed violence on 15 December 2013. A leadership struggle within SPLM rapidly deteriorated into armed conflict, causing significant loss of life and large-scale displacement, with an estimated 1.3 million people internally displaced in more than 100 locations, 100,000 of whom sought protection at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) bases. In addition, nearly 450,000 people fled to neighbouring countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda.

Since the onset of the crisis, UNMISS had to put its State-building and peacebuilding activities on hold. As the crisis persisted in May, the Security Council (see p. 000) revised the UNMISS mandate to focus on four priority areas: protection of civilians; human rights monitoring and reporting; creating the conditions for the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and supporting the cessation of hostilities agreement. With respect to humanitarian assistance and protection, the Emergency Relief Coordinator declared a three-month Standing Committee system-wide level-three emergency response to the escalating conflict in South Sudan in February, subsequently extended by an additional six months until November.

The conflict had further undermined the prospects for future growth. The most immediate impact had been on oil production. Financing nearly 80 per cent of the Government’s overall budget, oil provided 98 per cent of public sector revenue, contributed 60 per cent to gross domestic product and to almost all foreign exchange earnings, thus making the South Sudanese economy highly vulnerable to changes in oil prices and oil production levels. The conflict led to the shutdown of operations of some oil fields and the partial shutdown of others, leading to oil production at less than half of the 350,000 barrels per day at the time of independence.

As at the time of reporting, approximately 57 per cent of children and adolescents in South Sudan did not attend school. There were high levels of dropouts and delayed entry: 75 per cent of 6-year-olds were not in school and 92 per cent of grade 8 students were overage. The percentage was much higher in conflict-affected states, where children were prevented from attending school as a result of insecurity, displacement or schools’ occupation by armed forces. It was estimated that only 5 to 10 per cent of about 1,130 primary schools in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States were functioning.

The Secretary-General noted that while a cessation of hostilities agreement had been signed and a commitment made to work on the formation of a transitional Government, both sides continued to pursue a military solution. No concrete evidence had yet emerged that the political will existed to meet the commitments made under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led mediation. Given the unique peace, security, peacebuilding and development challenges facing South Sudan, the integrated United Nations support being provided at the technical and operational levels should be complemented by strong, integrated policy support and guidance at the intergovernmental level by all relevant United Nations organs and bodies, within their respective mandates and competencies.

On 18 November (decision 2014/256), the Economic and Social Council took note of the report and requested that another report on the subject be submitted to the Council at its substantive session in 2015.

Other economic assistance

On 29 December (decision 69/554), the General Assembly decided that the agenda item on special economic assistance to individual countries and regions would remain for consideration during its resumed sixty-ninth (2015) session.
Haiti

**Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group.** In October [E/2014/95], following its visit to Washington, D.C., of 28 April, and to Haiti, from 12 to 15 May, the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti presented its tenth report since its reactivation in 2004 [YUN 2004, p. 939].

The Group welcomed the progress observed in Haiti on the economic and social fronts, which went well beyond post-earthquake recovery efforts. It also expressed concerns on the sustainability of the development process in the then political context. The Group emphasized the need for continued donor engagement given the high vulnerability of the country, in terms of both natural disasters and economic shocks, and the need to sustain the development progress that had been achieved. The Group also advocated a “Delivering as one” approach to guide UN action on the ground. With a growth rate of 4.3 per cent in 2013, Haiti had reached a new phase in its development process. The overall objective of the strategic plan for the development of Haiti formulated by the Government for the period 2010–2030 was for Haiti to become an emerging country within 15 years. Although that required massive investments and a marked increase in the average income of the population, progress suggested that Haiti had embarked on a path that could bring it closer to that ambitious goal if progress was sustained and Haiti did not relapse into political turmoil.

Some social progress was also observed. It was estimated that poverty decreased by 4 to 5 per cent in urban areas, although inequality remained high. Extreme poverty had declined from 31 per cent to 24 per cent since 2000, and some targets had been reached ahead of the deadline, such as the reduction by half in the number of underweight children.

At the political level, the inter-Haitian political dialogue took several steps forward. Following the political agreement known as the El Rancho accord, the Cabinet was reshuffled and the Chamber of Deputies adopted an electoral law. Although the process had not eased political tensions, the fact that political parties were holding a dialogue, with the support of civil society actors, was a step in the right direction in building the capacity to devise collective solutions.

On the humanitarian front, some 90,000 displaced persons lived in camps, a sharp decrease compared with 1.3 million following the 2010 earthquake. Living conditions, in particular the sanitary situation, were extremely poor. In spite of training and awareness-raising activities implemented by the International Organization for Migration and others, the national and international presence in those camps did not appear as being commensurate with the needs of the population. The Group therefore called for continued humanitarian assistance and a high level of support to the Haitian National Police.

