

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONINTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON EARTHQUAKE RISKFirst session,
Paris, 12-16 December 1977REPORT1. Introduction

The Intergovernmental Conference on the Assessment and Mitigation of Earthquake Risk, held at Unesco Headquarters in February 1976, recommended (resolution 12.21) that Unesco, in consultation with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, set up an international committee to advise Unesco and UNDRO on the implementation of the resolutions of the Conference and on the preparation of a long-term interdisciplinary research programme in the field. It was foreseen that this committee would be able to advise on how best to engage the wide range of relevant disciplines, and on how to achieve the most effective combination of scientific and administrative action, in a concerted attack on the problem of earthquake risk and its mitigation.

The report of this Conference was transmitted to the General Conference of Unesco at its nineteenth session by the Director-General, who proposed that an "International Advisory Committee on Earthquake Risk" be set up by Unesco in co-operation with UNDRO. The General Conference approved this proposal.

The Statutes of the International Advisory Committee on Earthquake Risk were adopted by the Executive Board of Unesco at its 102nd session in May 1977. They are reproduced in Annex I to this report.

In consultation with the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, the Director-General of Unesco convened the first meeting of the present Committee at Unesco Headquarters from 12 to 16 December 1977.

2. Participation

The following members of the Committee were present: Messrs. C. Allen, N.N. Ambraseys, D. Bensari, Ku Kung-hsu, A.A. Moinfar, T. Rikitake, J. Tomblin. Messrs. J. Cudjoe, E. Rosenblueth and S.A. Soloviev were unable to attend. The meeting was also attended by six consultants, a representative of UNDRO and by Observers representing 14 international organizations. A full list of the participants is given in Annex II.