

14. *Urges* the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies and organizations to undertake or expedite the measures already under way to improve employment opportunities for disabled persons within these bodies at all levels and to improve access to their building and facilities and to their information sources;

15. *Invites* Member States to promote close and effective co-operation between developed and developing countries through a transfer of technology and of the results of research and exchanges of information on the prevention of disability and the rehabilitation of disabled persons;

16. *Also calls upon* the Secretary-General and the heads of the specialized agencies to take all necessary measures to strengthen and expand technical co-operation activities in developing countries relating to the disabled, especially in the areas of prevention of disability, rehabilitation and integration of disabled in their societies, with particular emphasis on the need to develop and strengthen indigenous capacities and capabilities;

17. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening support services for the exchange of technical information and transfer of technology and know-how, as well as other activities for the development of technical co-operation in the fields of prevention, rehabilitation and equalization of opportunities in developing countries, and notes with appreciation the offer of the Government of Yugoslavia to contribute in this direction,⁸⁰

18. *Invites*, as a matter of priority, Member States, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as the governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned and the mass media, to continue to undertake public information programmes, including the continuation of the present information activities of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat for the national committees, with a view to making all sections of the population increasingly aware of issues relating to the disabled;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-seventh session an item entitled "World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons" and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at that session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*89th plenary meeting
8 December 1981*

36/124. International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 35/42 of 25 November 1980 relating to the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva on 9 and 10 April 1981,

Taking note of resolution CM/Res. 868 (XXXVII) regarding the Conference and its follow-up, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-seventh ordinary session, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 June 1981,⁸¹

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the Conference⁸² and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office,⁸³

Gravely concerned at the growing number of refugees on the African continent, who now constitute over half the population of refugees in the world,

Regretting that, in spite of the efforts made, the assistance provided to the growing number of African refugees is still very inadequate,

Aware of the economic and social burden imposed on African countries of asylum by the growing influx of refugees and its consequences for their development and of the heavy sacrifices made by them, despite their limited resources, to alleviate the plight of those refugees,

Recognizing, therefore, the need of the countries of asylum for adequate human, technical and financial assistance to enable them properly to shoulder their increased responsibilities and assume the additional burden which the presence of refugees represents for their economies,

Recognizing further the need to assist similarly the countries of origin in the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of returnees, as set out in the procedures of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Convinced that the attendance of high-ranking officials and representatives of ninety-nine countries and over one hundred twenty non-governmental organizations at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa bears evidence to the fact that the Conference drew international public attention to the situation and needs of African refugees,

1. *Commends* the initiative taken by the three sponsors of the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa—the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—to maintain their close co-operation properly to define the follow-up actions that will be called for, and invites them to continue and develop their tripartite consultations and co-operation at all appropriate levels, so that the Conference funds are channelled to priority projects and put to the best use;

2. *Reiterates its congratulations* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his efforts towards the preparation of the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa in close consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as for his personal concern for African refugee problems and for the very able manner in which he presided over the Conference, thus bringing it to a successful end;

3. *Expresses its appreciation and gratitude* to all donor countries and to the international community at large for their very positive response to the appeal for assistance to African refugees and for their contribution to the assistance to refugees in Africa;

4. *Urges* the international community to continue to support the annual programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and of other United Nations agencies co-operating with that Office on behalf of refugees in Africa;

5. *Calls upon* the pertinent development-oriented organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to envisage, at the stages of conception and implementation, all concerted efforts and co-ordinated actions aimed at harmonizing assistance programmes in the countries of asylum as well as in the countries of origin during the repatriation process, and current or future development programmes, so that the potentialities of refugees or returnees may constitute an advantage rather than a burden on national development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commissioner for

⁸⁰ A/36/711.

⁸¹ See A/36/534, annex I.

⁸² A/36/316.

⁸³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/36/12)*

Refugees, to keep the African refugee situation under close and constant scrutiny and to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1982, a report containing up-to-date information on the condition of refugees in the countries concerned in order to facilitate consideration by the General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh session, of the necessity of convening an international conference in 1983 to review the status of contributions and commitments made at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, and to assess the needs and measures for further assistance for refugees and returnees in implementation of programmes for their relief, rehabilitation and resettlement;

7. *Invites* governmental bodies of specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to consider, within their sphere of competence, various ways and means to increase substantially assistance to African refugees and returnees;

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to keep under constant review the situation of refugees in Africa in order to ensure maximum international assistance on a global basis;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*97th plenary meeting
14 December 1981*

36/125. 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,⁸⁴ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-second session,⁸⁵ and having heard the High Commissioner's statement,⁸⁶

Recalling its resolutions 35/41 A and B and 35/42 of 25 November 1980,

Expressing deep concern at the persistence and gravity of the problems of refugees and displaced persons in the world, particularly in different parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe,

Noting with great appreciation the positive responses of Governments to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner through offers of asylum, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation and financial contributions, as well as the generous support given to the Office of the High Commissioner in its humanitarian task,

Reaffirming the eminently humanitarian and non-political character of the activity of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Extending its congratulations to the Office of the High Commissioner for the award of the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its work for refugees,

Considering the continuing and urgent need for a substantial international effort to promote durable solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner through voluntary

repatriation or return and resettlement, drawing particular attention to women and children refugees, and disabled and elderly refugees,

Noting with satisfaction that a growing number of States have acceded to the 1951 Convention⁸⁷ and the 1967 Protocol⁸⁸ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Noting with great concern that, despite an increasingly broad understanding of the principles of international protection, refugees still encounter serious difficulties in many parts of the world in obtaining asylum and that they are exposed to the threat of *refoulement*, arbitrary detention and physical violence.

Deploring, in particular, the instances of military attacks on refugee camps in southern Africa and elsewhere and physical attacks on asylum seekers at sea,

Drawing attention to the problem of refugees rescued at sea and the difficulties encountered for their disembarkation, involving threats of *refoulement*,

Welcoming the success achieved by the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva on 9 and 10 April 1981, as a first step in arousing worldwide interest and support for refugees in Africa,

1. *Commends* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the manner in which they have continued to discharge their responsibilities for protecting and assisting refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office;

2. *Takes due note* of the proposals made by the High Commissioner⁸⁹ and generally endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner⁹⁰ to strengthen the management of his Office on the basis of the principles and guidelines of the General Assembly, and welcomes his intention to seek the assistance of the Administrative Management Service of the Secretariat in undertaking expeditiously a review of the managerial methods and organizational structure of his Office, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁹¹

3. *Calls upon* the international community to share the burden of assisting refugees and displaced persons the world over, taking into account the economic and demographic absorptive capacity of the countries concerned;

4. *Reaffirms* the fundamental nature of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection to refugees and the importance of promoting durable and speedy solutions, in consultation and agreement with the countries concerned, through voluntary repatriation or return and subsequent assistance in rehabilitation and, whenever appropriate, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner;

5. *Urges* Governments to intensify their support for activities which the High Commissioner is carrying out in accordance with his mandate and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, especially by:

(a) Facilitating the High Commissioner's efforts in the field of international protection, in particular by scrupulously observing the principle of asylum and *non-refoulement* and by protecting asylum seekers in situations of large-scale influx, as endorsed by the Executive Committee of the

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12 A (A/36/12/Add.1).

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, Thirty-sixth Session, Third Committee, 50th meeting, paras. 2-20.

⁸⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

⁸⁹ See A/AC.96/594/Add.1 and Corr.1.

⁹⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 A (A/36/12/Add.1)*, para. 64.

⁹¹ A/AC.96/597.