



ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REPORT ON THE NINTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

(21 and 22 October 1974)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

OFFICIAL RECORDS: FIFTY-NINTH SESSION

SUPPLEMENT No. 9A

UNITED NATIONS

Part II

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AT ITS NINTH EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

34. The following three resolutions were adopted by the Committee of the Whole during its ninth extraordinary session:

343 (AC.67). International co-operation to deal with the natural disaster which occurred in Honduras during the period from 18 to 20 September 1974

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

Considering that the natural disaster which struck a large part of the territory of Honduras has caused an enormous loss of life and property, left great numbers of the population homeless and unemployed, caused substantial damage to the agricultural sector, seriously affected physical infrastructure and, generally, had grave repercussions on the future economic and social development of the country,

Bearing in mind that in Latin America Honduras is considered to be one of the least developed countries and that the natural disaster has aggravated its economic and social situation,

Noting the reports submitted by the Special Representative of the Government of Honduras, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America on the magnitude of the damage and the adverse effects on the Honduran economy, and on the probable requirements for technical and financial assistance during the emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases in the affected region,

Bearing in mind the decisions taken at the Twelfth Meeting of the Ministers of Economics of Central America and Panama, held at Guatemala City on 19 October 1974, concerning the economic and social situation in which Honduras finds itself as a result of the damage caused by the natural disaster,

Taking into account the document prepared by the secretariat of the Commission with the collaboration of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty of Economic Integration and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (E/CEPAL/AC.67/2/Rev.1),

Recognizing that the assistance given to a State Member of the United Nations which has suffered a natural disaster of such magnitude is an expression of the concept of international solidarity embodied in the Charter of the United Nations,

Noting with satisfaction the aid provided to Honduras by the States Members of the United Nations, particularly the emergency assistance supplied by the States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America, and the preliminary aid

measures taken by the Secretary-General, the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America, the executive heads of specialized agencies, other international institutions, foundations and private individuals,

Considering that the Governments represented in the Economic Commission for Latin America have expressed their concern and desire that international financial assistance to Honduras should be sufficient to meet its assistance requirements, as well as their intention to consider the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases inseparable from the problems of economic and social development,

Considering also that the Government of Honduras has begun the work of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the devastated region and that it has formulated in detail its requirements for international financial and technical assistance,

1. Expresses its deep sympathy to the people and Government of Honduras on the loss of life and the damage which occurred as a result of the recent disaster;

2. Expresses its deep gratitude to all Governments, international institutions, public and private organizations, specialized agencies and private individuals which have provided prompt and effective emergency aid to Honduras;

3. Conveys to the organizations of the United Nations system its feeling of gratification at the immediate adoption of aid measures for Honduras;

4. Invites Governments of States members of the Commission to continue and, if possible, to intensify their co-operation for purposes both of relief and of rehabilitation and reconstruction;

5. Requests the Governments of those member States whose legislations so permit - bearing in mind the arrangements established by the bilateral and multilateral agreements in force - to strive to grant Honduras access to their markets on preferential and non-reciprocal terms;

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General to request the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider, in co-operation with the Government of Honduras, the expansion of its programmes necessary to facilitate the achievement of the objectives and aims laid down in the Constitution of that organization;

7. Urges the Secretary-General to encourage the World Food Programme to help still further, in close collaboration with the Government of Honduras and the United Nations Children's Fund, by promptly setting up plans and programmes for meeting whatever food requirements the Honduran population may have in the present circumstances and to co-operate in the food aid associated with the rehabilitation and reconstruction work being undertaken by Honduras;

8. Urgently requests the World Health Organization to continue and expand its valuable assistance in the treatment and prevention of diseases arising from the disaster with a view to preserving the health of the population affected;

