

Unity at its nineteenth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 12 June 1983.¹⁷⁴

Gravely concerned at the persistent and serious problem of large numbers of refugees on the African continent.

Aware of the economic and social burden borne by African countries of asylum on account of the presence of these refugees and its consequences for their national development and of the heavy sacrifices made by them, despite their limited resources.

Recognizing the universal collective responsibility of sharing the urgent and overwhelming burden of the problem of African refugees through effective mobilization of 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 the rehabilitation of voluntary returnees,

Recognizing that the achievement of durable solutions to refugee problems, in particular voluntary repatriation and local integration, calls for generous humanitarian and developmental assistance to the affected countries, as well as for efforts to address the causes of refugee situations.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General concerning preparations for the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;

2. *Approves* the proposed Conference arrangements contained in paragraph 17 of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite all States to participate in the Conference at the ministerial level and to invite also the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the Conference at a high level;

4. *Appeals* to the international community, all States, specialized agencies and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide the utmost support for the Conference with a view to offering maximum financial and material assistance to refugees in Africa and to ensuring the success of the Conference;

5. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the countries of asylum for the generous contribution and the sacrifices that they are making to alleviate the plight of refugees;

6. *Commends* those countries that are supporting programmes for refugees and returnees for their continued assistance and calls upon them, as well as other States and international organizations, to assist and co-operate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the promotion of durable solutions;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to ensure that, in the period leading up to the Conference, all appropriate measures are taken so that Member States, in particular principal donors, are kept fully informed of the priority needs of the affected countries and that contacts are established in the capitals concerned to mobilize the necessary support and resources;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the action taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to initiate public information programmes to increase public awareness of the refugee situation in Africa and the objectives of the Conference;

9. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and other competent bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure that the maximum amount of publicity is given to the refugee situation in Africa, as well as to the Conference and its objectives;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983

38/121. 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,¹⁷⁵ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-fourth session,¹⁷⁶ and having heard the statement made by the High Commissioner on 14 November 1983,¹⁷⁷

Recalling its resolution 37/195 of 18 December 1982,

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

Noting with deep concern that problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner remain acute in all parts of the world, notably in Africa, Asia and Latin America,

Stressing the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's international protection function and the need for States to co-operate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this essential function,

Expressing serious concern over the difficulties encountered by the High Commissioner in the exercise of his international protection function in the face of continued violations of the basic rights of persons of concern to his Office,

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

Acknowledging with appreciation the note of the Executive Committee on the strengthening of the management policy of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, submitted by the High Commissioner,¹⁷⁸ and the High Commissioner's efforts to strengthen the management of his Office,

Noting that the Executive Committee has requested the High Commissioner to undertake a comprehensive study of the full financial and practical implications of the inclusion of Arabic, Chinese and Spanish among the official and working languages of the Executive Committee,

Noting with deep appreciation the valuable support extended by many Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out his duties.

¹⁷⁴ See A/38/312, annex.

¹⁷⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/38/12 and Corr.1).*

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/38/12/Add.1).

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, Thirty-eighth Session, Third Committee, 42nd meeting, paras. 28-37.

¹⁷⁸ A/AC.96/HCR/EC/SC.2/15/Add.1.

Welcoming the increasing number of accessions by States to the 1951 Convention¹⁷⁹ and the 1967 Protocol¹⁸⁰ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Emphasizing that voluntary repatriation is the most desirable and durable solution to problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner.

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

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

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

5. *Reaffirms* the principle of international solidarity and burden-sharing in responding to the refugee problem, particularly in view of the heavy burden borne by receiving countries on account of the presence of large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

6. *Expresses its deep appreciation* for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular of many developing countries that give asylum to or accept on a temporary basis large numbers of refugees;

7. *Commends* all States that facilitate the attainment of durable solutions, accept refugees for resettlement and contribute generously to the High Commissioner's programmes;

8. *Urges* all States to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to find durable solutions to refugee problems, primarily through voluntary repatriation, including assistance to returnees, as appropriate, or, wherever appropriate, through integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in third countries;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the continuing support given to the High Commissioner by organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in carrying out his humanitarian task and requests the High Commissioner to continue to co-ordinate his efforts with those agencies and organizations;

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

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/122. International campaign against traffic in drugs

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/132 of 14 December 1981, 36/168 of 16 December 1981, 37/168 of 17 December 1982, 37/198 of 18 December 1982 and 38/98 of 16 December 1983,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/8 and 1982/9 of 30 April 1982,

Reaffirming the need to improve and maintain regional and interregional co-operation and co-ordination, particularly in the field of law enforcement, to counter drug trafficking and drug abuse,

Noting the growing interest in the development of regional and interregional co-ordination, as indicated by the holding of three meetings in the Bahamas, Greece and India during 1983,

Conscious that while many countries, both developed and developing, continue to divert substantial human, financial and other resources to combat the illicit traffic, the developing countries encounter particular hardships in doing so,

Acknowledging that the illicit production of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances constitute a serious threat to the development and security of many countries, especially developing countries,

Recognizing, in particular, the dilemma of transit States, which have no control over the production of and demand for illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances yet are seriously affected, both at the domestic and the international levels, by the movement of illicit drugs,

Noting that the international drug control treaties include provisions for the development of effective countermeasures to combat the illicit supply of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Considering the important role of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in supporting various drug control programmes in developing countries, and the necessity of increasing contributions to the Fund to permit it to continue its most valuable work,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁸¹

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the international drug control treaties and, until such time, to endeavour to abide by the provisions thereof;

3. *Encourages* Member States to contribute, or to continue to contribute, to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to enable it to expand its support for programmes in the field of drug abuse control;

4. *Urges* organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, as well as Member States with available resources and expertise, to continue to grant technical and other forms of assistance, especially in the area of training of law enforcement professionals, to countries most affected by the illicit production of and traffic in drugs and drug abuse and, in this regard, to give appropriate priority to providing the resources and assistance needed to ensure rapid, secure and accurate means of communication and exchange of information;

¹⁷⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

¹⁸¹ A. 38.478.