

11. *Urges* all States and relevant organizations to support the Office of the High Commissioner in its efforts to search for durable solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office, primarily through voluntary repatriation;

12. *Acknowledges* that at present there are important opportunities for resolving long-standing refugee situations and welcomes the intention of the High Commissioner to reinforce the efforts of the Office to encourage and promote voluntary repatriation of refugees and their safe reintegration in the countries of origin;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of pursuing resettlement as a last resort where no other durable solutions are available and the need for States to respond rapidly and with flexibility to evolving situations where resettlement is required to ensure the protection of the refugees concerned;

14. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken by the High Commissioner to enhance the capacity of the Office to respond to emergencies and, taking into account current deliberations on a United Nations system-wide response, encourages the High Commissioner to continue to work closely with other United Nations agencies, as well as other organizations, whether governmental, intergovernmental or non-governmental, to assure a coordinated and effective response to emergency humanitarian situations of a complex and protracted nature, and calls upon Governments to assist in implementing these initiatives;

15. *Endorses* the decision of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-second session concerning inter-agency cooperation¹⁰⁷ and calls upon the High Commissioner to sustain her efforts in this area so that the multifaceted needs of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and their host communities might be better addressed, in particular through development initiatives by relevant United Nations agencies and programmes;

16. *Expresses deep appreciation* for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular those developing countries that, despite limited resources, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers on a permanent or temporary basis;

17. *Urges* the international community, including non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the principle of international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, to continue to assist the countries referred to in paragraph 16 above and the High Commissioner in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden that the care for refugees and asylum-seekers represents;

18. *Calls upon* all Governments and other donors to contribute to the High Commissioner's programmes and, taking into account the need to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.

74th plenary meeting
16 December 1991

46/107. International Conference on Central American Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 42/110 of 7 December 1987, 42/204 of 11 December 1987, 42/231 of 12 May 1988, 43/118 of 8 December 1988, 44/139 of 15 December 1989 and 45/141 of 14 December 1990,

Recalling also that the International Conference on Central American Refugees is related to the initiative of the Central American Presidents expressed in the procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting in August 1987,¹⁰⁸ as indicated in the San Salvador communiqué on the Central American refugees, of 9 September 1988,¹⁰⁹

Recognizing the importance and validity of the Declaration and the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, adopted at the International Conference on Central American Refugees held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989¹¹⁰ and the Declaration of the First International Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the Conference,¹¹¹ especially the framework contained in the Concerted Plan of Action,

Noting with satisfaction the concerted efforts being made by the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico to find lasting solutions to the problems of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in implementing the aims and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action as an integral part of efforts to achieve a stable and lasting peace and democratization of the region,

Welcoming the substantial progress in the peace process in El Salvador, whereby efforts are being made to consult with all national sectors, the peace dialogue in Guatemala and the progress being made in Nicaragua in the implementation of its national reconciliation policy and in assistance to the uprooted populations, which continues to encourage movements of voluntary repatriation and settlement of internally displaced persons,

Recognizing the substantial support that, *inter alia*, the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the donor community and national and international non-governmental organizations have given the Conference since its inception,

Convinced that peace, liberty, development and democracy are essential in order to solve the problems of uprooted populations in the region,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,¹¹² and the relevant sections of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;¹¹³

2. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the outcome of the meetings of the Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at San José on 2 and 3 April 1991, at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, from 17 to 19 June 1991, at Tegucigalpa on 13 and 14 August 1991 and at Managua on 25 and 26 October 1991;

3. *Urges* the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico to continue to implement and follow up the programmes benefiting refugees, returnees and displaced persons in accordance with their national development plans;

4. *Reaffirms its conviction* that the voluntary repatria-

tion of refugees and the return of displaced persons to their countries or communities of origin is one of the most positive signs of the progress of peace in the region;

5. *Expresses its conviction* that the processes of return to and reintegration in the countries and communities of origin should take place in conditions of dignity and security and with the necessary guarantees to ensure that the affected populations are included in the respective national development plans;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and other organs of the United Nations system to continue their support for and involvement in the planning, implementation, evaluation and follow-up of the programmes generated through the Conference process;

7. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the progress made in the implementation of the Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Repatriated Persons, and urges the Central American countries to continue their determined support to ensure that the Programme achieves its aims;

8. *Appeals* to the international community, particularly to the donor community, to continue and to strengthen their support for the Conference and to continue complying with the financing offered so as to be able effectively to achieve the goals and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action, and to consolidate the progress made thus far in humanitarian assistance to refugees and repatriated and displaced persons of the region;

9. *Supports* the special attention that the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico are giving to the particular needs of refugee, repatriated and displaced women and children and to the measures being adopted to protect and improve the environment and to preserve ethnic and cultural values;

10. *Also supports* the decision of the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico to convene the second international meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the Conference at San Salvador in March 1992, for the purpose of evaluating the progress made thus far in the implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action and to define ways of improving its application;

11. *Supports* the initiative of the Governments of the countries of Central America, Belize and Mexico to extend the duration of the Conference process as long as may be necessary, in the light of the new needs that have emerged following the changes in the region;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*74th plenary meeting
16 December 1991*

46/108. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/139 of 14 December 1990 on emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons, as well as its resolutions 45/154 on assistance to refugees in Somalia, 45/156 on assistance to

voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad, 45/157 on humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti, 45/159 on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi, 45/160 on the situation of refugees in the Sudan, 45/161 on assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia, 45/171 on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa, all of 18 December 1990, and resolution 45/137 on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa of 14 December 1990,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General¹¹⁴ and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,¹⁰⁰

Bearing in mind that the affected countries are least developed countries,

Convinced of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation and the overall coordination of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Welcoming the prospects for voluntary repatriation and durable solutions across the continent,

Recognizing the need for States of origin to create conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation,

Noting with appreciation the commitment of the countries concerned to do their utmost to facilitate the provision of assistance to the affected populations and to take the necessary measures in this regard,

Realizing the importance of assisting the host countries, in particular those countries that have been hosting refugees for a longer time, to remedy environmental deterioration and the negative impact on public services and the development process,

Recognizing the catalytic role the High Commissioner plays, together with the international community and development agencies, in the promotion of humanitarian aid and development with a view to finding durable and lasting solutions for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Deeply concerned about the critical humanitarian situation in countries in the Horn of Africa and other African countries, caused by drought, conflict and population movements,

Welcoming the establishment by the Secretary-General of an office for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa and its efforts to coordinate needs assessment and to mobilize resources,

Taking into account the consolidated inter-agency appeal for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa,

Bearing in mind the necessity of facilitating the work of humanitarian organizations in the Horn of Africa, in particular in the supply of food, medicine and health care to refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Deeply concerned by the incessant inflow of externally displaced persons and refugees, which has added considerably to the burden already being carried by Djibouti in respect of refugees in the country, whose combined number now stands at over ninety thousand,

Noting that according to the situation report No. 1 of 1 October 1991 issued by the office for the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa, in Djibouti the ratio of refugees to nationals is nearing one to four, which poses a considerable burden on the country in terms of