

AG/RES. 2610 (XL-O/10)

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

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2010)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2372 (XXXVIII-O/08), “Coordination of Volunteers in the Hemisphere in Response to Natural Disasters and the Fight against Hunger and Poverty–White Helmets Initiative,” AG/RES. 2492 (XXXIX-O/09), “Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States,” and CIDI/RES. 245 (XV-O/10), “Existing Mechanisms for Disaster Prevention and Response and Humanitarian Assistance among the Member States”;

REAFFIRMING the concern of the member states regarding the scale, frequency, and consequences of disasters, which demonstrate the need to provide a rapid and joint response, and to further coordinate and strengthen existing regional and subregional mechanisms; taking into account existing mechanisms and activities, such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Response (CAPRADE), and the specialized meeting of MERCOSUR on Socio-Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU), to improve coordination and humanitarian assistance among member states and strengthen the development of prevention and disaster risk reduction activities in the region.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Hyogo Framework for Action: 2005-2015 was adopted with the consensus of the international community and comprises a set of practical benchmarks to reduce disaster risk;

RECOGNIZING that within the framework of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) each state has a national platform that addresses the strategic objectives and priorities for action under the Hyogo Framework for Action for disaster risk reduction; and that there is an existing entity serving as the focal point responsible for situation analysis, formulation of policies and action plans, and implementation, monitoring, and regular review of disaster risk management activities;

NOTING the Second Encounter on National Mechanisms and Networks for Risk Reduction, held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from April 14 to 16, 2010, with the support of the OAS Department of Sustainable Development and of the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the purpose of which was to share successful experiences and best practices in the area of Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change;

REITERATING the necessity and importance of international coordination aimed at strengthening national and subregional risk reduction and disaster response efforts, as was once again demonstrated in connection with the disasters that struck Haiti and Chile, along with the events that took place in Mexico and Brazil, in the first four months of 2010;

CONVINCED of the importance of reaching a commitment among member states that will allow the timely and effective exchange of information, tools, successful experiences, and best practices among countries, international agencies, regional and subregional institutions and organizations, social actors, and civil society entities, in respect of risk management, disaster assistance, avoiding duplication of efforts, and combining synergies of existing mechanisms in the interest of the region;

TAKING NOTE of the Joint Meeting of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) of the Organization held on September 25, 2009, at which it was decided to form a Joint Working Group of the member states, and taking account of the draft Work Plan approved by that Group (GTC/DAH-1/09 rev. 6);

EMPHASIZING that the Working Group will prepare a draft diagnostic assessment of existing regulatory and coordination mechanisms in the area of natural disasters and humanitarian assistance, which would consider the coordination work that could be performed by the Organization and include the advisability of updating it, submitting a proposal for action;

TAKING NOTE of the second and third meetings of the Working Group, held on April 8 and 9, 2010, on “International Agencies, Regional Organizations, Humanitarian and Financial Organizations That Finance Humanitarian Assistance” and “Risk Reduction Management–Prevention Mechanisms”;

TAKING NOTE ALSO of the holding of the Third Meeting of the Forum on Coordination and Cooperation of Subregional Agencies for Disaster Risk Management in the Americas, in Lima, on May 31, 2010, with the participation of the Executive Secretary of CEPREDENAC, the Executive Director of CDEMA, the President of CAPRADE, and the President of REHU;

TAKING NOTE FURTHER of the Third Regional Meeting of International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms, scheduled to take place in Buenos Aires on June 17 and 18, 2010, and organized by the Argentine Republic, with the support of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Governments of Mexico and Brazil; and

TAKING NOTE AS WELL of the announcement by the Government of Mexico that it will host, during the second half of 2010, a specialized technical workshop to assess alternatives for rapid and coordinated response to natural disasters in the region,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage the efforts of the Working Group of the member states in connection with strengthening existing mechanisms for disaster prevention and response and humanitarian assistance among the member states.
2. To emphasize the work already done by the Working Group of the member states in connection with performing a joint diagnostic assessment of existing mechanisms for disaster prevention and response and humanitarian assistance and encouraging its future actions.
3. To urge the General Secretariat and the member states to continue to support implementation of the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 2492 (XXXIX-O-09), with assistance from international, subregional, and nongovernmental organizations, social actors, including civil society organizations, and experts involved in this process.
4. To express its interest in the outcomes of the meetings held by the Working Group as important inputs for the fulfillment of its mandate, especially the proposals put forward for improving coordination in the event of disasters.
5. To express as well its interest in the results of other specialized meetings that could contribute to fulfillment of the mandate entrusted to the Joint Working Group.
6. To invite the member states to participate in the following meetings of the Working Group: “Strengthening Humanitarian Assistance” and “Regional Coordination System,” contributing, based on their experiences and through the presence of experts on relevant subjects, and of

international and subregional organizations and social actors, especially civil society organizations and nongovernmental organizations working in these areas.

7. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first regular session on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources