

**UNITED NATIONS
(OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR)**

and

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation in the field of disaster relief (with attached Guidelines on the role of United Nations Development Programme resident representative in respect of pre-disaster planning and disaster relief). Signed at Geneva on 2 March 1977, and at Vienna on 25 April 1977

Authentic text: English.

Filed and recorded by the Secretariat on 25 April 1977.

**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES
(BUREAU DU COORDONNATEUR
DES NATIONS UNIES
POUR LES SECOURS EN CAS DE CATASTROPHE)**

et

**AGENCE INTERNATIONALE DE L'ÉNERGIE
ATOMIQUE**

Protocole d'accord relatif à une coopération en matière de secours en cas de catastrophe (avec, en annexe, les Principes directeurs concernant le rôle du Représentant résident du Programme des Nations Unies pour le développement dans les plans de protection et les secours en cas de catastrophe). Signé à Genève le 2 mars 1977, et à Vienne le 25 avril 1977

Texte authentique : anglais.

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING¹ BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR

WHEREAS the General Assembly of the United Nations, by resolution 2816 (XXVI),² endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals for the establishment of an adequate permanent Office in the United Nations (hereinafter referred to as "UNDRO") to be the focal point in the United Nations system for disaster relief matters and which would be headed by a Disaster Relief Co-ordinator authorized, on the Secretary-General's behalf, *inter alia*, to carry out specific duties connected with the timely and efficient provision of appropriate relief following disasters; the institution and improvement of disaster preparedness measures, and the promotion of the study, prevention, control and prediction of natural disasters; and

WHEREAS the General Assembly by the same resolution recommended that the Disaster Relief Co-ordinator should maintain contact with the Governments of States members of, *inter alia*, the International Atomic Energy Agency (hereinafter referred to as "IAEA") concerning available aid in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS IAEA is authorized under its Statute³ to establish or adopt, in consultation and, where appropriate, in collaboration with the competent organs of the United Nations and with the specialized agencies concerned, standards of safety for protection of health and minimization of danger to life and property; and

WHEREAS IAEA has the technical knowledge and expertise to provide advice following radiation accidents and to act as an intermediary in acquiring assistance from member States; and

WHEREAS the consequences of major radiation accidents make it desirable to co-ordinate the activities of IAEA and UNDRO more closely with respect to disaster relief, in order to make the most effective use of the services available in IAEA and UNDRO for the benefit of countries in which radiation accidents have occurred; and

WHEREAS articles XI and XII of the Agreement concerning the relationship between the United Nations and the IAEA⁴ call for co-ordination of the activities of IAEA with those of the United Nations, to avoid overlapping and duplication, and for co-operation between the Secretariat of the United Nations and the staff of IAEA to maintain a close working relationship;

NOW THEREFORE the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator have agreed to the following arrangements:

1. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDRO AND IAEA

UNDRO's role is that of an over-all co-ordinator of all aspects of disaster relief assistance. IAEA has operational responsibilities for co-ordinating relevant technical and scientific assistance following a radiation accident. UNDRO has a responsibility for mobilizing, directing and co-ordinating the other types of assistance that may be given by donors with the technical and scientific assistance provided by IAEA, or by

¹ Came into force on 25 April 1977 by signature, in accordance with article 9.

² United Nations, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/8429)*, p. 85.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 276, p. 3.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 281, p. 369.

States members of IAEA. UNDRO is also responsible for providing information to the international community on the emergency situation as a whole.

2. DISASTER-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN RESPECT OF WHICH UNDRO AND IAEA WILL CO-OPERATE

(i) UNDRO works in three main fields of activity, namely prevention of disasters, pre-disaster planning and disaster relief co-ordination.

(ii) IAEA and UNDRO will co-operate in the promotion of disaster prevention, particularly as it affects nuclear facilities located in developing countries. This co-operation will focus particularly on composite risk analysis and mapping for site selection purposes. The provision of advice to Governments, at their request, on all safety factors during the planning, construction and operational phases of nuclear facilities remains a responsibility of IAEA.

(iii) IAEA will provide upon request from the affected Government or UNDRO relevant technical and scientific assistance whenever the effects of a natural disaster threaten or cause damage to a nuclear installation which might result in a radiation accident.

(iv) In the disaster preparedness activities of UNDRO, technical co-operation missions are sent to disaster-prone countries to give advice to the Government on the establishment or improvement of disaster relief machinery, the formulation of emergency plans, the training of personnel, and other measures which should be taken in advance of a disaster. IAEA will provide upon request from the Government of a country in which a nuclear facility is planned, under construction, or already exists, or from UNDRO, advice on the special precautions which should be taken into account in formulating emergency plans necessary for dealing with any radiation accident which may occur.

(v) After a radiation accident, IAEA and UNDRO will co-operate with respect to disaster relief assistance. IAEA upon request will advise UNDRO of any special precautions or preparations which should be taken or made by relief personnel (other than technical personnel) sent to the stricken country, and of any special requirements for packaging, transporting and handling of relief supplies, for the benefit of people remaining in or evacuated from an area affected by radiation. IAEA will also, on request, and subject to the availability of funds, send one or more staff members to Geneva to work in UNDRO's Co-ordination Centre during the acute emergency phase of the disaster.

