



**World Conference  
of the United Nations  
Decade for Women:  
Equality, Development and Peace**  
**Copenhagen, Denmark  
14-30 July 1980**

Distr.  
LIMITED

A/CONF.94/C.2/L.60  
23 July 1980

Original: ENGLISH

SECOND COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 9 (c)

PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
DECADE FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE, 1981-1985,  
DESIGNED TO IMPLEMENT THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION:

(c) THE SITUATION OF WOMEN REFUGEES THE WORLD OVER

The situation of women refugees the world over

Algeria, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait,  
Maldives, Pakistan, Qatar, Somalia and Sudan: draft  
resolution

The World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality,  
Development and Peace,

Noting with great concern that more and more refugees are being forced to  
leave their countries and that women and children constitute a vast majority in  
most cases,

Saddened to note that the influx of women and children refugees has been  
increased by the use of inhumane weapons and methods of war and by indiscriminate  
hostilities,

Recognizing that the particular needs of women refugees, as mothers, emergent  
heads of single parent families and in the context of many societies, require a  
constructive recognition by all parties to their relief, repatriation and  
rehabilitation,

Aware that this recognition has not yet been accorded or acted upon because  
of the change in the pattern of refugee movements and the lack of studies for  
analysis,

Recognizing also the particular vulnerability of women refugees to  
intimidation, exploitation, physical abuse and rape,

Shocked by reports of physical abuse and rape of refugee women and girls,

Recognizing that repatriation in safe and honourable conditions is the best  
and most humane solution to the problem of refugees,

Aware that because refugees now are to be found in developing countries in South East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, this places an excessively heavy burden on the economies and the infrastructure of these developing countries,

Recognizing that these countries cannot by themselves bear the cost of providing adequate shelter, nutrition, health care, education and employment opportunities,

Noting with appreciation the role played by the voluntary humanitarian organizations, the United Nations system and in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and UNICEF in rendering assistance to the best of their limited resources,

Noting also with appreciation the humanitarian aid extended both bilaterally and through the United Nations system by many member States,

1. Condemns the use of inhumane weapons and methods of war, calls for a cessation of their use and for efforts to ensure that women and children are not the target of indiscriminate hostilities,

2. Calls upon all States to fully implement immediately the relevant United Nations resolutions relating to the solution to various international situations which have given rise to the problem of refugees and by so complying create conditions enabling the refugees to return to their homes in safety and in honour,

3. Urges all States to extend at the regional and international level, through bilateral and international channels all possible humanitarian assistance to ensure that the needs and interests of refugees in general and in particular of the majority constituted by women and children refugees are adequately safeguarded,

4. Demands that governments bring to justice those who abuse refugee women and children and take every possible step to protect them by preventing such atrocities,

5. Urges the UNHCR, bearing in mind its overriding commitment to ensure the survival of all refugees, to draw upon the expertise of all concerned United Nations bodies and in consultation with the host countries to carry out detailed studies and research leading to special programmes dealing with all facets of the relief effort which should be especially targeted to the critical needs of women refugees,

6. Urges the Voluntary Fund to initiate complementary studies and analyses to enable such women refugee orientated programmes to be implemented,

7. Recommends that the UNHCR and other United Nations agencies concerned with relief efforts ensure that the number of women at all levels in their staff from policy planning to implementation in the field are increased and equitably distributed.