

**UNITED NATIONS
(OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR)
and
INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION**

Memorandum of Understanding between the Director-General of the International Labour Office and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator. Signed at Geneva on 14 July 1977

Authentic text: English.

Filed and recorded by the Secretariat on 14 July 1977.

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

et

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL

Mémorandum d'accord entre le Directeur général du Bureau international du Travail et le Coordonnateur des Nations Unies pour les secours en cas de catastrophe. Signé à Genève le 14 juillet 1977

Texte authentique : anglais.

Classé et inscrit par le Secrétariat le 14 juillet 1977.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING¹ BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE 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 authorised, on the Secretary-General's behalf, *inter alia*, to mobilise, direct and co-ordinate the relief activities of the various organisations of the United Nations system in response to a request for disaster assistance from a stricken State, and also to co-ordinate such assistance from the United Nations with that made available by other sources of aid; and to promote the study, prevention, control and prediction of natural disasters, including the collection and dissemination of information concerning technological developments, and to assist in providing advice to governments on pre-disaster planning; and

WHEREAS the International Labour Organisation (hereinafter referred to as "ILO") is in a position to provide advice and technical assistance in the matter of prevention of, and preparedness for, natural disasters, as well as for reconstruction and rehabilitation activities which become necessary in stricken States in the aftermath of such disasters; and

WHEREAS UNDRO and the ILO, having discussed, and being convinced of, the possibility and scope for their effective collaboration in providing disaster-related assistance to disaster-prone countries;

THEREFORE the Director-General of the ILO and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator have agreed, within the framework of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation, to the following arrangements for the purposes stated herein:

1. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDRO AND THE ILO

The ILO recognises the responsibility of UNDRO to mobilise and co-ordinate disaster emergency assistance to a stricken State, and to mobilise funds for such assistance, as well as to promote disaster preparedness and disaster prevention. It is agreed that UNDRO's role within the terms of General Assembly Resolution 2816 (XXVI) is that of an over-all co-ordinator for all aspects of disaster-related assistance. UNDRO recognises the operational responsibilities of the ILO for promoting and providing technical advice and assistance with a view to coping with emergency situations caused by the sudden occurrence of natural disasters which call for urgent relief employment and training measures and quick rehabilitation of damaged infrastructures. UNDRO recognises the ILO's technical competence in the longer-term reconstruction phase of the stricken State and the role it can play in promoting the participation of national organisations of employers and workers. UNDRO further recognises the ILO's competence in promoting activities for the prevention of disas-

¹ Came into force on 14 July 1977 by signature, in accordance with paragraph 11.

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