

**Council of Europe  
Conseil de l'Europe**

**OPEN PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF, PROTECTION AGAINST  
AND ORGANISATION OF RELIEF IN MAJOR NATURAL  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL DISASTERS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**ADOPTED AT THE**

**6TH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT**

**Brussels, 6 October 1994**

- Resolution No. 1 "*Creation in member States of a Permanent Hazard Management Unit*"
- Resolution No. 2 "*Use of space technology to assist risk management*"
- Resolution No. 3 "*European Programme on training in the field of risk sciences:  
FORM-05E*"
- Resolution No. 4 "*Coordination of the principal programmes undertaken by International  
Institutions in the field of disaster management*"

**Brussels, 6 October 1994**

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**RESOLUTION**

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**6TH MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT**

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**-Resolution no. 4 "Coordination of the principal programmes undertaken by International  
Institutions in the field of disaster management"**

## **Resolution No. 4**

### **on the co-ordination of the principal programmes undertaken by international institutions in the field of disaster management**

**The Ministers,**

**considering that in the field of disaster management:**

**1. Prevention and planning are a priority for international institutions, as can be seen from the large number of programmes underway: the principal international institutions represented in this group each have at least one programme in this area: the programmes are often concerned with two types of disaster, natural and technological, and this is particularly so in the case of those relating to health, food relief, civil protection, crisis management and logistics.**

**Other programmes are concerned with special aspects such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and forest fires in the case of natural disasters and nuclear safety, marine pollution and industrial accidents in the case of technological disasters.**

**Programmes vary most in terms of technical measures and legislation. In the case of technological disasters, the technical measures are incorporated into legislation and the measures to be taken with regard to any particular disaster are laid down in directives, conventions, recommendations and so on. Information, education and training are common features of every programme and cover all aspects of disasters.**

**2. Existing warning systems cover a variety of complementary fields. They normally involve collaboration between a number of international organisations required to play a role in crisis management.**

**The design of warning systems requires the participation, to varying extents and at different levels, of all the organisations likely to use the information collected by the organisation responsible for the warning system.**

**3. There are various aspects to relief and humanitarian assistance. It may involve the provision or financing of equipment, such as blankets or medicines, or the sending of emergency teams to stricken areas. The most developed areas of activity are those concerned with logistics and medical and food aid.**

**4. Rehabilitation mainly involves technical assistance with the recovery of stricken areas and preparing them to cope with new disasters. In practical terms, it takes the form of advice on reconstruction, medical screening of the affected population and financial assistance (grants and loans) to facilitate economic recovery.**

**Post-disaster studies which analyse such disasters from a scientific and technical point of view can lead to a better understanding of the phenomenon, thus helping to prevent fresh occurrences.**

**Recommend that in the fields of:**

**Prevention and planning,**

**where there is already a certain amount of co-operation on education and training, links should be strengthened to permit major programmes, such as the FORM-OSE programme, to be set in motion:**

**Warning systems.**

there should be greater co-operation and co-ordination between the European Union, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) and the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement regarding the technical aspects of the introduction of warning systems. This increased co-operation should be underpinned by a search for greater consistency between existing systems:

**Post-disaster studies.**

co-operation on programmes of post-natural and technological disaster studies should be developed, taking account of the embryo programmes developed by the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

**Instruct the Executive Secretary :**

to take contact with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations (DHA), in liaison with the other specialised international agencies, so as to envisage a high level meeting for responsible persons from international organisations concerning risk management, in order to ensure a better organisation of their actions, in the sense of the present resolution, on the basis of:

-the report on "International Institutions in the field of Disaster Management"

-the "Moscow Charter" adopted by the Ministers on 1-2 October, 1993

- the Resolution of the Council "Civil Protection" of the European Union (text approved on 21 April 1994)

-the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on Natural Disasters Reduction in Yokohama 23-27 May, 1994