

G8 Conclusions on Natural Disasters, 1975-2009

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Summary of Conclusions on Natural Disasters in G8 Summit Documents

Year	# of Words	% of Total Words	# of Paragraphs	% of Total Paragraphs	# of Documents	% of Total Documents	# of Dedicated Documents
1975	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1976	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1977	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1978	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1979	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1980	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1981	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1982	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1983	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1984	50	1.6	1	1.5	1	20	0
1985	244	7.9	1	1.9	1	50	0
1986	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1988	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1989	253	3.6	3	2.1	1	9.1	0
1990	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1991	459	4.6	5	2.8	4	80	0
1992	34	0.5	1	0.6	1	25	0
1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1995	120	1	3	1.1	2	50	0
1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1997	71	0.4	1	0.3	1	16.7	0
1998	27	0.4	1	1	1	25	0
1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	383	1.7	3	2.3	3	17.6	0
2004	123	0.3	2	0.3	2	9.1	0
2005	192	0.7	4	0.6	2	4.7	1
2006	400	0.8	8	0.8	3	12	0
2007	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2008	113	0.67	1	0.57	1	9	0
2009	131	0.78	1	0.30	1	7.6	0
Average	74.2	0.71	1	0.46	0.68	9.6	0.03

Notes:

Data are drawn from all official English-language documents released by the G8 leaders as a group. Charts are excluded.

“# of Words” is the number of natural disaster-related subjects for the year specified, excluding document titles and references. Words are calculated by paragraph because the paragraph is the unit of analysis.

“% of Total Words” refers to the total number of words in all documents for the year specified.

“# of Paragraphs” is the number of paragraphs containing references to natural disasters for the year specified. Each point is recorded as a separate paragraph.

“% of Total Paragraphs” refers to the total number of paragraphs in all documents for the year specified.

“# of Documents” is the number of documents that contain natural disaster subjects and excludes dedicated documents.

“% of Total Documents” refers to the total number of documents for the year specified.

“# of Dedicated Documents” is the number of documents for the year speaks that contain a natural disaster-related subject in the title.

Introduction

Definition of Issue Area

A disaster usually involving human deaths caused by natural forces rather than by the action of a living thing.

Search Terms

The following keywords were used for this report.

Inclusions

avalanche, cyclones, disaster, droughts, earthquakes, floods, forest fires, heat waves, hurricanes, ice storms, mudslides, snow storms, tornados, tsunamis, typhoons, volcanic eruption, wildfire.

Exclusions

famines (see food and agriculture), disasters caused by living things such as human or animal transmitted infectious disease pandemics (covered elsewhere under health).

Coding Rules

The unit of analysis is the paragraph/sentence.

Need a direct reference to natural disaster or a cognate term.

Cognate or extended terms can be used without a direct reference to “natural disaster” if they have previously been directly associated together in Summit communiqué history.

Conclusions on Natural Disasters in G8 Summit Documents

1975 Rambouillet, France

No references.

1976 San Juan, Puerto Rico, United States

No references.

1977 London, United Kingdom

No references.

1978 Bonn, Germany

No references.

1979 Tokyo, Japan

No references.

1980 Venice, Italy

No references.

1981 Montebello, Canada

No references.

1982 Versailles, France

No references.

1983 Williamsburg, United States

No references.

1984 London II, United Kingdom

Communiqué

We are greatly concerned about the acute problems of poverty and **drought** in parts of Africa. We attach major importance to the special action program for Africa which is being prepared by the World Bank and should provide renewed impetus to the joint efforts of the international community to help.

1985 Bonn II, Germany

Communiqué

Relations with Developing Countries

We are deeply concerned about the plight of African peoples who are suffering from famine and **drought**. We welcome the positive response from our citizens and from private organizations, as well as the substantial assistance provided by the governments of many countries and the establishment by the World Bank of the Special Facility for Sub-Saharan Africa. We shall continue to supply emergency food aid. In addition, we shall intensify our cooperation with African countries to help them develop their economic potential and a longterm food strategy, based on their own agricultural programs. We are prepared to promote increases in food production by supplying agricultural inputs such as seed, pesticides and fertilizers, within the framework of agricultural development projects. We agree upon the need to improve the existing early warning systems and improve transportation arrangements. Political obstacles in the countries concerned should not be allowed to stand in the way of the delivery of food to the hungry. We emphasize the need to examine the establishment of a research network on dry zone grains. We shall strengthen our cooperation with African countries in fighting against desertification. Continued efforts are needed by all countries in a position to contribute to any or all of this work. We call upon the Soviet Union and other Communist countries to assume their responsibilities in this regard. We have set up an expert group to prepare proposals for follow up measures to be reported to Foreign Ministers by September 1985.

