



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC  
AND  
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.  
LIMITED

F/CEPAL/PLEN.13/G.5  
19 October 1979

ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: ) SPANISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Thirteenth special session  
New York, 19 October 1979

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ALLEVIATE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS  
FACED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE DAVID

Draft resolution

The Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America

Considering that the scope of the damage caused by hurricane David in the Commonwealth of Dominica entailed the loss of many human lives, the destruction of economic and social infrastructure - houses, schools, industrial plant and commercial facilities, roads and power-stations - and agricultural and ecological damage, in addition to leaving a great many inhabitants without housing or employment, all of which has reduced production levels and will affect the development of that predominantly agricultural country in years to come,

Considering also the serious damage inflicted on the cities and towns, in particular the destruction of the city of Roseau, the capital of Dominica,

Bearing in mind that the disaster affected rural areas, where it destroyed not only housing but also large quantities of commodities destined for domestic consumption by the population and of exportable commodities produced by perennial plantations that will require a number of years to recover,

Considering further that the destruction of exportable commodities has affected the capacity of Dominica to obtain foreign exchange vital to its well-being and economic development,

Taking note with gratitude of the support that the Latin American countries and the other members of the international community have given to the emergency efforts of the people of Dominica to rehabilitate the affected areas, and of the preliminary aid measures taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Administrator of UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator,

Bearing in mind the statements and reports by the Prime Minister of Dominica and by the secretariat of the Commission 1/ on the scope of the damage and requirements as regards financial and technical assistance for immediate emergency measures and economic and social rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Emphasizing that, despite the assistance received by Dominica and the efforts being made by its Government, the magnitude of the devastation caused requires the continuous urgent and generous assistance of the international community in order to make its reconstruction and rehabilitation possible,

1. Conveys its deepest sympathy to the people and Government of Dominica for the loss of human lives and the devastation it has suffered as a result of the recent hurricane;

2. Expresses its deepest gratitude to the Governments of the member countries of ECLA and of the States Members of the United Nations that have provided initial assistance to Dominica and invites them to increase their assistance by all possible means, both for relief purposes and for reconstruction and rehabilitation;

3. Appeals to the Governments of the States members of IBRD, IDB and the Caribbean Development Bank to ensure that the directors who represent them in those bodies give particular attention to raising the level of external financial co-operation required by Dominica so that they may adopt special measures and support the priorities established by the Government of Dominica contained in its Five-year Public Sector Plan and the National Reconstruction Plan under preparation, and accelerate the mobilization of long-term external resources on the best possible concessionary conditions and with the maximum degree of flexibility;

4. Appeals to the Governments of the States members of the International Monetary Fund to ensure that their representatives on the Executive Board of the Fund ensure that it uses the mechanisms and possibilities for action at its disposal in a timely and flexible manner to deal with any balance-of-payments disequilibria Dominica may have to face;

5. Invites the governmental agencies which deal with Dominica on a bilateral basis to support the efforts being made by its Government through official grants and soft loans to finance emergency, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development programmes;

6. Also requests the Governments of the States members of the International Fund for Agricultural Development to instruct their representatives on the Executive Board of that Fund to expedite requests for aid submitted by the Government of Dominica;

7. Appeals to the Governments of States Members of the United Nations whose legislation so permits to grant products of Dominica access to their markets on preferential and non-reciprocal terms for a reasonable period, thus helping that country to obtain the foreign exchange which it urgently requires;

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1/ Report on effect of Hurricane David on the island of Dominica  
(E/CEPAL/PLEN.13/G.2).

8. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to instruct all specialized agencies and bodies within the United Nations system to make available the largest possible volume of resources and to expand their programmes in Dominica as required, in accordance with the priorities established by the Government of that country;

9. Requests that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme should accede rapidly and favourably to the requests for special assistance which the Government of Dominica may address to it in the near future, bearing in mind the additional requirements deriving from the present circumstances and the need to help to promote the development of that country, having recourse if necessary to the Programme Reserve during the second programming cycle;

10. Recommends that, although Dominica is not officially included among the least developed countries on the list adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2768 (XXVI), it should receive the same treatment as that granted in the past or that which may be granted in the future to that group of countries, until the situation is normalized, especially under UNDP projects and the funds administered by that Programme;

11. Requests the member countries of the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee and the Group for Co-operation in the Economic Development of the Caribbean, within their terms of reference, to give special support to the reconstruction process in Dominica;

12. Instructs the Executive Secretary of ECLA to give all possible co-operation to the Government of Dominica in accordance with the requests submitted and to submit to Member States and to the competent international agencies and institutions periodic reports on the results achieved in the implementation of this resolution.

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