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Agenda item 110

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Report of the Third CommitteeRapporteur: Mr. Wilfried GROLIG (Federal Republic of Germany)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1989, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled:

"Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees:

"(a) International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa;

"(b) International Conference on Central American Refugees;

"(c) International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 44th to 47th, 49th and 56th meetings, from 15 to 17 and on 20 and 27 November 1989. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/44/SR.44-47, 49 and 56).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

- (a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter VIII, section I (A/44/3); 1/
- (b) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; 2/
- (c) Addendum to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/44/12/Add.1); 3/
- (d) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (A/44/520);
- (e) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees (A/44/523);
- (f) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Central American Refugees (A/44/527 and Corr.1 and 2);
- (g) Letter dated 23 January 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Brunei Darussalam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/93-S/20420);
- (h) Letter dated 25 July 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/415-S/20749);
- (i) Letter dated 22 September 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/551);
- (j) Letter dated 25 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/688);
- (k) Letter dated 26 October 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/689-S/20921);
- (l) Letter dated 3 November 1989 from the Permanent Representative of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/44/710-S/20948).

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/44/3/Rev.1).

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

3/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1).

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4. At the 44th meeting, on 15 November, the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship made introductory statements (see A/C.3/44/SR.44).

5. At the 47th meeting, on 17 November, the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made a concluding statement (see A/C.3/44/SR.47).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.63

6. At the 49th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Lesotho, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.63) entitled "International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa".

7. At its 56th meeting, on 27 November, following a statement by the United States of America, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.63 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.67

8. At the 49th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Finland, on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.67) entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". Subsequently, Cyprus, Greece, Japan, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the 56th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Finland orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) In preambular paragraph 10, the word "enhancement" was replaced by the word "promotion";

(b) In operative paragraph 14, the phrase "being fully aware of the catalytic role of the Office of the High Commissioner" was added at the end of the paragraph.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.67, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution II).

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C. Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.68/Rev.1

11. At the 49th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Thailand, on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Somalia, Thailand and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.68) entitled "International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees". Subsequently, the Sudan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the 56th meeting, on 27 November, the representative of Thailand, on behalf of Brunei Darussalam, Chad, China, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Thailand and Zaire, introduced the revised draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.68/Rev.1). Subsequently, Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

13. The original draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.68) had been revised by adding the Sudan to the original list of sponsors and by deleting operative paragraph 9, which read as follows:

"Calls upon the countries of origin to undertake effective measures to ensure the safe, orderly and regular departure of their citizens and to stem the outflow of clandestine departures in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan of Action;"

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.68/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.69

15. At the 49th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Guatemala, on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/44/L.69) entitled "International Conference on Central American Refugees". Subsequently, Belize, Bolivia, Japan, the Philippines and Spain joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

16. At the 56th meeting, on 27 November, it was announced that oral revisions to the draft resolutions were being made on behalf of the sponsors as follows:

(a) In preambular paragraph 15, the word "Gravelly" at the beginning of the paragraph was deleted;

(b) In operative paragraph 11, the word "profound" on the first line was deleted.

17. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/44/L.69, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution IV).

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III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE

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

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees
and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/116 of 8 December 1988 on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa,

Gravely concerned at the constant deterioration of the situation in southern Africa arising from the domination and oppression of the peoples of South Africa by the minority racist régime of South Africa,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, 4/

Conscious of its responsibility to provide economic, material and humanitarian assistance to independent States in southern Africa in order to assist them in coping with the situation resulting from the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the apartheid régime of South Africa,

Noting with appreciation the consultations undertaken by the Secretary-General to establish within the United Nations system a mechanism to ensure the implementation and overall co-ordination of relief programmes for internally displaced persons,

Noting with indignation that South Africa's policy of apartheid and its direct and indirect acts of aggression, intimidation and destabilization through armed terrorists continue to be the main causes of refugee flows and increasing displacement of persons in southern Africa,

Convinced that there is an urgent need for the international community to extend maximum and concerted assistance to southern African countries sheltering refugees, returnees and displaced persons and also to highlight the plight of these persons,

4/ A/44/520.

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa;
2. Reaffirms the need to continue the implementation of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa adopted by the Conference; 5/
3. Expresses its gratitude to the countries and organizations that have given assistance to the countries in southern Africa to enable them to cope with the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their countries;
4. Calls upon the international community to provide increased assistance to the countries of southern Africa to enable them to strengthen their capacity to provide the necessary facilities and services for the care and well-being of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their countries;
5. Reiterates its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his efforts, on behalf of the international community, to organize and mobilize special programmes of economic assistance for the front-line and other neighbouring States to help them to withstand the effects of the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the apartheid régime of South Africa;
6. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to implement those specific tasks and responsibilities attributed to them in the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action and encourages them to continue their efforts;
7. Endorses the recommendation of the Secretary-General aimed at attributing to the United Nations resident co-ordinators the function of co-ordinating assistance for internally displaced persons, in close co-operation with Governments, local representatives of donor countries and United Nations agencies in the field;
8. Urges once again all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake such measures as would be required of them by the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action;
9. Decides to consider this question at its forty-fifth session on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Office 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, 6/ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its fortieth session, 7/ and having heard the statements made by the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the High Commissioner on 15 and 17 November 1989,

Recalling its resolution 43/117 of 8 December 1988,

Reaffirming the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's protection function and the need for States to co-operate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this primary and essential responsibility,

Noting with satisfaction that, following recent accessions, one hundred and six States are now parties to the 1951 Convention 8/ and the 1967 Protocol 9/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Noting with concern that, despite developments that offer hope for solutions to refugee problems, refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to face, in certain situations, distressingly serious problems, including problems of protection as a result of expulsion and refoulement of refugees, their unjustified detention and measures that do not recognize their special situation,

Particularly concerned that in various regions the safety and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers are seriously undermined on account of military or armed attacks, forced recruitment of refugees into armed forces and other forms of violence, and noting that further efforts should be made to ensure rescue and disembarkation of asylum-seekers in distress at sea and, in this context, also noting the problems relating to stowaway asylum-seekers,

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

7/ Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1).

