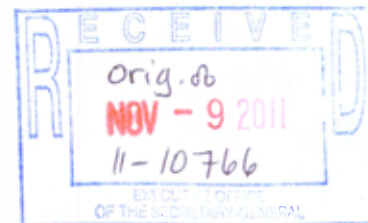


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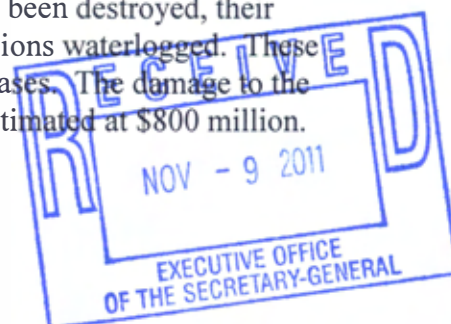


Note to the Secretary-General

Mission to Nicaragua and El Salvador

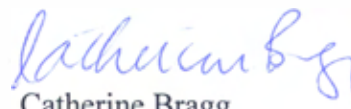
8/11/11

- #11-10567
1. I visited Nicaragua and El Salvador from 2 November to 5 November to review how best the international community could complement support provided by the governments to the people affected by the heavy rains following Tropical Depression E12. The response of both governments is commendable: the civil protection was fully mobilised supporting the local authorities to evacuate, setting up temporary shelters and providing immediate assistance. The high level of preparedness contributed to few lives being lost.
 2. The common message in both countries is that the incidence of catastrophic events is increasing, rendering people homeless and without means of sustenance and stretching the capacity of the government particularly for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure. This disaster has received little international coverage, yet the short and medium-term needs will be significant particularly in the recovery and reconstruction phase. Authorities in both countries appreciate the support provided by the United Nations in the relief phase, and are looking towards us to raise awareness of the impact of climate change as they seek to broaden economic support. The Heads of State of Central America met in late October to discuss the impact of the floods and will meet again on 16 December to review the situation.
 3. In a meeting with President Mauricio Funes of El Salvador, I informed him of your intention to raise the climate change challenges facing El Salvador and the region with your interlocutors and advocate in the G-20 Meeting. I assured the President that OCHA will support the resource mobilisation to cover the most urgent humanitarian needs. The Nicaraguan Minister of Foreign Affairs Samuel Santos thanked the prompt support provided by the UN and its partners and spoke of the importance of the regional mechanisms to highlight the impact of climate change in Central America.
 4. A tenth of the territory in Nicaragua was under water. The level of Lake Managua, adjacent to the capital city where close to a third of the country's population lives, is five metres above normal and is not expected to recede for another two years. 143,000 people have been affected by flooding, with damages to agricultural fields, schools, health centres and homes. The damages are estimated at \$52 million.
 5. In El Salvador, 300,000 people had to leave their homes due to the flooding. While a great majority has returned home, their crops - ready for harvest - have been destroyed, their homes damaged, their water wells contaminated and their possessions waterlogged. These unsanitary conditions have already contributed to a spread in diseases. The damage to the country's infrastructure is also significant. The direct costs are estimated at \$800 million.



11/11/2011

6. On 10 November, I will brief the Member States on the devastating impact of the current floods and landslides caused by the Tropical Depression in Central America in an effort to mobilize support for this extremely vulnerable region and emphasize the need of the international community to provide life-saving assistance to all affected people. The appeal for Nicaragua, of \$14 million, is 22% covered and of El Salvador, of \$15 million, is 25% covered largely through CERF grants.



Catherine Bragg
08 November 2011

CC. Ms. Clark
Ms. Wahlström

Note to Mr. Nambiar

MISSION TO NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR

I would be grateful if you could transmit to the Secretary-General the attached report of my mission to Nicaragua and El Salvador, which took place from 2 to 5 November 2011.

Thank you.



Catherine Bragg
8 November 2011