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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES:  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Uruguay and Venezuela:  
draft resolution

International Conference on Central American Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 42/110 of 7 December 1987, 42/204 of 11 December 1987, 42/231 of 12 May 1988 and 43/118 of 8 December 1988,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General, 1/

Also taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2/

Welcoming the Declaration and Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons adopted by the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held in Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989,

1/ A/44/527 and Corr.1 and 2.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/44/12).

Bearing in mind that a concerted effort in favour of lasting solutions to the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons requires the support, co-operation and co-ordination of the affected and interested Governments and of the various international organizations involved, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming the establishment of the machinery for follow-up and co-ordination at the national level in compliance with the Concerted Plan of Action and the establishment of priority and preparation of projects within the framework of the strategies defined by each Government,

Taking note with interest of the commencement of the meetings for co-ordination, management and execution with the co-operating countries and the non-governmental organizations interested in participating in the programmes and projects to assist the returnees, displaced persons and refugees in Central America,

Aware of the need to deal with the serious problem of the refugees in Central America who have found asylum in a number of Central American countries, including Belize and Mexico, and wishing to contribute to the search for lasting solutions that would benefit the countries and communities of asylum and origin,

Recognizing the need to incorporate, in the plans of assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons, measures to restore the ecological balance and the rational utilization of the natural resources in the areas of the countries affected,

Taking into account that, as stated in point 8 of the agreement concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting, 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,

Reiterating its determination to continue its efforts and contributions in the context of the peace agreements, and welcoming the recent agreements adopted at Tela, Honduras, on 7 August 1989, 4/ which include aspects of voluntary repatriation and relocation,

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

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3/ A/42/521-S/19085, annex. For the printed text, see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987, document S/19085, annex.

4/ A/44/451-S/20778.

Once again reiterating the paramount importance of humanitarian and apolitical considerations, both in dealing with and in solving the problems 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 bodies,

Recognizing the work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and by the United Nations Development Programme with the Governments of the affected countries in the preparation and convening of the International Conference on Central American Refugees and in the meetings at the international level of the Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees,

Gravely concerned at the reductions in the budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the region, which seriously affect the beneficiary populations and the policies for a solution put forward in the context of the Esquipulas II agreement, entitled "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America", 5/ and the International Conference on Central American Refugees,

Recognizing the priority assigned to the section of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America 6/ which, within the emergency programme, is intended to promote activities for solving the problems of refugees, displaced persons and returnees,

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

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

Recognizing also that solutions to the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons form an integral part of the efforts for peace, democratization and development being made in the region by each Government,

1. Expresses its profound satisfaction at the successful outcome of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held in Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989, and the adoption by acclamation of the Declaration and Concerted Plan of Action;

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

6/ A/42/949, annex.

2. Welcomes the guidelines, goals and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons adopted by the International Conference as a promising initial basis for future activities, and therefore reaffirms its commitment to contribute to the search for a firm and lasting peace in Central America;

3. Welcomes the establishment of the machinery for follow-up and co-ordination at the national level, in pursuance of the Plan of Action, and the establishment of priority and preparation of projects within the framework of the strategies defined by each Government;

4. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to support, in close collaboration with the Governments of the affected countries and the international Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, together with the United Nations Development Programme and the organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, the meetings for follow-up of the Plan of Action adopted by the International Conference, so that they may be held at the earliest possible time;

5. Takes note with interest that the international Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees will hold its first meeting during the first week of March 1990, and urges the co-operating countries to respond positively to the assistance projects submitted by the Central American countries, including Mexico and Belize;

6. Exhorts Member States and organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the regional and subregional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in the humanitarian task of helping Central American refugees, to continue to provide assistance and support to the affected countries in order to implement and follow up the guidelines, goals and objectives of the Plan of Action;

7. Exhorts the co-operating countries and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to assist in restoring the ecological balance of the areas in the countries of asylum affected by the massive presence of refugees, in order to provide the populations of those areas with the conditions conducive to development;

8. Appeals to the international community to ensure that the co-operation extended for the solution of the problem of refugees take into account both the sacrifice borne by the countries of asylum in receiving massive flows of refugees and the effort exerted by the countries of origin to create the conditions which would facilitate the return of their nationals;

9. Appeals to the international community to increase its assistance to the countries of asylum and of origin of 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;

10. **Thanks** the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme for the assistance rendered for the holding of the International Conference;

11. **Expresses its profound concern** at the reductions in the budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the region, which seriously affect the beneficiary populations and the policies for a solution put forward in the context of the International Conference on Central American Refugees and by each Government, and urges that the budget previously allocated be restored;

12. **Thanks** the people and Government of Guatemala for the hospitality extended for the holding of the International Conference;

13. **Requests** the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to report to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1990 and to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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