

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to arrange, within existing resources and taking into account the priorities of the programme of advisory services, further training courses for those countries experiencing the most serious difficulties in meeting reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights;

10. *Invites* the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies to assist the Secretary-General in the above-mentioned endeavours and to develop complementary training activities in this field;

11. *Calls upon* all States parties to fulfil without delay and in full their financial obligations under the relevant instruments on human rights;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of strengthening collection procedures and making them more effective;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convey to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies together with any views and comments he may have thereon;

14. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, in view of its overall responsibilities in the field of human rights, to consider at its forty-fifth session, as a matter of priority, the conclusions and recommendations of that meeting, in particular those identified as matters requiring urgent action, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session, through the Economic and Social Council;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To consider entrusting, within existing resources, an independent expert with the task of preparing a study on possible long-term approaches to the supervision of new instruments on human rights, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting of persons chairing the treaty bodies, the deliberations of the Commission on Human Rights and other relevant materials, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session;

(b) To review the need for adequate staffing resources in regard to the various human rights treaty bodies;

16. *Invites* the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies to maintain communication and dialogue with each other on common issues and problems and decides to consider at its forty-fourth session the possibility of convening a meeting in 1990 of the persons chairing the treaty bodies;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session, as a separate item, an item entitled "Effective implementation of international instruments on human rights, including reporting obligations under international instruments on human rights".

*75th plenary meeting
8 December 1988*

43/116. International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/106 of 7 December 1987 on the convening of an International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa,

Gravely concerned about the constant deterioration of the situation in southern Africa arising from the domination and oppression of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia by the minority racist régime of South Africa,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa,⁸⁶ held at Oslo from 22 to 24 August 1988, and the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa adopted by the Conference and contained in the annex to that report,

Taking note with appreciation of the active participation of His Excellency General Moussa Traoré, President of the Republic of Mali and current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, His Excellency Mr. Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and Her Excellency Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, at the Conference,

Aware of the valuable contribution made by the Governments of Norway and the other Nordic countries to the successful convening of the Conference,

Recognizing the importance of the financial and technical assistance provided by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity in the preparation and organization of the Conference,

Noting with satisfaction the successful outcome of the Conference,

Conscious of its responsibility to provide economic, material and humanitarian assistance to independent States in southern Africa in order to assist them in coping with the situation resulting from the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the *apartheid* régime of South Africa,

Noting the absence of an operational mechanism within the United Nations system dealing specifically with the problems of assistance to internally displaced persons,

Noting with indignation that South Africa's policy of *apartheid*, its illegal occupation of Namibia, and its direct and indirect acts of aggression, intimidation and destabilization through armed terrorists continue to be the main causes of refugee flows and increasing displacement of persons in southern Africa,

Convinced that there is an urgent need for the international community to extend maximum and concerted assistance to southern African countries sheltering refugees, returnees and displaced persons and also to highlight the plight of these persons,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa;

2. *Endorses* the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa adopted by the Conference;

3. *Calls upon* the international community to provide increased assistance to the countries of southern Africa to enable them to strengthen their capacity to provide the necessary facilities and services for the care and well-being

⁸⁶ A/43/717 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their countries;

4. *Reiterates its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts, on behalf of the international community, to organize and mobilize special programmes of economic assistance for the front-line and other neighbouring States to help them to withstand the effects of the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the *apartheid* régime of South Africa;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to implement those specific tasks and responsibilities assigned to them in the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake studies and consultations in order to consider the need for the establishment, within the United Nations system, of a mechanism or arrangement to ensure the implementation and overall co-ordination of relief programmes to internally displaced persons;

7. *Urges* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake the measures required of them under the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action;

8. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Norway for acting as host to the Conference, and to all the Nordic countries for their generous assistance towards the convening of the Conference;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for the valuable assistance that they provided to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity in the organization of the Conference;

10. *Commends* the Organization of African Unity for having convened the Conference and for focusing the attention of the international community on the grave humanitarian problems of the southern African region;

11. *Decides* to consider this question at its forty-fourth session on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

75th plenary meeting
8 December 1988

43/117. 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,⁸⁷ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-ninth session,⁸⁸ and having heard the statements made by the High Commissioner on 16 and 18 November 1988,⁸⁹

Recalling its resolution 42/109 of 7 December 1987,

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, more than one hundred States are now parties to the 1951 Convention⁹⁰ and the 1967 Protocol⁹¹ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Noting with concern that, despite developments that offer hope for solutions to refugee problems, refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner continue to face, in certain situations, distressingly serious problems,

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 and, in this context, also noting the problems relating to stowaway asylum-seekers,

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,

Recognizing that the enhancement of basic economic and social rights is essential to the achievement of self-sufficiency and family security for refugees, as well as to the process of re-establishing the dignity of the human person and realizing durable solutions to refugee problems,

Recognizing that durable solutions for refugees in developing countries can, in the majority of cases, be achieved through a development-oriented approach and that the heavy burden placed on a host country as a result of growing influxes of refugees requires sufficient resources to redress the negative impact and the strain on its socio-economic infrastructure in rural and urban areas,

Welcoming the conclusions and decisions on refugee aid and development adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-ninth session⁹² as a tangible recognition of the need to en-

⁸⁷Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/43/12).

⁸⁸Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/43/12/Add.1).

⁸⁹See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Third Committee, 44th meeting, paras. 1-21, and 48th meeting, paras. 80-84, and corrigendum.

⁹⁰United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

⁹¹Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

⁹²Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-third Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/43/12/Add.1), para. 32.