



XVI Regular Session of the General Conference
Lima, Peru, 30 November and 1 December 1999.

RESOLUTION CG/Res.393
REQUEST BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA

The General Conference,

Emphasizing that the payment of contributions to the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) is an obligation set forth in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Article 9, paragraph 3;

Considering that the contributions that should be paid by the Member States are not onerous and represent a minimum cost for the maintaining of peace and security in the region;

Recalling that in order to ensure the financial stability of the Agency and avoid a financial contingency, Resolution 370 (E-XII) established a program of discounts which several Member States that have debts with the Agency took advantage of;

Reiterating operative paragraph 2 of Resolution 364 (XV), which respectfully exhorts all of the Member States of OPANAL to meet their economic obligations with the Agency or initiate negotiations with the Secretariat General in order to definitively settle their debts;

Having taken note of the communiqué dated 25 February 1999, presented by the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, which explains the grave situation in the country due to the terrible damage caused by Hurricane Mitch and thereby request that its outstanding debts with OPANAL be cancelled;

Recalling that Resolution 313 (E-VIII) granted a period of 10 years to the Government of Nicaragua to settle its debts through a specific program of annual payments;

Considering the call issued by the General Assembly of the United Nations to the international community to continue lending support and cooperation to Central America due to the damage caused by Hurricane Mitch;

Recognizing that the damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in Central America is without precedent and that the affected countries are in a particularly difficult situation that requires the solidarity of other Latin American and Caribbean countries;

Also recognizing that in spite of the limited possibilities of OPANAL, it is the desire of the Member States to contribute in solidarity to alleviate the difficult financial situation faced by Nicaragua,

Resolves:

1. **To express** its solidarity to the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua.
2. **To instruct** the Secretary General to present a proposal immediately to the Government of Nicaragua that, to the extent of OPANAL's possibilities, contributes to the alleviation of the special financial situation faced by that country, due to the damage caused by Hurricane Mitch. With that objective in mind, the Secretary General may suggest to the Government of Nicaragua that it commit to one of the following three payment procedures to normalize the debts it has with the Agency:
 - a) A five-year program of annual staggered payments, with a discount of 50 percent of the country's total debt through 31 December 2001.
 - b) A ten-year program of annual staggered payments, with a discount of 25 percent of the country's total debt through 31 December 2001.
 - c) A fifteen-year program of annual staggered payments, with a discount of 12.5 percent of the country's total debt through 31 December 2001.
3. **Also to instruct** the Council to consider and decide upon any other requests in compliance with this resolution, if so presented.
4. **To request** that the Secretary General inform the Council and the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters regarding the agreements reached as a result of this resolution.

(Adopted at the 91st Session
held on 1 December 1999)