

UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/C.2/338
10 December 1952
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH-
FRENCH

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

REFUGEES

Statement submitted by the World Federation of United
Nations Associations, a non-governmental organization
in category A consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following
statement, which is circulated in accordance with
paragraphs 22 and 23 of Council resolution 288 B (X):

Dated: 6 November 1952

Received: 10 November 1952

THE SEVENTH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF WFUNA,

RECALLING, CONFIRMING AND DRAWING once more attention to its resolutions
of 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1951,

GRATIFIED

that, in accordance with the recommendations of its Sixth Plenary Assembly,
a new international committee on emigration has been set up, making it
possible by means of an agreement between the International Refugee Organization
and that Committee to resettle refugees also, although unfortunately only a
certain proportion; and that, in accordance with the same recommendations,
the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been authorized to
collect funds to assist refugees,

CONSIDERING

that the refugee problem was far from settled when the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees and the Provisional Inter-Governmental Committee
for the Movement of Migrants from Europe began their activities; and that
further, the interests of the refugees should be safeguarded to the utmost;
that it is highly desirable to re-unite refugees with their families who are
still in the country of origin; and that migrant refugees should receive

effective assistance on their arrival in the country of immigration;

BEING OF THE OPINION

that the existence of two definitions of the term "refugee" - one in the Statutes of the High Commissioner and the other in article 1 of the Convention - is calculated to create difficulties in countries applying the Convention; and that it is essential to bear in mind the position of young refugees;

REGRETTING

that no State has so far ratified the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;

1. TRUSTS

- (a) that the definition of the term "refugee" contained in the Statute of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and in article 1 of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees respectively will be brought into line;
- (b) that the States Members of the High Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Refugees will be represented in that Committee by persons with a thorough knowledge of the refugee problem;
- (c) that Governments will respond generously to the High Commissioner's appeal for funds;
- (d) that refugees will be entitled to appeal against any decision as to ineligibility;
- (e) that all States will join the Provisional Inter-Governmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME), and that they will practice a liberal policy with regard to the admission of both refugees and other emigrants, without distinction as to race, nationality or religion;
- (f) that either the PICMME, whose life should be extended beyond the period of twelve months initially laid down, or the High Commissioner will take action with a view to the resettlement of all refugees wherever they may be;
- (g) that the sick, aged and infirm refugees who have remained permanently in Austria, Germany and Italy, the number of whom is estimated at about 50,000 will receive effective moral and material assistance;

(h) that a reception and employment committee will be set up in every country of immigration and that close contact be established with national non-governmental organizations in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(i) that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will take all necessary measures to enable refugees families still in their country of origin to join the refugees and, in general, to preserve the family unit;

(j) that international and national organizations and agencies, and in particular the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the International Labour Organisation, will provide scholarships and employment on the completion of their studies for refugee university students;

(k) that special attention will be devoted to refugees in China;

2. URGES

(a) once again, that all States should sign and ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees with the least possible delay;

(b) that the task of co-ordinating all activities concerning refugees should be entrusted to the High Commissioner, with a view, firstly to safeguarding the interests of refugees and, secondly, to ensuring the most effective utilization of the international and national facilities provided for refugees;

3. CALLS UPON all States to concert urgent measures to solve the Palestinian Arab refugee problem and to provide means for them to settle and earn their livelihood;

4. REMINDS all States that the refugees in Korea, who have lost their homes as a result of the war, are under the direct responsibility of the United Nations;

5. REQUESTS each National Association to communicate this resolution to the competent national authorities; and

6. DIRECTS the Secretary-General of WFUNA to transmit this resolution, together with the reports prepared by the Belgian delegation, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organisation, and the Provisional Inter-Governmental Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME).