9. Recommends that the World Food Programme, the International Labour Organisation and other specialized agencies should support and co-operate with the Government of Honduras in setting up plans and programmes which will help to solve the serious unemployment problem resulting from the natural disaster;
10. Requests the secretariat of the Commission and the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning to continue, in close co-operation with competent international bodies and agencies, to give special attention to requests from the Government of Honduras regarding economic, social and technical matters within their competence;
11. Recommends also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations Volunteers Programme should intensify their efforts to channel the largest volume of resources possible, through their respective programmes and in close co-operation with the Government of Honduras, to meeting requests from the Government of Honduras in connexion with the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction;
12. Expresses the wish that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme will take prompt action on any requests for assistance that the Government of Honduras may submit to it in the future, bearing in mind the additional requirements resulting from reconstruction and the need to continue to stimulate the development of that country;
13. Further requests the Secretary-General to instruct the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to co-operate with the Government of Honduras, through its regular and other technical assistance programmes, in the activities referred to in the preceding paragraph;
14. Urges the Secretary-General to give special treatment to Honduras in the allocation of resources for the emergency operation referred to in General Assembly resolution 3202 (S-VI), bearing in mind that the natural disaster further aggravated the international payments problems resulting from the world economic crisis;
15. Appeals to Governments of States members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the International Development Association to request the directors representing them in the Banks and in the Association to give special attention to the need of Honduras for funds to finance its reconstruction and development programmes and to consider special methods and measures to permit the over-all financing of projects on concessional terms as well as to expedite the procedures required for the granting and disbursement of international credit in order to accelerate the flow of financial assistance needed by that country;
16. Further appeals to the Governments of States members of the International Monetary Fund to request the directors representing them to ensure

that the Fund makes appropriate use of the machinery and measures available to it to deal with the urgent needs faced by Honduras in its external payments situation;

17. Further requests international financial institutions to apply the greatest possible flexibility in respect of loans already granted, so as to channel available funds towards those programmes and projects to which the Government of Honduras assigns priority with a view to accelerating the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases in that country;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to give the highest priority to requests made by the Government of Honduras in connexion with housing programmes;

19. Invites the Governments of those States members of the international community which are also members of technical and financial bodies situated outside Latin America to recommend that their representatives should urge such bodies to co-operate, in their respective fields of action, in the measures being taken by the Government of Honduras for the reconstruction of the devastated areas and the over-all development of its economy;

20. Recommends that, even though Honduras is not formally included in the group of least developed countries contained in the list approved by the General Assembly in resolution 2768 (XXVI), it should be granted, until the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction is completed, benefits equivalent to those that have been adopted in the past or are adopted in the future in favour of the above-mentioned group of countries, in accordance with the provisions of the International Development Strategy for the Second Development Decade contained in General Assembly resolution 2626 (XXV) and of resolution 62 (III) of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

21. Suggests that Governments of member States belonging to the group of coffee-producing countries exempt Honduras from the withholding agreements recently approved by its Plenary Assembly in order to help ease the serious balance-of-payments problem which that country will face in the near future;

22. Appeals to the various bodies connected with the process of Central American integration, particularly the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the Central American Monetary Stabilization Fund, to be very mindful of the magnitude of the effects of the natural disaster on the Honduran economy when formulating their respective programmes of support for Honduras;

23. Requests the Central American Governments to intensify their efforts to overcome the problems currently confronting the Central American Common Market and to expedite the negotiations aimed at improving and restructuring the integration process, bearing in mind the interests of Honduras as the least developed country in the area;

24. Suggests that Governments of States members of the Commission, international financial institutions and United Nations agencies authorize the necessary support to the fund which the Central American countries plan to establish to deal with emergency situations caused by natural disasters and consider establishing a joint system for forecasting natural disasters, whenever possible, a component of which could be a Central American regional mechanism. The

system would include the installation of the necessary meteorological facilities, with the collaboration of the World Meteorological Organization, and would permit immediate, concerted, co-ordinated action to prevent serious repercussions on the social and economic situation of one or more countries;

25. Recommends that the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in consultation with the Governments of member States concerned, should form a special sub-committee to consider periodically, on the basis of reports prepared by the secretariat, the advances and possible obstacles which may be encountered in international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Honduran economy and also, where appropriate, to make relevant recommendations.

344 (AC.67). Regional measures for disaster prevention and disaster preparedness

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

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1546 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970 and General Assembly resolutions 2435 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971 and 2959 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, concerning assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Bearing in mind the impact of natural disasters on the economic and social development of the countries of the region,

Considering that there is a growing awareness of the need to strengthen national organizations and the machinery for mutual assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Recalling its resolution 316 (AC.64) on regional measures for preparedness, prevention and mutual assistance in cases of natural disaster,

1. Takes note with gratitude of the steps taken by the executive secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator with a view to preparing a plan for disaster prevention and mutual assistance in cases of natural disaster in the Andean subregion;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to take appropriate measures to extend this type of activity to the rest of the region;

3. Requests further the appropriate specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to support this activity;

4. Recommends that the Executive Secretary include in the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the Commission his report on the implementation of the present resolution and of resolution 316 (AC.64) adopted by the Committee of the Whole of the Economic Commission for Latin America at its seventh extraordinary session.