

Resolution adopted by UNRRA (1943)

Caption: In 1943, in Atlantic City, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) adopts a Resolution Relating to the Scope of the Activities of the Administration, which defines the role of military and civilian authorities in providing assistance to the countries devastated by the Second World War.

Source: UNRRA: Gateway to recovery. Washington: National Planning Association, February 1944. 84 p. (Planning Pamphlets Series 30-31).

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URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/resolution_adopted_by_unrra_1943-en-882c9c77-eb39-4ae0-8fb4-6b450b33c26a.html

Publication date: 22/10/2012

Resolution No. 1 adopted by UNRRA

A Resolution Relating to the Scope of the Activities of the Administration

RESOLVED

That the following shall be the broad policies of the Administration with respect to the scope of its activities:

I. Areas in Which the Administration Will Operate

The exact geographical areas in which the Administration will operate and the kind of operations it will undertake in each case must be determined by the Director General (in the light of policies laid down from time to time by the Council) only after consultation with, and with the consent of, the government or authority (military or civil) which exercises administrative authority in the area. The Administration's activities in seeking to achieve the objectives referred to in the preamble of the Agreement setting it up will be governed as follows:

1. In the case of a liberated area in which a government or recognized national authority does not yet exercise administrative authority, the Administration will operate from such a time and for such purposes as may be agreed upon between the military command and the Administration, and subject to such control as the military command may find necessary. The Administration shall, so far as circumstances permit, seek the advice of the government or recognized national authority concerned.
2. In the case of a liberated area in which a government or recognized national authority exercises administrative authority, the Administration will operate only after consultation with, and with the consent of, the government or recognized national authority concerned regarding the form of activities to be undertaken by the Administration within the whole or part of such area.
3. If it appears necessary for the Administration to operate in an enemy or ex-enemy area in carrying out the purposes of the Agreement, it will do so only from such a time and for such purposes as may be agreed upon between the military command, the established control authority or duly recognized administration of the area on the one hand and the Administration on the other, and subject to such control as the military command or the established control authority may find necessary; provided that the Council approve the scale and nature of the operations it is proposed to undertake and the standard of provision, and that all expenses connected with such possible operations in an enemy or ex-enemy area should be carried by the enemy or ex-enemy country concerned. The Director General will consult with the military command or established control authorities having control of enemy or ex-enemy areas with a view to securing information as to any surpluses of supplies from time to time available in such enemy or ex-enemy areas from which relief and rehabilitation import requirements of liberated areas might be met.

Nothing in the above should be taken as preventing the Administration from carrying on activities in other areas in order to perform the tasks laid upon it in the Agreement, provided that the government or authority (military or civil) exercising administrative authority in the area concerned agrees.

II. The Range of Services Which the Administration Will Provide

The supplies and services of which the Administration will seek to insure the provision fall under four heads:

1. *Relief supplies*: essential consumer goods to meet immediate needs, such as food, fuel, clothing, shelter, medical supplies.
2. *Relief services*: such as health and welfare; assistance in caring for, and maintaining records of, persons found in any areas under the control of any of the United Nations who by reason of war have been displaced from their homes and, in agreement with the appropriate governments, military authorities or other agencies, in securing their repatriation or return; and such technical services as may be necessary for these purposes.
3. *Rehabilitation supplies and services*: materials (such as seeds, fertilizers, raw materials, fishing equipment, machinery and spare parts) needed to enable a recipient country to produce and transport relief supplies for its own and other liberated areas, and such technical services as may be necessary for these purposes.
4. *Rehabilitation of public utilities and services*: so far as they can be repaired or restored to meet immediate needs: such as light, water, sanitation, power, transport, temporary storage, communications, and assistance in procuring material equipment for the rehabilitation of educational institutions.

III. Relation of the Administration with Existing Intergovernmental Authorities and Agencies Established to Deal with Supplies, Shipping, and Related Questions

1. The activities of the Administration in bringing assistance to the victims of war will be so conducted that they do not impede the effective prosecution of the war. The prosecution of the war demands that scarce supplies and shipping tonnage shall be carefully controlled and allocated in order to assure not only that the supplies and shipping requirements of the armed forces are fully met, but also that a fair distribution of supplies is made between the civil populations of the various areas having due regard to their actual or potential contribution to the war effort. It will therefore be essential, both for the conduct of the war and in order to promote a fair distribution of supplies between the inhabitants of areas with which the Administration is concerned and those of other areas, that demands upon supplies and shipping presented by the Administration should be coordinated with other demands through the use of the existing intergovernmental agencies concerned with the allocation of supplies and shipping.
2. It will be an essential part of the functions of the Administration to secure a fair distribution of goods which are in short supply and of shipping services to and among the various areas liberated or to be liberated. For this purpose the Administration must have full knowledge of all the relief and rehabilitation import requirements of such areas, whatever arrangements may be contemplated for procurement or finance. Therefore, member governments shall keep the Administration fully informed of their requirements and programs of intended purchases. The Director General may present to the intergovernmental allocating agencies such recommendations or objections as he may deem necessary to obtain a fair distribution to and among both liberated and to be liberated areas. The Director General will present before the intergovernmental allocating agencies the over-all requirements for relief and rehabilitation of all areas liberated and to be liberated in order to permit a global consideration of these needs with all other needs. He may also present the particular requirements of any country for which the assistance of the Administration has been requested. It is anticipated that the Director General and, when necessary, the Chairman of the Committee on Supplies, will be fully consulted by the intergovernmental allocating agencies when any matter touching the interests of the Administration is under discussion.
3. In order that the supplies allocated by the appropriate intergovernmental agency against requirements presented and supported by the Administration may be procured expeditiously and without duplication of effort, the Director General, after consultation, when necessary, with the appropriate intergovernmental agency, will make use wherever possible of the established national agencies concerned with the procurement, handling, storage, and transport of supplies. The member governments to which such national

agencies are responsible would agree on their part to put the services of such agencies at the disposal of the Administration. Such additional responsibilities would form part of those already undertaken in prosecution of the war effort of the United Nations.

IV. Relationship of the Administration with the Military Command

1. Before an area is liberated, the Administration will, when requested by the military authorities,
 - (a) consult with them in the planning of supplies for the relief and rehabilitation of the area during the period of military control;
 - (b) arrange for the advance procurement of such supplies as may be agreed on to supplement supplies to be provided by the military authorities.
2. During the period when a liberated area is under military control, the Administration, so far as the Director General deems practicable, will, when requested by the military authorities,
 - (a) arrange for the procurement of supplies to supplement supplies being provided by the military authorities;
 - (b) furnish expert personnel and services, and advise on the conservation and utilization for relief purposes of stocks and productive resources;
 - (c) assist in the carrying out of policies with regard to the repatriation or return of displaced persons as formulated in paragraph II, 2, above;
 - (d) undertake other relief and rehabilitation activities;
 - (e) assume responsibility in whole or in part for such activities.

In undertaking any of these functions the Administration shall, so far as circumstances permit, seek the advice of the government or recognized national authority concerned.

3. It is recommended to the member governments that the Administration be kept informed so far as is practicable of the operations of the civil affairs branches of the military command and control authorities, in order that the Director General may make the necessary preparations for the provision of staff and facilities so that a smooth transition from the period of military control may be insured and the flow of supplies maintained.

4. It is recommended to member governments that the transition in each area from military to civilian relief and rehabilitation operations be consummated at the earliest date that military considerations permit.