



UNITED
NATIONS

HSP

HSP/GC/17/2



Governing Council
of the United Nations Human
Settlements Programme

Distr. General
14th May 1999
Original: English

Seventeenth session

Nairobi, 5th-14th May 1999.

Resolution. 17/2 Assistance for human settlements reconstruction to Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions following recent natural catastrophes

The Commission on Human Settlements

Recalling [General Assembly resolution 51/185 of 16 December 1996](#), in which, inter alia, the Assembly reaffirmed that disaster prevention forms part of sustainable development plans of vulnerable countries and communities,

Recalling also [resolution 16/3 of 6 May 1997](#) of the Commission on Human Settlements, requesting the strengthening of the Centre's disaster-management-oriented activities, Recalling further paragraphs 170 to 176 of the [Habitat Agenda](#), which guide the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the areas of disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, and postdisaster rehabilitation,

Acknowledging the devastating effects of hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters, such as, inter alia, Hurricane George, Hurricane Mitch, El Niño-related floods, the earthquake in the coffee-growing belt of Colombia, the volcano eruption in Montserrat and similar calamities in other parts of the world that struck several cities and rural areas, inter alia, in the Latin American and Caribbean region during 1998 and in 1999, causing thousands of deaths, the displacement of people and the destruction of human settlements,

Noting with appreciation the actions undertaken by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to cope with the human settlement rehabilitation and reconstruction needs caused by those events,

Noting that the magnitude of the reconstruction and rehabilitation tasks following a disaster requires a sustained effort on the part of the Centre which surpasses the human resources available,

1. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to take all possible measures to ensure that technical resources available within the global disaster-management programme at headquarters and regional offices, and within other relevant global programmes, be extended to address aspects of disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and reconstruction of human settlements in the Latin American, Caribbean and

other regions; these measures should be taken in coordination with relevant United Nations bodies, bilateral and multilateral donors and national efforts;

2. Invites all Governments in a position to do so, to increase their technical and financial support to the disaster-management activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

3. Requests the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission at its eighteenth session.

14 May 1999

9th meeting