1986 Tokyo II, Japan

No references.

1987 Venice II, Italy

No references.

1988 Toronto, Canada

No references.

1989 Paris, France

Communiqué

Introduction

The development and the further integration of developing countries into the world economy. Whilst there has been substantial progress in many developing countries, particularly those implementing sound economic policies, the debt burden and the persistence of poverty, often made worse by **natural disasters** affecting hundreds of millions of people, are problems of deep concern which we must continue to face in a spirit of solidarity.

Environment

It is a matter of international concern that Bangladesh, one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world, is periodically devastated by catastrophic **floods**.

We stress the urgent need for effective, coordinated action by the international community, in support of the Government of Bangladesh, in order to find solutions to this major problem which are technically, financially, economically and environmentally sound. In that spirit, and taking account of help already given, we take note of the different studies concerning flood alleviation, initiated by France, Japan, the United States and the United Nations Development Programme, which have been reviewed by experts from all our countries. We welcome the World Bank's agreement, following those studies, to coordinate the efforts of the international community so that a sound basis for achieving a real improvement in alleviating the effects of **flood** can be established. We also welcome the agreement of the World Bank to chair, by the end of the year, a meeting to be held in the United Kingdom by invitation of the Bangladesh Government, of the countries willing to take an active part in such a program.

1990 Houston, United States

No references.

1991 London III, United Kingdom

Communiqué

Environment

The burning oil wells and polluted seas in the Gulf have shown that we need greater international capacity to prevent and respond to environmental disasters. All international and regional agreements for this purpose, including those of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), should be fully implemented. We welcome the decision by UNEP to establish an experimental centre for urgent environmental assistance. In the light of the recent storm damage in Bangladesh, we encourage the work on **flood** alleviation under the auspices of the World Bank, which we called for at the Arch Summit.

Prime Minister [John Major]'s Statement on the Economic Declaration

We have, of course, given an undertaking to go on providing humanitarian assistance to parts of Africa facing severe famine. That too links in with our wish to strengthen the ability of the UN to respond swiftly and effectively to **natural disasters**.

Political Declaration: Strengthening the International Order

We note that the urgent and overwhelming nature of the humanitarian problem in Iraq caused by violent oppression by the Government required exceptional action by the international community, following UNSCR [UN Security Council Resolution] 688. We urge the UN and its affiliated agencies to be ready to consider similar action in the future if the circumstances require it. The international community cannot stand idly by in cases where widespread human suffering from famine, war, oppression, refugee flows, disease or **flood** reaches urgent and overwhelming proportions.

The recent tragedies in Bangladesh, Iraq and the Horn of Africa demonstrate the need to reinforce UN relief in coping with emergencies. We call on all Member States to respond to the Secretary-General's appeal for voluntary contributions. We would like to see moves to strengthen the coordination, and to accelerate the effective delivery, of all UN relief for major **disasters**.

Chairman [British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd]'s Statement

The *political declaration* emphasises the theme of our common commitment to strengthening the international order and to reinforcing the multilateral approach. We have launched some ideas on making the UN more efficient and effective, for example in the field of emergency **disaster** relief. We deal with the Middle East in particular, following the Gulf War. (In this context we welcomed the recent reply by President Assad of Syria to President Bush, which we hope will open the way for progress toward a conference leading to direct negotiations. We wish every success to Jim Baker as he returns to the region). We also address the democratic recovery of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the current constitutional upheaval in Yugoslavia. We flag the prospect of a transformed Soviet Union wholeheartedly rejoining the international community, about which we shall hear President Gorbachev's views tomorrow. We underline the political need to restore economic growth to postapartheid South Africa if reform there is to endure and succeed. We highlight the need for progress on hostages, and for perseverance in the fight against terrorism.

1992 Munich, Germany

Communiqué

Developing Countries

We are deeply concerned about the unprecedented **drought** in southern Africa. Two thirds of the **Drought** Appeal target has been met. But much remains to be done. We call on all countries to assist.

1993 Tokyo III, Japan

No references.

1994 Naples, Italy

No references.

