

AG/RES. 2024 (XXXIV-O/04)

NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2004)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REITERATING the importance of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) in addressing matters relating to natural disasters and in particular emergency preparedness, vulnerability reduction, disaster response, and disaster recovery and reconstruction efforts;

OBSERVING the increasing impact of natural hazard events on the populations and the economic and social infrastructure of the member states as they relate to meeting sector development objectives and supporting the tenets and mandates related to sustainable development;

BEARING IN MIND that the member states have committed themselves to progress on disaster reduction and have requested of the OAS General Secretariat as well as regional, hemispheric and international specialized agencies support in meeting their acquired mandates;

TAKING NOTE of the measures proposed by the Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico in October 2003, in regard to member states' response to natural disasters and their reduction; and

RECALLING that in the Declaration on Security in the Americas the states of the Hemisphere expressed concern over natural and man-made disasters that afflict them and cause greater devastation in the most vulnerable states that have not yet developed adequate prevention and mitigation capabilities,

RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the mandates contained in resolution AG/RES. 1955 (XXXIII-O/03) and previous resolutions.

2. To urge member states to take the necessary measures to strengthen the existing inter-American mechanisms and to develop new cooperation mechanisms to improve and broaden the region's response capability in preventing and mitigating the effects of these disasters, pursuant to the commitments undertaken in the Declaration on Security in the Americas.

3. To urge member states to take the necessary measures to be in a position to respond effectively and swiftly to natural disasters by strengthening existing bilateral, subregional, and multilateral actions and institutions, such as the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and, when possible, by using technology and scientific resources to prevent their occurrence, as well as taking adaptive measures to mitigate their effects in order to avoid or reduce damage to the environment, the productive and critical infrastructure, the heritage and, most importantly, the peoples of the Hemisphere, pursuant to the commitments undertaken in the Declaration on Security in the Americas.

4. To underscore the importance of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, which, in its Plan of Action, called for OAS member states to undertake disaster mitigation in natural development plans; the creation of the IACNDR; and the General Assembly request to the IACNDR to prepare and implement the Inter-American Strategy for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management, and Disaster Reduction; and to remind the General Secretariat that the Inter-Committee on Sustainable Development of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) has requested periodic reports on progress made by the sectors in vulnerability reduction of populations and economic and social infrastructures to natural hazards.

5. To request the IACNDR to continue to stimulate the active participation of the relevant inter-American agencies and subregional programs in the three IACNDR working groups.

To request the IACNDR to report periodically to the Permanent Council on its implementation of this and prior resolutions and on the progress of its work.