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President of the 53rd Ordinary Meeting of the Governor's Convention
Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa
Montecito #38 piso 22 oficina 30.
Col. Nápoles, Deleg. Benito Juárez
Ciudad de México, México, C.P. 03810

Munich, 2017-10-01

Adequate relief and reconstruction needed

Dear Mr President,

A devastating 7.1 magnitude earthquake occurred in Mexico on 19 September, seriously impacting vast portions of the country, especially Mexico City and the states of Guerrero, Mexico, Morelos, Oaxaca, and Puebla. More than 300 people have died. Thousands have lost their home and property. Essential services have been compromised in various locations. The Mexican government implemented survivor rescue and emergency care actions with participation of both civil and military personnel, and with the support of the international community. Across the country, both Mexican and migrant people joined extraordinary efforts to save lives and help the victims.

However, several reports have emerged in the days following the earthquake of poor coordination among authorities, illegal commandeering of food and other necessities meant for survivors, and insufficient aid delivered to many devastated areas, especially in small, impoverished communities. Media reports state that expert's preliminary assessments suggest that some of the collapsed structures might have been in breach of building regulations. The devastation caused by the 19 September earthquake only adds to the destruction caused by an earlier earthquake that occurred on 7 September. The previous earthquake had an 8.2 magnitude and affected southern Mexico, including Chiapas and Oaxaca states. In both earthquakes, more than 150000 households were affected, and at least 250000 people have been made homeless. Official documents about risk propensity and prevention have not been made public.

Hence I

- Call on you to ensure that reconstruction and relief efforts safeguard human rights and are delivered on a non-discriminatory basis, considering cultural and gender-specific requirements of those affected.
- Urge you to ensure that people who have been rendered homeless are provided with safe and adequate housing options and access to essential services on an urgent basis.
- Call on you to carry out a prompt, full, and impartial investigation into allegations of defective or poorly maintained buildings, including the responsibility of public servants in charge of building authorizations and supervisions.
- Urge you to guarantee access to relevant information regarding communities' safety, including the Mexico City Risk Atlas and similar documents from other states, in an accessible and timely manner.

Sincerely,

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