

nity to meet the needs for emergency relief and for medium- and long-term development aid,

Taking note of the declarations and resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 18 to 20 July 1985,¹²⁶ and of the resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 10 to 17 July 1985, in particular resolution CM/Res.989 (XLII) on the situation of refugees in Africa,³⁵

Emphasizing the collective responsibility of sharing the urgent and overwhelming burden of the problem of African refugees through effective mobilization of additional resources to meet the urgent and long-term needs of the refugees and to strengthen the capacity of countries of asylum to provide adequately for the refugees while they remain in those countries, as well as to assist the countries of origin in rehabilitating voluntary returnees,

Reiterating the vital importance of the complementarity between refugee aid and development assistance,

Desirous of ensuring the speedy implementation of the recommendations and pledges made at the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa,

1. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to African host countries, which are the biggest donors, for their generous contribution and continuous efforts to alleviate the plight of refugees in spite of their critical economic situation;

2. *Reiterates its appreciation* to all donor countries, the organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, regional organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their initial support and response to the projects submitted to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;¹²⁷

3. *Urges* the international community to maintain the momentum created by the Conference and to translate into reality the projects submitted as well as the principles of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference;

4. *Emphasizes* the vital importance of the complementarity of refugee aid and development assistance and of achieving durable solutions to the problems of refugees in Africa and the necessity of providing assistance for the strengthening of the social and economic infrastructures of African countries receiving refugees and returnees;

5. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to keep the situation of refugees in Africa under constant review so as to ensure that adequate assistance is available for care and maintenance and for bringing about durable solutions;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to increase its efforts to mobilize additional resources for refugee-related development projects and, in general, to promote and co-ordinate with the host countries and the donor community the integration of refugee-related activities into national development planning;

7. *Calls upon* all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system concerned, as well as relevant regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to lend their support to the speedy implementation of the recommendations and pledges made at the Conference;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Declaration and Programme of Action, to monitor, in consultation and close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme, the follow-up to the Conference;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution.

*116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985*

40/118. Report 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,¹²⁸ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-sixth session,¹²⁹ and having heard the statement made by the High Commissioner on 11 November 1985,¹³⁰

Recalling its resolution 39/140 of 14 December 1984,

Reaffirming the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Deeply concerned that refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner continue to face distressingly serious problems in all parts of the world,

Particularly concerned that in various regions the safety and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers continue to be seriously jeopardized on account of military or armed attacks, acts of piracy and other forms of brutality,

Stressing the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection and the need for States to co-operate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this essential function, particularly in view of the continued and persistent violations of the basic rights of refugees and asylum-seekers,

Emphasizing that voluntary repatriation or return remains the most desirable solution to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

Emphasizing also the importance for the international community to continue to provide assistance and resettlement opportunities for those refugees for whom no other durable solution may be in sight, particularly in regions where countries of first refuge continue generously to receive refugees arriving by land or by sea,

Commending States that, despite severe economic and developmental problems of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and displaced persons into their territories,

Noting with deep appreciation the valuable support extended by many Governments to the High Commissioner in the performance of his humanitarian tasks,

Deeply concerned about the shortage of funds faced by the High Commissioner and its consequences for his ability to fulfil his mandate,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the High Commissioner, in the field of international protection, to address

¹²⁶ See A/40/666, annex I.

¹²⁷ See A/40/425, annexes I-III.

¹²⁸ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/40/12).

¹²⁹ Ibid., Supplement No. 124 (A/40/12/Add.1).

¹³⁰ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Third Committee, 37th meeting, paras. 2-17.

the special problems of refugee and displaced women and children resulting from their vulnerable position, which in many cases exposes them to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection as well as their psychological and material well-being,

Noting with satisfaction and encouraging the continuing and increasing co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and other bodies of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Desirous of ensuring the speedy implementation of the recommendations and pledges made at the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva from 9 to 11 July 1984,¹³¹

1. *Commends* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the dedicated and efficient manner in which they discharge their responsibilities;

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

3. *Condemns* all violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular those perpetrated by military or armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements and other forms of brutality and by the failure to rescue asylum-seekers in distress at sea;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that arrangements introduced by the High Commissioner have increased significantly the rescue of asylum-seekers in distress at sea and that preventive measures have resulted in a decline in the number of refugee boats attacked by pirates;

5. *Urges* all States, in co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner and other competent international bodies, to take all measures necessary to ensure the safety of refugees and asylum-seekers;

6. *Also urges* all States to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to achieve durable solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office, primarily through voluntary repatriation or return, including assistance to returnees, as appropriate, or, wherever appropriate, through integration into countries of asylum or resettlement in third countries;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions on voluntary repatriation adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-sixth session¹²⁹ and urges States to extend their full co-operation to the High Commissioner to that effect;

8. *Expresses its warm appreciation* for the work done by the High Commissioner to put into practice the concept of development-oriented assistance to refugees and returnees, as initiated at the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, and urges him to continue that process, wherever appropriate, in co-operation with the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and other organizations, and, further, urges Governments to support these efforts;

9. *Commends* the High Commissioner's programmes for refugee and displaced women, especially those undertaken to secure their protection and to help them to become self-sufficient through educational, vocational and income-generating projects;

10. *Expresses deep appreciation* for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular those developing countries that, despite limited resources, continue to admit, on a permanent or temporary basis, large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and, reaffirming the principle of international solidarity and burden-sharing, urges the international community to assist receiving countries in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden created by the presence of those refugees and asylum-seekers;

11. *Commends* all States that facilitate the attainment of durable solutions and contribute generously to the High Commissioner's programmes;

12. *Expresses deep appreciation* for the valuable co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies;

13. *Calls upon* all States to promote durable solutions and to contribute generously to the High Commissioner's humanitarian programmes in order to assist refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing.

*116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985*

40/119. Expression of appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Noting with deep regret that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will shortly be relinquishing his duties,

Recognizing the significant progress achieved under his guidance in promoting humanitarian solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons in various parts of the world,

Considering his unrelenting efforts to alleviate human suffering through the special humanitarian tasks entrusted to him in addition to the original functions of his Office,

1. *Expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks* to Mr. Poul Hartling for the effective and dedicated manner in which he has performed his functions as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. *Extends its good wishes* to him for success in his future undertakings.

*116th plenary meeting
13 December 1985*

40/120. Preparation of a draft convention against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 33/168 of 20 December 1978, 35/195 of 15 December 1980, 36/132 of 14 December 1981, 36/168 of 16 December 1981, 37/168 of 17 December 1982, 37/198 of 18 December 1982, 38/93 and 38/122 of 16 December 1983, 39/141 and 39/143 of 14 December 1984 and other relevant provisions,

Recalling also the Declaration on the Control of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse of 14 December 1984,¹³² in which it is stated, *inter alia*, that the eradication of trafficking in narcotic drugs is the collective responsibility of all States and that States shall utilize the legal instruments against the illicit production of and demand for, abuse of

¹³¹ See A/39/402 and Add.1 and 2.

¹³² Resolution 39/142, annex.