1995 Halifax, Canada

Communiqué

Preventing and Responding to Crises

Disasters and other crises complicate the development challenge and have exposed gaps in our institutional machinery. To help prevent and mitigate emerging crises, including those with human rights and refugee dimensions, we will ask:

the UN Secretary-General to explore means to improve the analysis and utilization of **disaster** and conflict-related early warning information, particularly through the High Commissioners on Human Rights and Refugees

The Halifax Summit Review of the International Financial Institutions; Background Document: Sustainable Development

Disasters and other crises have demonstrated gaps in the institutional machinery. To help resolve

emerging crises, the Bretton Woods institutions and the UN should establish a new coordination procedure, supported as necessary by existing resources transition to the rehabilitation phase in countries emerging from economic or political crisis, and to cooperate more effectively with donor countries.

1996 Lyon, France

No references.

1997 Denver, United States

Communiqué: Environment: Oceans (1 Paragraph, 1 Sentence)

We must strengthen our efforts to protect the world's oceans. We will work to ensure an effective and integrated effort to deal with key issues, including sustainable fishing, shipping, marine pollution from land-based and off-shore activities, and oil spill prevention and emergency response. In this connection, we will also enhance cooperation in monitoring the ecology in the Northern Pacific, as well as in forecasting **earthquakes** and **tsunamis** in this region.

1998 Birmingham, United Kingdom

No references.

1999 Köln, Germany

G8 Action Programme on Forests: Monitoring and Assessment

The G8 members will: exchange information and experience with partner countries on monitoring and responding to large scale **disasters** affecting forest ecosystems, such as forest fires.

2000 Okinawa, Japan

No references.

2001 Genoa, Italy

No references.

2002 Kananaskis, Canada

No references.

2003 Evian, France

Chair's Summary

Regional Issues

Algeria. We expressed our deepest sympathy for the Algerian people after the recent devastating **earthquakes**. We are providing urgent humanitarian aid and, to address the financial consequences of this situation, we are instructing our relevant Ministers to report within one month on how best to help Algeria recover.

Implementation Report by Africa Personal Representatives to Leaders on the G8 Africa Action Plan

Over 40 million people in Africa are at risk of starvation. This situation derives not only from climatic conditions and **natural disasters** but from more structural causes, such as chronic poverty, lack of infrastructures, appropriate support and enabling environment for agriculture, together with HIV/AIDS prevalence, increasing number of conflicts, poor governance and economic management and trade related issues. Since Kananaskis, we have committed the following amounts to address these needs: US\$1.7 billion in humanitarian emergency aid and US\$1.4 billion in long term agriculture and food security assistance for sub-Saharan Africa.

Action Against Famine, Especially in Africa: A G8 Action Plan

We recognise that food security is a global concern. Millions of people world-wide are at risk of starvation, of which over 40 million are in Africa. This situation derives not only from climatic conditions and **natural disasters** but from more structural causes, such as chronic poverty, lack of an enabling environment and appropriate support for agriculture, HIV/AIDS prevalence, an increasing number of conflicts, poor governance and economic management and trade related issues. These factors are likely to cause recurrent food crises and increase long-term food insecurity, notably in Africa. While taking immediate action to avert the present peril of humanitarian crises, we recognise the strong need for longer term solutions to food insecurity, and are committed to working in partnership with developing countries to address these problems. To address these issues, we are working with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and relevant international bodies to prevent and mitigate famine. G8 action to address famine in Africa will take place within the framework of the G8 Africa Action Plan, in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development . Famine is a preventable tragedy that requires the right policy tools to respond to short-term emergency food aid needs flexibly and quickly, and mitigate the effects of foreseen crises. It can be prevented in the long-term by vulnerable countries adopting economic and governance policies and institutional reforms that help to prevent the conditions that lead to famine including a special focus on investment in agriculture.

2004 Sea Island, United States

Ending the Cycle of Famine in the Horne of Africa, Raising Agricultural Productivity and Promoting Rural Development in Food Insecure Countries

Improving Worldwide Emergency Assessment and Response Systems

Acting individually and collectively, G8 members will take the following actions: We will support the development of regional strategies for **disaster** prevention and emergency management covering policy instruments, institutional responses and safety mechanisms.

G8 Action to Endorse and Establish a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise

Acting individually and collectively, G8 members will:

- Support work of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and others that will channel more effectively resources allocated to research and development of **drought**, pest, and disease-resistant staple crops for use in developing countries. We will also support initiatives on staple Africa food crops, including the Pan Africa Cassava Initiative, the Global Cassava Partnership and the Pan Africa Nerica initiative. These initiatives, carried out in a responsible manner and respecting biodiversity protection, should result in "hardier crops for healthier people."

