

No. 790

**UNITED NATIONS
(OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR)
and
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

**Agreement concerning the co-ordination of disaster relief.
Signed at Geneva on 18 October 1977**

Authentic text: English.

Filed and recorded by the Secretariat on 18 October 1977.

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

et

ORGANISATION DES ÉTATS AMÉRICAINS

**Accord concernant la coordination des secours en cas de
catastrophe. Signé à Genève le 18 octobre 1977**

Texte authentique : anglais.

Classé et inscrit au répertoire par le Secrétariat le 18 octobre 1977.

AGREEMENT¹ BETWEEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF CO-ORDINATOR CONCERNING THE CO-ORDINATION OF DISASTER RELIEF

WHEREAS the General Assembly of the United Nations, by Resolution 2816 (XXVI),² endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the establishment of an adequate permanent Office in the United Nations (hereafter referred to as "UNDRO") to serve as the focal point in the United Nations system for disaster relief matters, which Office would be headed by a Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (hereafter referred to as the "Co-ordinator"), authorized to establish and maintain, on the Secretary-General's behalf, the closest co-operation with all organizations concerned with a view to mobilizing, directing, and co-ordinating the relief activities of the various agencies of the United Nations system in response to a request for disaster assistance from a stricken state, and to co-ordinating United Nations assistance with that made available by other sources of aid; and

WHEREAS the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (hereafter referred to as "FONDEM"), created pursuant to resolution VIII of the Second Special Inter-American Conference of the Organization of American States (hereafter referred to as the "OAS"), is intended to supply, without considerations of a political nature, aid—exclusively social in character—in the form of food, medical equipment and medicines, or other types of material, technical and financial assistance, both in kind and in services, to any member state of the Organization that is threatened by, has suffered from, or finds itself in an emergency situation of any origin whatever, and is operated by the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee (hereafter referred to as "FONDEM Committee") which is authorized to conclude agreements with international organizations in order to achieve the objectives of FONDEM; and

WHEREAS the Secretary-General of the OAS (hereafter referred to as the "Secretary General"), in accordance with articles 5, 7 and 8 of the statutes of FONDEM, is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the FONDEM Committee, for receiving contributions, and for establishing within the General Secretariat the machinery and procedures for the proper functioning of FONDEM, and was authorized by a decision taken by the FONDEM Committee on September 27, 1977, to conclude an agreement to establish co-operative relations with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator in order to make the most effective use of disaster relief for the benefit of stricken OAS member states;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Secretary General of the OAS and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator have agreed to the following:

1. The Secretary General and the Co-ordinator recognize their respective responsibilities for co-ordinating disaster assistance to a stricken state and

¹ Came into force on 18 October 1977 by signature, in accordance with paragraph 14.

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