

44/138. International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/119 of 8 December 1988,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, held at Geneva on 13 and 14 June 1989,¹⁴⁶ and the Declaration and Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted by the Conference,¹⁴⁴

Noting with satisfaction the active participation of Member States, specialized agencies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the Conference,

Taking note of the decision on the Conference adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fortieth session,¹⁴⁷

1. Welcomes the successful conclusion of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, which was convened by the Secretary-General, under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia;

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the Conference;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for convening the Conference and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for his valuable assistance and contribution in organizing the Conference;

4. Welcomes the adoption by the Conference of the Declaration and Comprehensive Plan of Action and affirms its belief that the Plan of Action is an important and sound basis for a balanced, humanitarian and durable solution to the problems addressed by the Conference;

5. Stresses that the measures stipulated in the Comprehensive Plan of Action are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and should be implemented in their totality by all States concerned, within the context of national laws and regulations and of international standards;

6. Notes the progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action at the various bilateral and multilateral meetings among the parties concerned, especially those held within the context of the Steering Committee established by the Conference;

7. Calls upon all States concerned and the relevant specialized agencies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake the various measures required of them within the framework and letter of the Comprehensive Plan of Action;

8. Appeals to all States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide resources for the General and Special Programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enable it to carry out the tasks prescribed in the Comprehensive Plan of Action;

9. Stresses that the solution of the problem of those seeking refuge in the South-East Asian region could contribute positively towards a climate of peace, harmony and good-neighbourliness among States in the region;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor closely the progress towards implementation of

the Comprehensive Plan of Action and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

*82nd plenary meeting
15 December 1989*

44/139. International Conference on Central American Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 42/110 of 7 December 1987, 42/204 of 11 December 1987, 42/231 of 12 May 1988 and 43/118 of 8 December 1988,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁴⁸

Also taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,¹³⁰

Welcoming the Declaration and Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons¹⁴³ adopted by the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989,

Bearing in mind that a concerted effort in favour of lasting solutions to the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons requires the support, co-operation and co-ordination of the affected and interested Governments and of the various international organizations involved, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme,

Noting the establishment of the machinery for follow-up and co-ordination at the national level in pursuance of the Concerted Plan of Action and the establishment of priority and design of projects within the framework of the strategies defined by each Government,

Noting with interest that meetings for co-ordination, management and execution have begun with the co-operating countries and the non-governmental organizations interested in participating in the programmes and projects to assist the returnees, displaced persons and refugees in Central America,

Aware of the need to deal with the serious problem of the refugees in Central America who have found asylum in a number of Central American countries, including Belize, and Mexico, and wishing to contribute to the search for lasting solutions that would benefit the countries and communities of asylum and origin,

Recognizing the need to incorporate in the plans of assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons measures to restore the ecological balance and the rational utilization of the natural resources in the areas of the countries affected,

Bearing in mind that, as stated in point 8 of the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America", concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting,¹⁴⁹ the Central American countries have undertaken, as a matter of urgency, to address the problem of refugees, including their repatriation and relocation through bilateral and multilateral processes,

Reiterating its determination to continue its efforts and contributions in the context of the peace agreements, and

¹⁴⁶ A/44/523.

¹⁴⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1)*, sect. III.H.

¹⁴⁸ A/44/527 and Corr.1 and 2.

¹⁴⁹ A/42/521-S/19085, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987*, document S/19085.

welcoming the agreements adopted at Tela, Honduras, on 7 August 1989,¹⁵⁰ which include aspects of voluntary repatriation and relocation,

Emphasizing that, among the possible solutions, voluntary repatriation is the most appropriate means of solving the problems caused by the massive presence of refugees in the countries and communities of asylum,

Once again reiterating the paramount importance of humanitarian and apolitical considerations, both in dealing with and in solving the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and the need to ensure that this approach is strictly observed by the countries of origin and of asylum and other interested parties,

Recognizing the work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and by the United Nations Development Programme with the Governments of the affected countries in the preparation and convening of the Conference and in the meetings of the Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees,

Aware of the reductions in the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner in the region, which seriously affect the beneficiary populations and the policies for a solution put forward in the context of the agreement concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting and at the International Conference on Central American Refugees,

Taking into consideration the priority assigned to that section of the emergency programme of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America¹⁵¹ that is intended to promote activities for solving the problem of refugees, displaced persons and returnees,

Recognizing that the search for solutions goes beyond emergency activities and is linked to aspects of the development of the region and assistance for the displaced populations in the countries of origin and asylum that are directly affected by the massive presence of refugees,

Recognizing also that the tripartite commissions, composed of representatives of the countries of asylum, the country of origin and the Office of the High Commissioner, constitute an ongoing mechanism for solving the problem of refugees and that they require support in order to continue the current voluntary repatriation programmes in conditions of personal and material security,

Recognizing further that solutions to the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons form an integral part of the efforts for peace, democratization and development being made in the region by each Government,

1. *Expresses its profound satisfaction* with the success of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, as well as with the adoption by acclamation of the Declaration and Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons;¹⁴³

2. *Welcomes* the guidelines, goals and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action as a promising initial basis for future activities, and therefore reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the achievement of a firm and lasting peace in Central America;

3. *Welcomes* the establishment of the machinery for follow-up and co-ordination at the national level, in pursuance of the Concerted Plan of Action, and the establish-

ment of priority and design of projects within the framework of the strategies defined by each Government;

4. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to support, in close collaboration with the Governments of the affected countries and the Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, the holding of meetings for follow-up to the Concerted Plan of Action, so that they may be held at the earliest possible time;

5. *Notes with interest* that the Follow-Up Committee will hold its first meeting during the first week of March 1990, and urges the co-operating countries to respond positively to the assistance projects submitted by the Central American countries, including Belize, and Mexico;

6. *Urges* Member States and organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the regional and subregional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in the humanitarian task of helping Central American refugees, to continue to provide and to increase their assistance and support to the affected countries in order to implement and follow up the guidelines, goals and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action;

7. *Calls upon* the co-operating countries and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to assist in restoring the ecological balance of the areas in the countries of asylum affected by the massive presence of refugees, in order to provide the populations of those areas with the conditions conducive to development;

8. *Appeals* to the international community to ensure that the co-operation extended in the solution of the problem of refugees takes into account both the sacrifice borne by the countries of asylum in receiving massive flows of refugees and the effort exerted by the countries of origin to create the conditions that would facilitate the return of their nationals;

9. *Also appeals* to the international community to increase its assistance to the countries of asylum and of origin of Central American refugees in order to strengthen their capacity to provide the means and services necessary for the solution of the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, in accordance with national development programmes;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme for the assistance rendered for the holding of the Conference;

11. *Expresses its concern* at the reductions in the budget of the Office of the High Commissioner in the region, which seriously affect the beneficiary populations and the policies for a solution formulated at the Conference and by each Government, and urges that the budget previously allocated be restored;

12. *Expresses its gratitude* to the people and Government of Guatemala for the hospitality extended for the holding of the Conference;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990 and to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

¹⁵⁰ See A/44/451-S/20778; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-fourth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1989*, document S/20778.

¹⁵¹ A/42/949, annex.