To sustain the development process, the Group encouraged Haiti’s development partners to take proactive steps to ensure that support was in line with the priorities and programmes set by the Government, as contained in the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti and the triennial investment plans; to simplify disbursement procedures in order to accelerate project implementation; and to provide continued support to the national police and its development plan for the period 2012–2016.

The UN system was called on to plan for a smooth transition process in relation to the consolidation of United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (minustah) in such a way as to secure continued assistance by the UN system in peacebuilding-related areas; to consider how the United Nations could best support peacebuilding efforts in Haiti, including through the possible involvement of the Peacebuilding Commission, if requested by Haiti; and to assert its role as a promoter of aid effectiveness by providing secretariat support to the Group of Twelve Plus.

The Group also called on the Haitian authorities to take all the necessary steps to ensure that the senatorial, municipal and local elections were held without further delay; to enforce the new law against corruption; and to invest in the strengthening of the national police, the judiciary, the penitentiary system and institutions geared towards embedding the rule of law in Haiti.

**Communications.** In letters dated 19 December 2013 [E/2014/8] from Argentina, 31 March 2014 [E/2014/54] from Colombia, and 13 May from Uruguay [E/2014/73], Argentina, Colombia and Uruguay expressed their wishes to become members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti. On 30 January (decision 2014/207) and 23 April (decision 2014/210), the Economic and Social Council decided to appoint Argentina and Colombia as members, and on 13 June (decision 2014/221), it further appointed Uruguay as a member of the Group.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION**

On 18 November [meeting 52], the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2014/37 [E/2014/L.34] without vote [agenda item 10 (d)].

**Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti**

The Economic and Social Council,


1. **Welcomes** the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and the recommendations contained therein;

2. **Recognizes** that political stability and socioeconomic recovery are essential to the long-term development of Haiti, and welcomes the efforts of the United Nations and the international community in both fields;

3. **Commends** the continued progress in the economic and social situation in Haiti since the devastating earthquake of January 2010 and congratulates the Haitian authorities and all Haitian development actors on their work in that regard, and looks forward to continued support from donors and other partners, including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions;

4. **Calls upon** donors to remain engaged in support of the reconstruction and development of Haiti, in line with priorities set by the Government of Haiti, and calls upon the Haitian authorities and international partners to take an active part in the External Aid Coordination Framework for the Development of Haiti with a view to making full use of its potential for effective international support;

5. **Recognizes** the External Aid Coordination Framework, established as a platform to strengthen mutual accountability and coordination under the leadership of the Haitian authorities with the support of the donor community;

6. **Calls upon** the Government of Haiti to fully operationalize the External Aid Coordination Framework and its mechanisms in keeping with the road map adopted in 2014, and calls upon the development partners of Haiti and the United Nations system to play an active role in donor coordination mechanisms in order to better coordinate and enhance the effectiveness of aid and the impact of development cooperation;

7. **Encourages** donors to continue funding humanitarian activities, with a view, inter alia, to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable, including those still living in camps, and to improve the sanitation and health sectors;

8. **Invites** donors to align their efforts with the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti as well as other national activities to prevent waterborne diseases, and to provide the financial resources necessary for their implementation;

9. **Calls upon** the Haitian authorities to take all the steps necessary to ensure the regular functioning of public institutions, and calls upon all the political actors in Haiti to work cooperatively and without further delay to ensure the holding of overdue legislative and local elections so that legitimate, credible and well-functioning authorities are in place to contribute to the recovery and development process, and to continue to interact with development partners in a constructive manner;

10. **Calls upon** the United Nations system in Haiti to review its integrated strategic framework with a view to promoting appropriate approaches to consolidated planning, fundraising and programme implementation, and calls for a smooth transition process in order to ensure continued assistance by the United Nations system, including in peacebuilding and related areas, such as governance, institution-building and human rights issues;

11. **Decides** to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the conclusion of the 2015 session, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on the long-term development strategy of Haiti to promote socioeconomic recovery, reconstruction and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, building upon the Strategic Plan for the Development of Haiti, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

12. **Expresses its satisfaction** to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Advisory Group, and requests him to continue to support the activities of the Group adequately and within existing resources;

13. **Requests** the Advisory Group, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions, regional organizations and institutions, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community, the Union of South American Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank, and other major stakeholders, and in this regard welcomes the continuation of the dialogue between the members of the Advisory Group and the Organization of American States;

14. **Also requests** the Advisory Group to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration at its 2015 session.

