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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic,
Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Mexico,
Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Thailand, United States of America,
Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

International Conference on Central American Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, concerning the peace initiatives undertaken in connection with the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America", 42/110 of 7 December 1987, entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons of Central America", 42/204 of 11 December 1987, entitled "Special economic assistance to Central America" and 42/231 of 12 May 1988, entitled "Special plan of economic co-operation in Central America",

Noting the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

Noting the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2/

1/ A/43/729.

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

Gravely concerned by the present situation in the Central American region, by the flows of refugees to neighbouring countries and countries outside the area, and its impact on the social and economic development of the zone,

Likewise concerned by the need to address the problem of Central American refugees who have found asylum in some Central American countries, including Belize and Mexico, and desiring to contribute to the search for lasting solutions of benefit to the countries and communities of asylum and origin,

Taking into account that, as stated in point 8 of the Esquipulas II agreement, signed by the five Central American Presidents on 7 August 1987, 3/ the Central American countries have undertaken, as a matter of urgency, to address the problem of refugees, including their repatriation and relocation through bilateral and multilateral processes,

Welcoming the establishment of the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, consisting of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua, and emphasizing the importance of success in their work,

Welcoming with satisfaction the Communiqué from San Salvador on the Central American refugees, 4/ signed on 9 September 1988, whereby an International Conference on Central American Refugees is convened, to be held in Guatemala City in May 1989,

Emphasizing that the general objective of the Conference is to examine the needs and develop concrete proposals for practical solutions to the problems of the Central American refugees as a contribution to peace in the region,

Reiterating the paramount importance of humanitarian and apolitical considerations, both in dealing with and in solving the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and the need to ensure that this approach is strictly observed by the countries of origin and of asylum and other interested participants,

Expressing its appreciation for the work done by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in support of preparation for the Conference, and for its co-operation with the Preparatory Committee,

Recognizing the priority which the special plan of economic co-operation for Central America 5/ assigns to the chapter which, within the emergency programme, is designed to promote activities for solving the problem of refugees, repatriated persons and displaced persons,

3/ A/42/521-S/19085, annex.

4/ A/C.3/43/6, annex.

5/ A/42/949, annex.

Recognizing that the task of seeking solutions goes further than emergency activities and is linked with aspects concerning the development of the areas and assistance for the displaced populations in the countries of origin and of asylum which are directly affected by the massive presence of refugees,

Emphasizing that, among the possible solutions, voluntary repatriation is the most appropriate solution for solving the problems created by the massive presence of refugees in the countries and communities of asylum,

Recognizing that the tripartite commissions, consisting of the countries of asylum, the countries of origin and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, constitute an ongoing mechanism for solving the problem of refugees and require support in order to continue the current voluntary repatriation programmes in conditions of personal and material security,

1. Welcomes the decision adopted by the countries members of the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees to convene the Conference in Guatemala City in May 1989;
2. Supports the undertaking made by the countries represented in the Preparatory Committee to continue to deal with the problems relating to the refugees and their voluntary repatriation, as well as the preparatory work of the Conference and the Conference itself, on a purely humanitarian and apolitical basis;
3. Welcomes the decisions in support of the Conference adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its eighteenth session and by the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its thirty-ninth session;
4. Urges that in the context of the Conference consideration should be given to the problems of displaced persons and to the effects of the massive presence of refugees in countries of asylum and to the solutions which the affected countries deem applicable;
5. Exhorts all Member States, organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the regional and subregional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in the humanitarian task of helping Central American refugees to participate in the Conference and to provide all the support and resources necessary for preparing and holding it and for following up the results;
6. Appeals to the international community to increase its assistance to the countries of asylum and to the countries of origin of the Central American refugees in order to strengthen their capacity to provide the means and services necessary for the solution of the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, in accordance with national development programmes;
7. Requests the Secretary-General to extend an invitation to all States to participate in the Conference and to adopt the means necessary for ensuring its success;

8. Invites the Secretary-General to establish the necessary co-ordination between the implementation of the chapter of the special plan of economic co-operation in Central America relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and the International Conference;

9. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to organize the International Conference, in close co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme, and with the organs, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, in co-ordination with the Preparatory Committee, bearing in mind the third paragraph of the San Salvador communiqué;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1989 and to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of this resolution.
