

## **AFR/RC42/R11: Emergency preparedness and response and humanitarian assistance in the African Region**

The Regional Committee,

Recalling World Health Assembly Resolutions WHA34.26, WHA38.29 and WHA42.16, OAU resolution CM/RES/1253 (LI), UN General Assembly Resolutions 42/169, 44/211, 44/236 and 46/182 and resolutions AFR/RC38/R25, AFR/RC40/R11 and AFR/RC40/R12 of WHO Regional Committee for Africa;

Aware of the serious impact of disasters on health infrastructure and the economic development of African countries;

Acknowledging the action taken by the UN Secretary General by declaring the 1990s as the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) and the establishment of the Decade Secretariat and the Trust Fund;

Acknowledging the need for further coordination of relief provided by UN agencies and the restructuring now being implemented by the UN Director of Humanitarian Affairs;

Considering the priorities indicated by the OAU regional meeting on disasters in April 1992;

Noting with appreciation the Regional Director's report on "Emergency Preparedness and Response in Africa", (document AFR/RC42/18);

1. APPEALS to the appropriate agencies of the UN System working in the Region to cooperate, collaborate and harmonize their efforts with those of the WHO Regional Office and the WHO Pan-African Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response in alleviating the negative impact of disasters in member countries;
2. URGES Member States:
  - (i) to continue to elaborate and update their national Emergency Preparedness and Response plans where surveillance, training and the building of stocks should be envisaged;
  - (ii) to submit on a regular basis reports on the incidence of disasters in their respective countries to the WHO Regional Office for Africa and/or the Pan-African Centre for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Addis Ababa;
  - (iii) to strengthen cooperation between the health sector and other sectors concerned;
  - (iv) to support the implementation of activities as contained in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR);
3. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
  - (i) to cooperate and collaborate with the OAU General Secretariat, the UN Director of Humanitarian Affairs as well as other relevant bodies and institutions in the implementation of the disaster reduction priority projects identified at national, subregional and regional levels by the OAU meeting on disaster held in April 1992;

- (ii) to organize relevant workshops, seminars and training courses for middle level managers and policy makers;
- (iii) to cooperate with the IDNDR Secretariat in implementing the relevant objectives and goals of the Decade through concerted efforts and concrete project proposals to be implemented during the Decade;
- (iv) to strengthen the existing network of collaborating centres for disaster mitigation in the Region with particular attention to the Horn of Africa and the southern Africa sub-region;
- (v) to mobilize the necessary funds for supporting African countries in prevention activities and for preparedness and response to disasters.

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