(vi) IAEA will, following disaster relief assistance provided by the United Nations system, from time to time inform UNDRO of its assistance which relates to the longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction of disaster-stricken areas.

3. REQUESTS FOR DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

(i) Requests received by UNDRO from Governments of stricken countries for assistance following disasters are regarded as having been addressed to the United Nations system in general. Should a request be made to UNDRO following a radiation accident, UNDRO will immediately inform IAEA, and UNDRO and IAEA will then consult together on the action to be taken.

(ii) IAEA will inform UNDRO as soon as possible of any request made within its emergency assistance scheme, by any of its Member States. IAEA and UNDRO will then consult together on further action to be taken.

(iii) When disaster relief assistance is being considered or provided by IAEA, or mobilized by UNDRO, each Party will inform the other of any contributions

made to it, or known to have been made bilaterally to the disaster-stricken country by donors, which are liable to satisfy or modify the request made by the Government of the disaster-stricken country.

4. JOINT ACTION IN THE FIELD AND MISSIONS TO DISASTER AREAS

(i) UNDRO has arranged for the establishment in developing countries of standing United Nations Disaster Teams (as referred to in the "Guidelines to Resident Representatives" attached to this Memorandum of Understanding) under the responsibility of the UNDP Resident Representative and with the participation of other UN agencies and other interested parties present in these countries, including diplomatic missions. In an emergency situation following a radiation accident, IAEA will arrange for members of its staff to join the Disaster Team, and to be responsible for the assessment of relevant technical and scientific requirements. The action to be taken in respect of these requirements will be determined by IAEA and will be subject to the resources available to it.

(ii) UNDRO will, at its discretion, send a representative or representatives from its headquarters to the disaster area for on-the-spot assessments of emergency relief requirements other than those of a technical or scientific nature and to advise the Government of a disaster-stricken country.

5. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

IAEA shall keep UNDRO informed of its activities in the field of handling radiation accidents, in general, and of any changes in its emergency assistance scheme, in particular. In general, IAEA and UNDRO recognize that the rapid exchange of information on all matters of mutual interest is of paramount importance. To this end IAEA and UNDRO will in all cases keep each other fully informed of any action they are taking and will, in particular, send each other copies of relevant cables and other communications. IAEA and UNDRO will take the necessary measures to ensure that copies of cables and other communications reach the other as rapidly as possible.

6. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed to require or permit UNDRO and IAEA to furnish to a third party any confidential information which may be received or obtained as a result of any of their activities undertaken in co-operation.

7. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

When donated funds are transferred from one agency to the other for the implementation of some action related to a disaster emergency, reciprocally no "overhead cost levy" or other fee will be charged. Interest on funds held by either Party pending actual disbursement will be credited to the Trust Fund set up for the particular operation for which the funds are destined in accordance with the Financial Regulations, Rules or Practices of the Party maintaining the Trust Fund. Final accounting of such transactions will be rendered in due course. Any unspent balance will be returned to the donating agency. Narrative reports of action taken and results achieved by IAEA or UNDRO in using funds originally contributed to the other Party will, whenever practicable, be furnished so that they may be communicated to donors.

8. REVIEW OF COLLABORATION

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator or their representatives will meet from time to time in order to review and evaluate the effectiveness of their collaboration in disaster-related matters, and to evolve any improvements as may prove desirable in the light of the experience gained.

9. ENTRY INTO FORCE, AMENDMENT AND DURATION

This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into force upon its signature by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, and may be amended by mutual agreement. It will remain in force until such time as it is terminated by one agency giving the other three months' written notice of termination.

[Signed]

SIGVARD EKLUND
Director General
International Atomic Energy
Agency

Vienna, 25 April 1977

[Signed]

FARUK N. BERKOL
Under-Secretary-General
Disaster Relief Co-ordinator

Geneva, 2nd March 1977

ROLE OF RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN RESPECT OF PRE-DISASTER PLANNING AND DISASTER RELIEF

INSTRUCTIONS

I. *Introduction*

1. Increasing international concern over the effectiveness of assistance from the world community in cases of disaster led the General Assembly, by resolution 2816 (XXVI) of 14 December 1975 to request the Secretary-General to appoint a Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and establish the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO). The functions of the Co-ordinator and his Office are essentially (i) to provide advice on pre-disaster planning and disaster preparedness in developing countries; (ii) to obtain precise information as to relief requirements in disaster emergencies; (iii) to mobilize and co-ordinate disaster relief from the international community; (iv) to maintain a clearing house in Geneva for the exchange of information and for the matching of needs with supplies and services; (v) to keep on record information as to the emergency assistance which donor countries and organizations are prepared to furnish; (vi) to promote the study, prevention, control and prediction of natural disasters, including the collection and dissemination of information concerning technological developments.

2. The Assembly resolution takes note of "the key role which the Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme could play at the country level . . ." In fulfilling this role, Resident Representatives are assured of the fullest co-operation of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and his office. By effective action in disaster situations, Resident Representatives can make a notable contribution to the well-being of the countries in which they serve.