



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/31/342
24 November 1976

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Thirty-first session
Agenda item 78

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ibrahim BADAWI (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 24 September 1976, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: report of the High Commissioner" in its agenda and to allocate it to the Third Committee.
2. The Committee considered this item at its 49th to 53rd meetings, from 15 to 17 November. The views expressed by the representatives of Member States on this item are contained in the summary records of those meetings (A/C.3/31/SR.49-53).
3. In connexion with agenda item 78, the Committee had before it the following documents:
 - (a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and two addenda thereto, 1/ which were transmitted to the General Assembly by the Economic and Social Council under its resolution 2011 (LXI) of 2 August 1976;
 - (b) Letter from Morocco (A/C.3/31/9).

The High Commissioner supplemented his report by an oral statement to the Committee at its 49th meeting (see A/C.3/31/SR.49, pp. 2-4).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/31/12); *ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/31/12/Add.1); and *ibid.*, Supplement No. 12B (A/31/12/Add.2).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.30

4. At the 50th meeting, on 15 November, the representative of Finland introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/31/L.30), which was sponsored by Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany (Federal Republic of), Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Zambia, subsequently joined by Guinea-Bissau, Malaysia, Mozambique, the Philippines and Zaire.

5. At the 53rd meeting, on 17 November, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by consensus (see para. 8 below, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/31/L.31

6. At the 50th meeting, the representative of Austria introduced a draft resolution entitled "Question of the establishment, in accordance with the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, of a body to which persons claiming the benefit of the Convention may apply" (A/C.3/31/L.31), which was sponsored by Austria, Australia, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

7. At the 53rd meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution by 100 votes to 9, with 14 abstentions (see para. 8 below, draft resolution II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

8. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions.

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2/ transmitted by the Economic and Social Council under its resolution 2011 (LXI) of 2 August 1976, and having heard his statement, 3/

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/31/12); *ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/31/12/Add.1); and *ibid.*, Supplement No. 12B (A/31/12/Add.2).

3/ See A/C.3/31/SR.49, pp. 2-4.

Recalling its resolutions 3454 (XXX) and 3455 (XXX) of 9 December 1975 relating to the activities of the High Commissioner for the benefit of refugees and displaced persons,

Recognizing the importance of the essential humanitarian tasks which the High Commissioner is called upon to perform and for which his Office has acquired particular expertise and experience,

Bearing in mind the increasingly useful co-operation between the High Commissioner and other members of the United Nations system, resulting in better co-ordination of action and greater efficiency,

Recognizing the need for further strengthening the international protection of refugees,

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 2011 (LXI) on the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
2. Commends the High Commissioner and his staff for the efficient manner in which they continue to discharge their manifold activities on behalf of refugees and displaced persons;
3. Requests the High Commissioner to intensify his efforts, in co-operation with Governments, United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies, to promote permanent and speedy solutions to the problems facing his Office through voluntary repatriation and assistance in rehabilitation of returnees, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries as needed;
4. Further requests the High Commissioner to continue his humanitarian assistance on behalf of refugees and displaced persons in Africa and urges the fullest co-operation of all concerned for this purpose;
5. Urges Governments to strengthen further their support for the humanitarian activities which the High Commissioner is carrying out in accordance with pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council by:
 - (a) Facilitating his efforts in the field of international protection by means of accession to international instruments relating to refugees and respect for the rights of refugees;
 - (b) Co-operating in the promotion of permanent and speedy solutions to the problems faced by his Office;
 - (c) Providing the necessary financial means to attain the objectives of his humanitarian assistance programmes.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Question of the establishment, in accordance with the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, of a body to which persons claiming the benefit of the Convention may apply

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 3274 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 4/ on the question of the establishment, in accordance with the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 28 August 1961, 5/ of a body to which persons claiming the benefit of the Convention may apply,

Noting that the High Commissioner is carrying out the functions required under the Convention without any financial implications for the United Nations,

Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to perform these functions.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-first Session, Supplement No. 12B (A/31/12/Add.2).

5/ A/CONF.9/15.