



**INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR
NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION**



**ORGANIZATION AND TASKS OF THE
GERMAN COMMITTEE TO THE
IDNDR**

**United Nations
General Assembly**

**Resolution 42/169. International Decade
for Natural Disaster Reduction**

The General Assembly,

...(...)

7. Calls upon all Governments to participate during the decade in concerted international action for the reduction of natural disasters and, as appropriate, to establish national committees, in co-operation with the relevant scientific and technological communities, with a view to surveying available mechanisms and facilities for the reduction of natural hazards, assessing the particular requirements of their respective countries or regions in order to add to, improve or update existing mechanisms and facilities and develop a strategy to attain the desired goals,

...(...)

96th plenary meeting
11 December 1987



News and pictures of natural disasters reach us almost every day. Earthquakes, hurricanes and floods jeopardize and kill people or destroy the very basis of their existence and cause untold damage to national economies. Civilization is increasingly vulnerable to the forces of nature.

Countries with weak economies are particularly hard hit by such catastrophes.

With the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction 1990-2000, the community of nations is seeking to prevent natural disasters by applying the latest

know-how and expertise. Together with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the Decade secretariat, the Federal Government is playing a decisive part in projects and international working sessions, as well as providing considerable funds for this purpose.

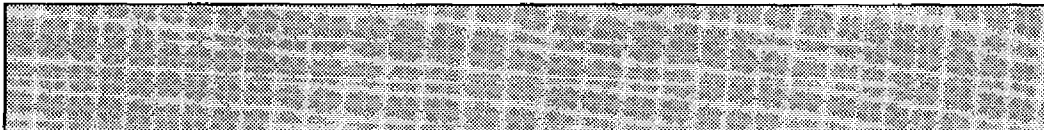
At the national level, the Federal Government supports the activities of the German Committee on the Decade. Its initiatives unite the expertise of disaster relief specialists, scientists and experts representing industry, politics and society at large.

Through the combined efforts of the Federal Government, the German Committee, our European partners and the many efficient United Nations specialized bodies, I hope that, with the help of the German contribution, the Decade will prove fruitful and achieve the goals it has set.

FOREWORD BY THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Minister
for Foreign Affairs

Hans-Dietrich Genscher



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On behalf of the German Committee of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, I wish to express my hopes for the success for the efforts to activate as much support as possible in our country.

German experts are well aware of the importance of strengthening international efforts to mitigate the growing tragic consequences of natural disasters. The setting up of the German Committee in the fall of 1989 and the willingness for a broad cooperation between science and research, industry and relief organizations was met with enthusiasm. Individuals of the two advisory boards of the Committee bring a high level of commitment and expertise to the German contribution to the IDNDR.

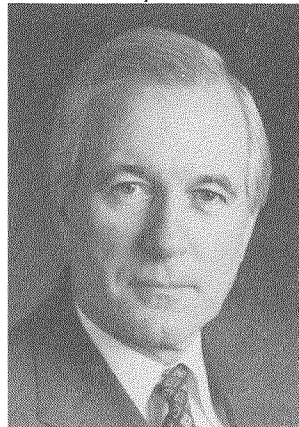
We hope to gain from the media represented in the Committee the creation of broad public awareness and support.

Close co-operation with all relevant Federal departments and constituencies is also very important. One of the most important tasks of the Committee will be to make proposals to governmental agencies for activities to emphasize the relationship between disaster preparedness, environmental protection and international co-operation.

The Committee will also ensure that the expertise of our

**MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE GERMAN
COMMITTEE OF THE
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country in the area of disaster preparedness will be made known to the UN family, its specialized agencies and the European region.



Günther van Well

Günther van WELL (born in 1922) is well experienced in the foreign service. From 1977-1981 he was State Secretary, from 1981-1984 the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations in New York, from 1984-1987 Ambassador to Washington. Since 1 July 1989 he has been the Executive Vice President of the German Society for Foreign Policy.