**Kazakhstan**

**Report of Secretary-General.** In response to General Assembly resolution 66/195 (YUN 2011, p. 901), the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/257] on the status of the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and the progress made in accelerating development between 2011 and 2013, through programmes and actions organized by the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies. The Semipalatinsk test site, also known as “the Polygon”, was the primary nuclear test site of the former Soviet Union. In total, 456 nuclear tests were conducted between 1949 and 1989 at Semipalatinsk, including 340 underground and 116 atmospheric explosions. Altogether, nuclear explosions at Semipalatinsk were the equivalent of over 2,500 Hiroshima bombs. The former Soviet Union had other nuclear test sites, but this was the only one close to major settlements. The resulting fallout from such tests severely affected the ecosystems of the region and the traditional way of life of its inhabitants. The site was closed on 29 August 1991, a date designated by the General Assembly in 2009 as the International Day against Nuclear Tests.
The Government of Kazakhstan, with the assistance of donors and the direct involvement of UN agencies, had carried out a considerable amount of work in the Semipalatinsk region over recent years. Numerous projects in the socioeconomic sphere and in the areas of environment, public health and education had been implemented. However, a lot remained to be done. More investment would be required in human development over the coming years, in order to ensure a stable pattern of development and growth for the region. To achieve that objective, governmental and international efforts, inter alia, would focus on improving mother and child primary health-care services, and child and youth protection mechanisms; strengthening the capacity of local authorities, particularly in rural areas, in the use of evidence-based decision-making; promoting community awareness of the equal rights of vulnerable groups; and increasing the efficiency of the use of State resources in socioeconomic programmes at the local level.

The Secretary-General called on the international community to support the joint work of the Government of Kazakhstan and the United Nations by enhancing the social inclusion of vulnerable groups in the region, with the aim of reducing their stigmatization and isolation and promoting their integration into the community; and by strengthening coordination to plan, implement and monitor inclusive regional social programmes and services.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 19 December [meeting 75], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/209 [A/69/468 & Corr.1] without vote [agenda item 19].

International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan

The General Assembly,


Recognizing that the Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground, inherited by Kazakhstan and closed in 1991, remains a matter of serious concern for the people and Government of Kazakhstan with regard to the long-term consequences of its activity for the lives and health of the people, especially children and other vulnerable groups, as well as for the environment of the region,

Taking into account the fact that a number of international programmes in the Semipalatinsk region have been completed since the closure of the nuclear testing ground, but that serious social, economic and ecological problems continue to exist,

Taking into consideration the results of the International Conference on Semipalatinsk, held in Tokyo on 6 and 7 September 1999, which have promoted the effectiveness of the assistance provided to the population of the region,

Acknowledging the progress made towards accelerating the development of the Semipalatinsk region during the period from 2011 to 2013, through programmes and actions of the Government of Kazakhstan and the international community, including United Nations agencies,

Recognizing the important role of national development policies and strategies in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Recognizing also the challenges that Kazakhstan faces in the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular in the context of the efforts by the Government of Kazakhstan to ensure the effective and timely achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to health care and environmental sustainability,

Recognizing further that the Government of Kazakhstan may call upon the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan to render assistance in conducting consultations for establishing a multi-stakeholder mechanism, with the participation of various government bodies, local governments, civil society, the donor community and international organizations, to improve governance and enable the more efficient use of resources allocated for the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, in particular regarding the areas of radiation safety, socioeconomic development and health and environmental protection, and for the provision of information on risks to the population,

Emphasizing the importance of support by donor States and international development organizations for the efforts of Kazakhstan to improve the social, economic and environmental situation in the Semipalatinsk region and the need for the international community to continue to pay due attention to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

Taking note of the need to utilize modern technologies to minimize and mitigate radiological, health, socioeconomic, psychological and environmental challenges in the Semipalatinsk region,

Considering the importance of cooperation with the United Nations in establishing a coherent framework for coordination in addressing the needs of the region to introduce innovative approaches to regional planning and social assistance to the population of the Semipalatinsk region, especially its most vulnerable groups, aimed at improving its quality of life,

Emphasizing the importance of the new development-oriented approach in tackling problems in the Semipalatinsk region in the medium to long term,

Expressing appreciation to donor countries and organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and related organizations mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General for their contribution to the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 66/193 and the information contained therein on measures taken to solve the health, ecological, economic and humanitarian problems in the Semipalatinsk region;

2. Welcomes and recognizes the important role of the Government of Kazakhstan in providing domestic resources to help meet the needs of the Semipalatinsk region, imple-
menting measures for optimizing public administration of the territory and facilities of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site and surrounding areas, ensuring radiation safety and environmental rehabilitation and reintegrating the use of the nuclear test site into the national economy;

3. **Urges** the international community to provide assistance to Kazakhstan in formulating and implementing special programmes and projects for the treatment and care of the affected population, as well as in efforts to ensure economic growth and sustainable development in the Semipalatinsk region, including increasing the effectiveness of existing programmes;

4. **Calls upon** Member States, relevant, multilateral financial organizations and other entities of the international community, including academia and non-governmental organizations, to share knowledge and experience in order to contribute to the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region;

5. **Requests** the Secretary-General to continue pursuing a consultative process, with the participation of interested States and relevant United Nations agencies, on modalities for mobilizing and coordinating the necessary support to seek appropriate solutions to the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region, including those prioritized in his report;

6. **Calls upon** the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance world public awareness of the problems and needs of the Semipalatinsk region;

7. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.