



20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 57/150

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150 of 16 December 2002 is a product of the work of the INSARAG, which importantly highlights that each state has the responsibility to take care of the victims of natural disasters occurring within its boarders.

This important GA Resolution is central to the work of the INSARAG and endorses the INSARAG Guidelines and Methodology.

Reaffirming and recalling this important INSARAG resolution is vital as we continue to serve in the name of INSARAG

United Nations

A /RES/57/150

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session Agenda item 21 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L 60 and Add.1)]

57/150. Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, the annex to which contains the guiding principles for strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations system, and its resolutions 54/233 of 22 December 1999, 55/163 of 14 December 2000, 56/103 of 14 December 2001 and 56/195 of 21 December 2001, and recalling agreed conclusions 19981¹ and 1999/1² of the Economic and Social Council and Council resolution 2002/32 of 26 July 2002.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to lopment,³

Deeply concerned by the increasing number and scale of disasters, resulting in assive losses of life and property worldwide, as well as their long-term onsequences, especially severe for developing countries,

Reaffirming that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of states must be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations ind, in this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of he affected country and, in principle, on the basis of an appeal by the affected country,

Reaffirming also that each State has the responsibility first and foremost to ake care of the victims of natural disasters and other emergencies occurring on its erritory and, hence, the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, rganization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its erritory,

Recognizing the importance of the principles of neutrality, human mpartiality for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

² Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-shird Session, Supplement No. 3 and configuration (A/S3) and Corr. 1), chap. VII, pars. 5. ² Ibid., Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S4/3/Rev.1), chap. VI, pars. 5 A/S1/578.

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"I strongly urge the INSARAG community to reacquaint themselves with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 57/150. The resolution holds great importance in emphasizing international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters. It is of utmost importance that we acknowledge and recall this significant milestone in the coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance."

- Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, INSARAG Secretary, Chief of the Emergency Response Section for UN OCHA.

