

durable and speedy solutions to their problems in accordance with the statute of the Office,

Welcoming the increasing number of accessions by States to the 1951 Convention¹⁵⁹ and the 1967 Protocol¹⁶⁰ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Noting with deep concern that serious violations of the basic rights of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office have continued,

Deploring, in particular, the instances of military attacks on refugee camps in southern Africa and elsewhere,

Noting that many assistance programmes have evolved from the emergency phase to a state of consolidation,

Noting with great appreciation the positive responses of Governments to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner through offers of asylum, voluntary repatriation, rehabilitation, local settlement, resettlement and financial contributions, as well as the generous support given to the Office in its humanitarian task,

Noting with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa,¹⁶¹

1. *Commends* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the valuable work that the Office of the High Commissioner continues to perform on behalf of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office;

2. *Reaffirms* the fundamental nature of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection and the need for Governments to co-operate fully with him to facilitate the effective exercise of this essential function, in particular by acceding to and fully implementing the relevant international and regional instruments and by scrupulously observing the principles of asylum and *non-refoulement*;

3. *Deplores* the continued serious violations of the basic rights of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, in particular through military attacks on refugee camps and settlements in southern Africa and elsewhere, *refoulement* and arbitrary detention, and stresses the need to strengthen measures to protect them against such violations;

4. *Welcomes*, within the context of the efforts of the international community to share the burden of caring for refugees, the work of the High Commissioner in examining the problems associated with providing refuge on a temporary basis to asylum seekers in situations of large-scale influx with a view to finding durable solutions, and requests him to continue the work in this regard;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the major contribution by countries in giving asylum to, or otherwise accepting on a temporary basis, and assisting large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner;

6. *Stresses* the High Commissioner's role in promoting durable and speedy solutions, in consultation and agreement with the countries concerned, to the problems of refugees and displaced persons facing his Office, through voluntary repatriation or return and, whenever appropriate, subsequent assistance in rehabilitation of returnees, resettlement in other countries or integration in countries of asylum, and urges Governments to extend the necessary co-operation to support the High Commissioner's efforts in this regard;

7. *Urges* the High Commissioner to intensify his efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced

persons of concern to his Office, especially to the large numbers of them in Africa, Asia and Latin America;

8. *Stresses* the importance of maintaining relief efforts and the resettlement momentum for boat and land cases in South-East Asia, where large numbers of refugees and displaced persons have been admitted on a temporary basis, including the Programme of Orderly Departure;

9. *Takes note* of the efforts already made by the High Commissioner to adapt the management practices and staffing policy of his Office to the vastly increased tasks and invites him to continue these efforts in line with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and decisions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner;

10. *Requests* the High Commissioner to co-ordinate closely the efforts of his Office in the field of humanitarian assistance with those of other bodies concerned, both within and outside the United Nations system, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination;

11. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to continue participating in the follow-up activities to the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and to intensify his assistance to refugees in Africa;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to share the burden of providing appropriate durable solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner the world over, taking into account residual problems as well as the economic and demographic absorption capacity of the countries concerned;

13. *Urges* all Governments in a position to do so to support and contribute generously to the High Commissioner's humanitarian programmes.

*111th plenary meeting
18 December 1982*

37/196. Continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office,¹⁶²

Recalling its resolution 32/68 of 8 December 1977, in which it decided to review, not later than at its thirty-seventh session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1983,

Recalling further its resolutions 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957 and 1673 (XVI) of 18 December 1961 and Economic and Social Council resolution 672 (XXV) of 30 April 1958 on the establishment of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recognizing the great continuing need for international action on behalf of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

Expressing its concern at the persistence and gravity of the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner in all parts of the world, particularly in different parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America,

Considering the valuable work accomplished by the Office of the High Commissioner in providing international

¹⁵⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

¹⁶¹ A/37/522.

¹⁶² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplements Nos. 12 and 12A (A/37/12 and Add.1).*

protection and assistance to refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner and in promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

1. *Decides* to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1984;

2. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to discharge his basic functions of protection, assistance and the promotion of durable solutions in accordance with the statute of the Office and the relevant General Assembly resolutions;

3. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue to report to and be guided by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference and its decisions, as set forth in General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) and Economic and Social Council resolution 672 (XXV);

4. *Reiterates* that the responsibilities of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner shall continue to cover the determination of the general policies by means of periodic review of programmes, operations, management and activities under which the High Commissioner shall plan, develop and administer the programmes and projects;

5. *Urges*, in this regard, the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner, when fulfilling the functions and the responsibilities entrusted to it by the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, to ensure the efficient use of funds and to give special attention to the successful administration and management of programmes;

6. *Takes note* of the efforts already made by the High Commissioner to adapt the management of his services to the vastly increased tasks and invites him to undertake his efforts in accordance with the principles and guidelines set by the General Assembly, and in the light of the guidance given to him by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner;

7. *Decides* to review, not later than at its forty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1988.

*111th plenary meeting
18 December 1982*

37/197. International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/42 of 25 November 1980 and 36/124 of 14 December 1981 relating to the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva on 9 and 10 April 1981,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the Conference¹⁶³ and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office,¹⁶²

Gravely concerned at the present influx of refugees on the African continent, who now constitute over half the population of refugees in the world,

Noting that, while the Conference succeeded in raising world consciousness with regard to the plight of refugees and returnees in Africa, as well as the problems of asylum

countries, the overall results of the Conference in terms of financial and material assistance have fallen short of the expectations of the African countries,

Aware of the economic and social burden imposed on African countries of asylum by the growing influx of refugees and its consequences for their development and of the heavy sacrifices made by them, despite their limited resources, to alleviate the plight of those refugees,

Considering, therefore, the need of the countries of asylum for adequate human, technical and financial assistance to enable them properly to shoulder their increased responsibilities and assume the additional burden that the presence of refugees represents for their economies,

Considering further the need similarly to assist the countries of origin in the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of returnees, in accordance with the procedures of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recognizing, therefore, the need to review further, with the African Governments concerned, the burden imposed on their national economies by refugees and returnees,

1. *Commends* the Secretary-General for his reports on the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, which were prepared in pursuance of paragraphs 6 and 9 of General Assembly resolution 36/124;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all donor countries, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the international community at large for their continued support and assistance to African refugees, including their efforts to facilitate the process of voluntary repatriation to the countries of origin;

3. *Expresses its concern* that the assistance currently being provided under existing refugee-related programmes falls short of the urgent needs of refugees and returnees in Africa and does not provide sufficient resources to permit the implementation of projects designed to ensure adequate care and relief for the refugees and to expedite the process of rehabilitation and resettlement;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to the countries of asylum for the great contribution that they are making in alleviating the plight of refugees and urges the international community to give the assistance necessary to enable those countries to provide essential services and facilities for the refugees;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to convene at Geneva in 1984 a second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa:

(a) To review thoroughly the results of the Conference held in 1981 as well as the state of progress of the projects submitted to it;

(b) To consider the continuing need for assistance with a view to providing, as necessary, additional assistance to refugees and returnees in Africa for the implementation of programmes for their relief, rehabilitation and resettlement;

(c) To consider the impact imposed on the national economies of the African countries concerned and to provide them with the assistance required to strengthen their social and economic infrastructure so as to enable them to cope with the burden of dealing with large numbers of refugees and returnees;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to consult with the African countries concerned with regard to their needs for dealing adequately with the problem of refugees and returnees and to submit a report on the situation in each country so as to enable the

¹⁶³ E/1982/76 and Corr. 1 and A/37/522.