2005 Gleneagles, United Kingdom

Chair's Summary

Regional Issues and Proliferation

Six months on from the enormous tragedy of the Indian Ocean **disaster** on 26 December 2004, we have underlined our support for UN work on post-**tsunami** humanitarian aid and reconstruction, as well as confirming our commitment to reduce the risk from future **disasters** and to encourage reform of the humanitarian system.

We discussed the situations in Sudan and in Iraq and issued separate statements setting out our common approach. We also issued statements on the Middle East Peace Process, the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative, the Indian Ocean **disaster**, and counter-proliferation, and a progress report on the Secure and Facilitated Travel Initiative (SAFTI).

Accomplishments at the G8 Summit

The President complimented Prime Minister Blair for his leadership in spotlighting the important issues of Africa and climate. The G8 also addressed a wide variety of issues, including: the global economy, energy, oil, trade, intellectual property rights, regional issues, post-**tsunami** recovery, counter-terrorism, safety, non-proliferation, and reform in the Broader Middle East.

Indian Ocean Tsunami: Led by public and private assistance from the United States, latest figures suggest about \$9 billion have been contributed to **tsunami** relief and reconstruction. G8 leaders agreed to support international efforts to:...

2006 St. Petersburg, Russia

Fight against Infectious Diseases

Health Consequences of Natural and Man-Made Disasters

To address these challenges, we, the G8 Leaders, are determined to achieve tangible progress in the following areas:

- improved access to prevention and treatment of diseases for those in need, through assistance programs focused on strengthening the capacity of health systems and the training, deployment, and retention of qualified health workers; and through innovative clinical research programs, private-public partnerships, and other innovative mechanisms; support for efforts by work with relevant international organizations to mitigate the health consequences of emergencies, including **natural and man-made disasters**, including through better coordination and capacity building.

Natural disasters alone can result in tens of thousands of deaths and adversely affect the lives of millions of people. Over the last 25 years, **natural disasters** have caused over US \$100 billion worth of material damage. The **tsunami** that hit dozens of countries in South-East Asia, South Asia and East Africa in 2004, the **hurricane** seasons that ravaged the United States coastal areas, Mexico, Central American and Caribbean states in 2004 and 2005, the October 2005 **earthquake** in South Asia, and the May 2006 **earthquake** in Indonesia were terrible ordeals for the people affected by them.

We focused on the issue of **disaster** risk reduction at Gleneagles and outlined the need for a series of practical measures, in particular through strengthened early-warning systems, as well as improved coordination and prompt humanitarian relief efforts.

We welcome the decisions on health actions in crises and **disasters** taken at the 2005 UN World Conference on **Disaster** Reduction in Hyogo, Japan and at the 58th World Health Assembly.

Given the potential for the breakdown of public health services as a result of **natural and man-made disasters**, we support actions aimed at improving the preparedness and capacity of healthcare systems to meet health challenges posed by emergencies, especially in developing countries.

We commit to strengthen existing networks aimed at mitigating health consequences of **natural and man-made disasters**, including through effective use of rapid response teams, where appropriate, and helping **disaster-prone** developing countries build their own capacities in this area.

Global Energy Security

To tackle this overarching goal we have to deal with serious and linked challenges such as:

- the vulnerability of the critical energy infrastructure; political instability, **natural disasters** and other threats.

Chair's Summary: Fight Against Infectious Diseases

We also decided to improve the effectiveness of international response to emergencies and of action to mitigate health consequences of **natural and man-made disasters**, including through effective use of rapid response teams.

2007 Heiligendamm, Germany

No references.

2008 Hokkaido-Toyako, Japan

World Economy

Environment and Climate Change

30. Recognizing that poorer countries are among the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, we will continue and enhance cooperation with developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing states, in their efforts to adapt to climate change including **disaster risk** reduction. To address this issue, we commit to support urgent actions to mainstream adaptation into broader development strategies and encourage developing countries themselves to integrate adaptation into their development policies. The early start of activities under the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund should make an important contribution in this respect. We call on the multilateral development banks and other development agencies to support countries in this endeavor.

2009 L'Aquila, Italy

G8 Declaration: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future

Natural Disasters

77. To address the increased threats of natural disasters and extreme weather phenomena caused by climate change, such as increased flooding, storm surges, droughts and forest fires, we will act to improve risk preparedness, prevention, monitoring and response times, particularly in developing countries, by:

a. defining common guidelines for disaster prevention and management to be used in developing national plans, in collaboration with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), building on the Hyogo Framework for Action and on national experiences, as well as improving management of risks, awareness raising and training of the population and civil protection real-time response, such as logistical support for emergency situations;

b. supporting the ongoing work on the development of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).