



General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 August 2011

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 69 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/65/L.82 and Add.1)]

65/307. Improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Recalling the aim to improve the predictability and the effective use of civil and military defence assets for natural disaster response, based on humanitarian principles, while emphasizing the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming the leading role of civilian organizations in implementing humanitarian assistance,

Recognizing that building national and local preparedness and response capacity is critical to a more predictable and effective response,

Recognizing also the importance of promoting preparedness for disaster response through regional and international partnerships,

Taking note in this regard of the letter from Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, to the President of the General Assembly and the concept paper attached thereto, entitled "HOPEFOR initiative: a global cooperative framework to improve the effectiveness of military and civil defence assets in relief operations",¹

Taking note of the calls by Mr. Leonel Fernández Reyna, President of the Dominican Republic, and Mr. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey, at the general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, on 23 September 2010, on the need to more effectively address the issue of disaster response,²

¹ See A/65/772, annex.

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 11th and 12th meetings (A/65/PV.11 and 12), and corrigendum.



1. *Reaffirms* the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

2. *Emphasizes* the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirms the need in situations of natural disaster in which military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, for such use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles;

3. *Recalls in this regard* the revised guidelines on the use of military and civil defence assets in disaster relief, and stresses the value of their use and of the development by the United Nations, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, of further guidance on civil-military relations in the context of humanitarian activities;

4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the initiative of Qatar, the Dominican Republic and Turkey, to reflect, in close coordination with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, on improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response;

5. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the HOPEFOR initiative by Qatar, which aims to improve humanitarian civil-military coordination and ensure that the use of military and civil defence assets in support of natural disaster relief operations is undertaken in an appropriate, effective and coordinated manner, in accordance with the principles contained in paragraph 2 of the present resolution, and as the last resort as defined in the Oslo Guidelines;

6. *Takes note with interest* of the decision of Qatar, the Dominican Republic and Turkey to co-convene an international conference, to be held in Doha in 2011, to discuss the concept of the HOPEFOR initiative and consider the options outlined in the paper thereon¹ and steps for their implementation, as appropriate, in close collaboration with Member States, regional and international organizations and the Emergency Relief Coordinator.

*107th plenary meeting
1 July 2011*