

Considering that the recommendations it has adopted at its seventh session do not represent the only steps that can be taken to promote respect for such right,

1. Requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights to continue preparing recommendations concerning international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination, and particularly recommendations relating to the steps which might be taken, within the limits of their resources and competence, by the various organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to develop international respect for the right of peoples to self-determination;

2. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to submit through the Economic and Social Council its recommendations to the General Assembly.

403rd plenary meeting,
16 December 1952.

638 (VII). Integration of refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the observations and information contained in the report⁸ of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the problem of assimilation of refugees in the countries of their residence,

Considering that the voluntary repatriation or the resettlement in countries of immigration of refugees under the mandate⁹ of the High Commissioner, while constituting valuable elements for the solution of the refugee problem, are not sufficient in themselves under the present conditions to offer within a reasonable time a permanent solution of that problem,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the governments of the countries of present residence of refugees towards their assimilation, as well as the studies and plans of the High Commissioner directed towards the same objective,

Considering that, in view of the heavy financial burdens involved in the execution of integration programmes, international funds may play a useful role in the successful execution of long-term projects for the assimilation of refugees,

Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in consultation with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to examine the situation with a view to exploring, with the governments directly concerned, what sources of funds might be available and the most effective means by which such funds might be utilized.

408th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

⁸ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 16.

⁹ See resolution 428 (V).

639 (VII). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Concerned with the persistence of a serious refugee problem which is the direct responsibility of the United Nations,

1. Notes with appreciation the second annual report¹⁰ of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. Takes note of the fact that contributions thus far received by the High Commissioner for assistance to refugees under the authority given to him by General Assembly resolution 538 B (VI) of 2 February 1952 will not be sufficient to provide in 1953 for emergency aid to the most needy groups of refugees under his mandate in Europe, the Near East and the Far East, particularly in Shanghai;

3. Notes with appreciation the contributions already made by governments, organizations and private individuals to the fund for emergency aid to refugees;

4. Expresses the hope that further contributions will be forthcoming to that fund so as to enable the High Commissioner to carry out his plans of assistance to the most needy groups of refugees;

5. Reiterates its appeal to all governments, specialized agencies and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations interested in migration to give to refugees under the mandate of the High Commissioner every possible opportunity in and benefit from projects to promote migration, including such measures as will facilitate the transit, resettlement and employment of refugees in occupations suitable to their training and skills.

408th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

640 (VII). Convention on the Political Rights of Women

The General Assembly,

Considering that the peoples of the United Nations are determined to promote equality of rights of men and women, in conformity with the principles embodied in the Charter,

Believing that an international convention on the political rights of women will constitute an important step towards the universal attainment of equal rights of men and women,

Reaffirming its resolution 56 (I) of 11 December 1946,

Decides to open the attached Convention for signature and ratification at the end of the present session.

409th plenary meeting,
20 December 1952.

¹⁰ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventh Session, Supplement No. 16.