2. A substantial increase in the number of qualified women holding responsible posts at the executive and policy-making levels, including those related to over-all development planning.

2717 (XXV). Assistance in cases of natural disaster

The General Assembly,

Concerned about the grave human and material losses suffered by countries which have recently been stricken by natural disasters,

Aware also of the serious consequences of such disasters on the economic and social development of countries, particularly the developing countries,

Expressing its appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Red Cross, other voluntary organizations, the United Nations system and bilateral aid, and once again emphasizing the necessity of strengthening the international machinery for providing adequate assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Mindful of the principles laid down in the Declaration of Principles for International Humanitarian Relief to the Civilian Population in Disaster Situations, contained in resolution XXVI adopted by the twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross held at Istanbul in 1969,44

Recalling its resolutions 2034 (XX) of 7 December 1965, 2435 (XXIII) of 19 December 1968, 2608 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969 and 2643 (XXV) of 20 November 1970 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1533 (XLIX) of 23 July 1970 and 1546 (XLIX) of 30 July 1970 concerning assistance in cases of natural disaster,

Aware that the assistance envisaged in cases of natural disaster in resolution 2435 (XXIII) is inadequate for relief in calamities of major magnitude,

Having considered with interest and appreciation the interim report of the Secretary-General on assistance in cases of natural disaster45 and the report of the Secretary-General's personal representative on United Nations assistance to Peru,46

Noting the request made by the Economic and Social Council at its forty-ninth session to the Secretary-General to give early consideration to the strengthening of staff arrangements within the United Nations Secretariat to deal with natural disasters, and the steps already taken towards the implementation of this request, including the designation of a focal point in the Secretariat,

Bearing in mind the need to strengthen and coordinate effectively the efforts of the United Nations family of organizations in disaster relief as well as other assistance directed through the United Nations system,

Considering that additional measures are necessary to enable the United Nations system to play an effective and more significant role in meeting the needs of States, especially the developing countries, in relation to natural disasters, epidemics, famines and similar emergency situations,

Also bearing in mind that immediate relief assistance at the international level should be followed by con-

46 E/L.1356.
(d) The application of technology to, and scientific
research for, the prevention and control of natural
disasters, or a mitigation of the effects of such disasters,
including arrangements to disseminate effectively to all
countries the fruits of research from satellites and other
sophisticated technology with a view to strengthening
international co-operation to determine the causes and
early manifestation of impending disasters, and the
development and improvement of early warning sys-
tems;
(e) National and international programmes designed to
train relief personnel;
(f) Measures to be taken in the initial emergency
or post-disaster phase directed at immediate relief op-
erations and short-term low-cost rehabilitation mea-
sures, including the deployment of mobile transportation
units and the means to assess the extent of damage
and the amount of assistance needed in this first
phase;
(g) The study of long-term plans for the reconstruc-
tion and development of disaster areas, and the affected
countries as a whole, bearing in mind the principle
that the problems of reconstruction are inseparable
from the problems of economic development;
6. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation
with the organizations of the United Nations system and
the League of Red Cross Societies, where ap-
propriate, to study and recommend in his comprehen-
sive report, taking into account past practices, the most
effective measures and means to meet requests for
technical assistance by States members of the United
Nations system in elaboration of their planning of na-
tional preparations to meet natural disasters, epidemics,
famines and similar emergency situations;
7. Urges that requests submitted by Governments for
assistance under General Assembly resolutions 2435
(XXIII) and 2608 (XXIV) be given prompt and
appropriate response in regard to the amount and type
of assistance requested;
8. Also invites the United Nations Development
Programme to give serious consideration to the pos-
sibility of meeting requests for assistance which coun-
tries stricken by natural disasters may submit for the
express purpose of the rehabilitation and development of
the stricken areas without prejudice to the utilization
of funds already earmarked for projects of the Program-
me;
9. Further invites the International Bank for Re-
construction and Development and other international
credit organizations and development agencies to give
serious consideration to requests for assistance from
the Governments of countries affected by natural
disasters relating to their programmes for reconstruc-
tion and development and without prejudice to the re-
quests submitted by them prior to the natural disaster
that are still under consideration.
1930th plenary meeting,
15 December 1970.

2718 (XXV). Housing, building and planning
The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolutions 2036 (XX) of 7 December
1965 and 2598 (XXIV) of 16 December 1969,
Mindful of the dedication of the Governments, on
the threshold of the 1970s, to create conditions of
social justice, stability and well-being for all and to
ensure a minimum standard of living consistent with
human dignity through economic and social progress
and development,
Further recalling paragraph 71 of the International
Development Strategy for the Second United Nations
Development Decade relating to the policy measures in
the housing sector,
Considering that a greater effort needs to be made
to provide effective international assistance for the im-
provement of the situation with regard to housing and
human settlements in most developing countries,
Bearing in mind that the interregional seminar on the
improvement of slums and uncontrolled settlements,
held at Medellin, Colombia, from 15 February to 1
March 1970, identified the problem of human settle-
ments as one which requires national and international
solutions through the adoption of a global strategy,
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General
on the problems and priorities in human settlements,
1. Recommends that Member States, with the as-
sistance, upon request, of the United Nations bodies
concerned and in the context of their over-all eco-
nomic and social development planning, should
formulate definite and long-term housing, building and
planning policies and programmes for the improvem-
tent of human settlements, devoting particular attention to:
(a) Comprehensive measures to solve the problems
of rapid urbanization, housing and uncontrolled human
settlements, thereby achieving more rational urban
growth patterns;
(b) Steps for a rapid and significant improvement of
housing, community facilities and environmental sanita-
tion in rural areas;
(c) The application of comprehensive planning ap-
proaches to integrate the physical, economic, social
and administrative aspects for improvement of human
settlements in both rural and urban areas;
(d) The evolution and application of regional
planning for balanced rural and urban development,
especially in developing countries;
(e) The development of the building industry and
building technology, including research and training;
(f) The review, if necessary, of the legislative
framework governing land tenure, the transfer of land
and buildings in urban and rural areas, and the planning
of over-all patterns of land use and appropriate in-
frastructural facilities;
2. Further recommends that Member States and the
United Nations organizations concerned should under-
take the following measures for the amelioration of
conditions in the field of housing and human settle-
ments:
(a) The elaboration by each country of its national
policies and programmes for the development of hous-
ing and of a network of human settlements during the
1970s, fully integrated into national development
plans, including, if necessary, the elaboration of legal,
institutional and physical arrangements relating to
urban and rural land use;
(b) The establishment of national and regional
centres for studies in planning, designing, social and
administrative aspects and experiments in low-cost
housing techniques and activities, including increasing
use and application of indigenous and, as appropriate,
new building materials and local skills;

47 Resolution 2625 (XXV).
48 A/8037.