

Chairmen with regard to exchange of information among their respective bodies, co-ordination of guidelines for the submission of the reports of States parties, advisory services and assistance for States parties to the various conventions on human rights, and other matters;¹⁹⁵

3. *Expresses the view* that the presence at the above-mentioned meeting of the Chairmen of all bodies concerned with reporting obligations of States parties to United Nations conventions on human rights would have further contributed to the review of problems experienced in the functioning of reporting procedures;

4. *Acknowledges* that common problems have arisen in the functioning of the reporting procedures, thus indicating the necessity of considering them within the overall framework of reporting obligations of States parties under the various conventions on human rights;

5. *Decides* to keep under consideration the problems that have arisen from the coexistence of several different reporting systems, in particular the proliferation of reporting obligations under the various instruments, as well as the serious delays which have occurred in the submission of reports;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, to that effect, to submit to the General Assembly at its fortieth session a report containing:

(a) Updated information on the general situation of the submission of reports of States parties to all conventions which are already in force, thus enabling the General Assembly to take an overview of the fulfilment of all reporting obligations and to consider how to achieve an improvement, particularly in the interest of States parties with limited technical and administrative resources;

(b) A consolidated text of the guidelines of the various bodies entrusted with the consideration of the reports of States parties on the implementation of all United Nations conventions on human rights;

7. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights to consider, in the context of its standing item concerning advisory services in the field of human rights, the suggestions made by the Chairmen;

8. *Decides* to consider the question of reporting obligations of States parties to United Nations conventions on human rights in the light of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 above and to consider also the eventual convening of another meeting of the Chairmen of the bodies entrusted with the consideration of the reports of States parties;

9. *Invites* the bodies concerned to give particular attention to the present resolution when they next meet;

10. *Decides* to consider the question at its fortieth session, in the light of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted in accordance with paragraph 6 above.

101st plenary meeting
14 December 1984

39/139. Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/197 of 18 December 1982 and 38/120 of 16 December 1983,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Conference on Assistance to

Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva from 9 to 11 July 1984,¹⁹⁶

Welcoming the results obtained by the Conference, in particular the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action,¹⁹⁷ which provide the international community with a collective strategy to achieve lasting solutions,

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,

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

Noting with satisfaction the wide participation of Member States, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the commitments and pledges made at the Conference,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for their commendable effort in organizing the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;

2. *Endorses* the Declaration and Programme of Action of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;¹⁹⁷

3. *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;

4. *Expresses once again its appreciation* to the international community and, in particular, to all donor countries, specialized agencies, regional organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their support and initial response to the projects submitted to the Conference;

5. *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 in the Declaration and Programme of Action agreed upon by the Conference;

6. *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 through the voluntary repatriation or local integration of refugees and the necessity of providing assistance for the strengthening of the social and economic infrastructures of African countries receiving refugees and returnees;

7. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to keep the situation of refugees in Africa under constant review with a view to providing

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, sect. V.

¹⁹⁶ A/39/402 and Add.1 and 2.

¹⁹⁷ A/39/402, annex.

adequate humanitarian assistance for relief and expanded durable solutions;

8. *Calls upon* all pertinent organizations of the United Nations system, as well as relevant regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to lend their support, within their respective spheres of competence, to the realization of the goals of the Conference;

9. *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 and, in particular, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme, the follow-up to the Conference;

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

101st plenary meeting
14 December 1984

39/140. 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,¹⁹⁸ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-fifth session,¹⁹⁹ and having heard the statement made by the High Commissioner on 12 November 1984,²⁰⁰

Recalling its resolution 38/121 of 16 December 1983,

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,

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, particularly in view of the continued and persistent violations of the basic rights of persons of concern to his Office,

Welcoming the additional accessions by States to the 1951 Convention²⁰¹ and the 1967 Protocol²⁰² relating to the Status of Refugees,

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,

Emphasizing that voluntary repatriation or return remains the most desirable solution to 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,

Noting with deep appreciation the valuable support extended by many Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out his humanitarian task,

Noting with satisfaction the positive results achieved by the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva from 9 to 11 July 1984,²⁰³ as part of a continuing process of increasing international interest in the situation of refugees in Africa and support for those refugees,

Welcoming the progress made by the High Commissioner in improving the management of his Office and urging him to pursue his efforts in this direction in line with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and decisions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner,

Taking note of the decision of the Executive Committee on the inclusion of Arabic, Chinese and Spanish among the official languages of the Executive Committee,²⁰⁴

1. *Commends* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the dedicated and efficient manner in which they continue to 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 fully 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 through 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. *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;

5. *Also urges* all States to support the High Commissioner in discharging his responsibility to pursue 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 in countries of asylum or resettlement in third countries;

6. *Expresses deep appreciation* for the valuable material and humanitarian response of many receiving countries, in particular those developing countries that, despite serious economic crises and limited resources, continue to admit, on a permanent or temporary basis, large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, 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 their presence;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the initiatives taken by the High Commissioner in developing the concept of development-oriented assistance to refugees and returnees,

¹⁹⁸ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/39/12).

¹⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/39/12/Add.1).

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, Thirty-ninth Session, Third Committee, 36th meeting, paras. 1-12.

²⁰¹ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

²⁰² *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

²⁰³ See A/39/402 and Add.1 and 2.

²⁰⁴ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/39/12/Add.1), para. 185.