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Open Partial Agreement on the prevention of, protection against and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters

RESOLUTIONS

adopted at the 8th Ministerial meeting of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement

**Athens-Vougliameni, Greece
21-22 February 2000**

Strasbourg, 10 March 2000

Open Partial Agreement on the prevention of, protection against,
and organisation of relief in major natural and technological disasters

RESOLUTION

**adopted¹ at the 8th Ministerial meeting of the
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- Resolution on co-operation between the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement and international institutions

¹ with Italy abstaining

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE EUR-OPA MAJOR HAZARDS AGREEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

RESOLUTION

The Ministers,

1. Whereas the variety, frequency, scale and geographical distribution of major natural or technological disasters have led numerous international organisations to develop strategies to limit damage both to the population and to the environment;
2. Whereas risk management entails a number of different stages:
 - i. building up a knowledge of risk, with input from scientific research;
 - ii. prevention of risk and preparation for disasters before they occur;
 - iii. alert operations;
 - iv. handling of emergencies, in particular organising rescue operations once a disaster has occurred;
 - v. post-crisis analysis;
 - vi. rehabilitating the stricken communities so that the original living conditions are restored and further disaster is prevented;
3. Welcoming the initial findings of the EUR-OPA Executive Secretariat's survey of the main activities of international organisations (both governmental and non-governmental) concerned with risk management, including:
 - the United Nations and its specialist agencies
 - the European Union
 - the Council of Europe
 - the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
 - the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
 - the International Civil Defence Organisation
 - the European Space Agency
 - the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 - Médecins sans frontières
 - the International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire
 - the International Council on Monuments and Sites
 - the International Atomic Energy Agency
 - the Arab Office for Civil Protection and Relief
 - the Ibero-American Association for Civil Protection ;

Note with interest the existence of this publication and the large number of international organisations which are involved and agree on the need for their activities to be co-ordinated

4. Take note of the regional conferences of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) for the central and eastern European countries (Yerevan, September 1998), the IDNDR/ESCAP meeting for Asia (Bangkok, February 1999), the Conference on the Prevention and Reduction of Natural Disasters in the Mediterranean (Valencia, May 1999), the Regional IDNDR/UNEP Meeting for Africa (Nairobi, May 1999), and the Hemispheric Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (San José, June 1999), while proposing to set up an International Office - which would be a United Nations agency - to act as a forum for co-ordinated action in the field of risk management and optimise the cost-effectiveness of programmes carried out at international level;

5. Decide to:
 - Instruct the Executive Secretariat to update the publication periodically and put it on the Agreement website so as to make it available to as many institutions and specialists as possible,

 - Envisage instructing the Executive Secretary of the EUR-OPA Major Hazards Agreement to organise a year 2000 concertation meeting on current or planned international risk-management programmes at the level of the states of "Greater Europe" and the Mediterranean, in liaison with all the relevant international organisations including the European Union.