

launch collective action by the international community aimed at achieving lasting solutions,

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

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

*Deeply concerned* that the refugee situation has been severely affected by the critical economic situation in Africa, as well as by drought and other natural disasters,

*Bearing in mind* the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990,<sup>106</sup> adopted by the General Assembly at its thirteenth special session, devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa, which refers in particular to the need for the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa,

*Recognizing* that the efforts of the countries of asylum require the concerted support of the international community to meet the needs for emergency relief, and for medium-term and long-term development aid,

*Taking note* of the declarations, decisions and resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-third ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 July 1987,<sup>107</sup> and of the resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers of that organization at its forty-sixth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 20 to 25 July 1987,<sup>69</sup> on the situation of refugees in Africa,

*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 once again* the vital importance of the complementarity between refugee aid and development assistance,

*Noting once again with deep concern* that many of the projects submitted to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa have yet to be funded and implemented,

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

*Noting* the initiative taken by the Secretary-General to promote increased and effective co-operation between the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees through the signing of an agreement on co-operation, as well as the measures he has taken to revitalize the Trust Fund of 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 specialized agencies and other organizations 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;<sup>108</sup>

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 problem 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. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for their concerted action aimed at revitalizing and further strengthening the mechanisms of implementation of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;

6. *Requests* the High Commissioner 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;

7. *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;

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

9. *Again requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference, 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 effective follow-up to the Conference;

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

*93rd plenary meeting*  
*7 December 1987*

#### **42/108. Continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 37/196 of 18 December 1982, in which it decided to review, not later than at its forty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a

<sup>106</sup> Resolution S-13/2, annex.

<sup>107</sup> See A/42/699, annex II.

<sup>108</sup> See A/41/572, annex.

view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1988,

*Recognizing* the need for concerted international action on behalf of the increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

*Considering* the outstanding work that has been performed by the Office of the High Commissioner in providing international protection and material assistance to refugees and displaced persons as well as in promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

*Noting with deep appreciation* the effective manner in which the Office of the High Commissioner has been dealing with various essential humanitarian tasks entrusted to it,

1. *Decides* to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1989;

2. *Decides* to review, not later than at its forty-seventh session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1993.

93rd plenary meeting  
7 December 1987

#### 42/109. Office 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,<sup>109</sup> as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-eighth session,<sup>110</sup> and having heard the statements made by the High Commissioner on 13 and 17 November 1987,<sup>111</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 41/124 of 4 December 1986,

*Reaffirming* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, which are undertaken in the common interest of humanity,

*Noting with satisfaction* that, following recent accessions, at least one hundred States are now parties to the 1951 Convention<sup>101</sup> and the 1967 Protocol<sup>102</sup> relating to the Status of Refugees,

*Deeply concerned* that refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner continue to face, in certain situations, distressingly serious problems in various 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 and other forms of violence, and noting that further efforts should be made in dealing with the problem of rescuing asylum-seekers in distress at sea,

*Stressing* the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection, particularly in the context of the increasing complexity of the contemporary refugee problem, and the need for States

to co-operate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this essential function,

*Noting* the efforts of the High Commissioner to continue to address the special problems and needs of refugee and displaced women and children, who in many cases are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection as well as their psychological and material well-being,

*Emphasizing* the need for States to assist, on as wide a basis as possible, the efforts of the High Commissioner to promote speedy and durable solutions to the problems of refugees,

*Realizing* in this context that voluntary repatriation or return remains the most desirable solution to the problems facing refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner, and welcoming the fact that in various parts of the world it has been possible for significant numbers of them to return voluntarily to their countries of origin,

*Commending* States that, despite severe economic and development problems of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner into their territories, and emphasizing the need to share the burden of these States to the maximum extent possible through international assistance in accordance with the conclusions on refugee aid and development adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-eighth session,<sup>112</sup>

*Stressing* the need for the international community to continue to provide adequate resettlement opportunities for those refugees for whom no other durable solution may be in sight, with particular attention given to refugees who have already spent an inordinately long time in camps,

*Welcoming* the valuable support extended by Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out his humanitarian tasks, as well as the continuing and increasing co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and other bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

*Noting* the High Commissioner's continuing efforts to reorganize and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office, particularly with respect to activities in the field,

*Commending* the High Commissioner and his staff for the dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and paying tribute to those staff members who lost their lives in the course of their duties,

1. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental nature of the function of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide international protection and the need for Governments 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*;

2. *Notes with particular concern* the continued violation of the principle of *non-refoulement* in certain situations, and stresses the need to strengthen measures to protect refugees against such action;

3. *Appeals* to all States that have not yet become parties to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating

<sup>109</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/42/12).*

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/42/12/Add.1).*

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid., Forty-second Session, Third Committee, 45th and 50th meetings, and corrigendum.*

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/42/12/Add.1), para. 210, sect. C.*