8/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

9/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

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Noting the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to address the special problems and needs of refugee and displaced women and children, who in many cases are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection as well as their psychological and material well-being,

Emphasizing the need for States to assist, on as wide a basis as possible, the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to search for durable and timely solutions to the problems of refugees based on new approaches that meet current realities and at the same time respect the basic principles and concerns of protection,

Realizing in this context that voluntary repatriation or return remains the most desirable solution to the problems facing refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, and welcoming the fact that it has been possible for significant numbers of them to return voluntarily to their country of origin,

Recognizing that the promotion of fundamental human rights is essential to the achievement of self-sufficiency and family security for refugees, as well as to the process of re-establishing the dignity of the human person and realizing durable solutions to refugee problems,

Deeply concerned by the unprecedented financial crisis that the Office of the High Commissioner is currently facing,

Aware that the application of the principle of international solidarity and the search for durable solutions imply a better sharing of responsibilities and arrangements between all the agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations, both governmental and non-governmental for the implementation and the financing of related activities,

Recalling that durable solutions for refugees in developing countries can, in many cases, be achieved through a development-oriented approach and that the heavy burden placed on a host country as a result of growing influxes of refugees requires sufficient resources to redress the negative impact and the strain on its socio-economic infrastructure in rural and urban areas, and emphasizing the need to ensure the compatibility of refugee aid and national development plans of developing asylum countries,

Welcoming the conclusions and decisions on refugee aid and development adopted at the fortieth session of the Executive Committee, 10/ in particular

10/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1), para. 32.

its request to the Office of the High Commissioner to continue its catalytic role in the area of refugee aid and development as contained therein,

Commending those States which, despite severe economic and development problems of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner into their territories, and emphasizing the need to share the burden of these States to the maximum extent possible through international assistance,

Emphasizing the need for close co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, in devising and implementing specific elements of development assistance for solving problems of refugees, returnees and areas hosting them,

Stressing the need for the international community to continue to provide adequate resettlement opportunities for those refugees for whom no other durable solution may be in sight, and with particular attention to those refugees who have spent an inordinately long period of time in camps and individuals facing urgent or emergency protection situations,

Welcoming the valuable support extended by Governments to the Office of the High Commissioner in carrying out its humanitarian tasks, and recognizing the need for continuing and increasing co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and other bodies of the United Nations system and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Noting the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Executive Committee, including the establishment of a Working Group, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office, and the need to further strengthen field activities and responsibilities,

Commending the Office of the High Commissioner and its staff for the dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and paying tribute to those staff members who have endangered their lives in the course of their duties,

1. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental nature of the function of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide international protection and the need for States to co-operate fully with his Office in fulfilling this function, in particular by acceding to and fully and effectively implementing the relevant international and regional refugee instruments;

2. Endorses the conclusions adopted at the fortieth session of the Executive Committee 11/ on the implementation of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees;

11/ Ibid., para. 24.

3. Calls upon all States to refrain from measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in particular by returning or expelling refugees and asylum-seekers contrary to fundamental prohibitions against these practices, and urges States to continue to admit and receive refugees pending identification of their status and of appropriate solutions to their plight;

4. Urges all States to establish quick and effective procedures for determining refugee status and granting asylum in accordance with internationally accepted criteria and appropriate legal guarantees, in order to deal expeditiously with manifestly unfounded claims and to protect refugees and asylum-seekers from unjustified or unduly prolonged detention or stay in camps;

5. Notes with deep concern, in this context, that large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers in different areas of the world are currently subject to detention or similar restrictive measures by reason of their illegal entry or presence in search of asylum, pending resolution of their situation, and reiterates the conclusions on detention adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its thirty-seventh session, which set out the grounds for detention of such persons; 12/

6. Condemns violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular those perpetrated by military or armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements, forced recruitment into armed forces and other forms of violence;

7. Notes the accomplishments of the Office of the High Commissioner in the promotion and dissemination of refugee law, including, in particular, the organization of training courses on protection directed towards government and other concerned officials, and urges the Office to pursue its activities in this regard, making every effort to ensure that such protection training courses continue on a significant scale;

8. Endorses the conclusions on refugee children adopted by the Executive Committee at its fortieth session, 13/ and, in particular, the development and dissemination of the "Guidelines on Refugee Children" and the implementation of a work plan concerning refugee children that requires the active co-operation and collaboration of Governments, United Nations bodies, among them the United Nations Children's Fund, and non-governmental organizations with the Office of the High Commissioner;

12/ Ibid., Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/41/12/Add.1), para. 128.

13/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1), para. 26.

9. Endorses the conclusions on refugee women adopted by the Executive Committee at its fortieth session, 14/ in which, in particular, were recognized the need to emphasize the participatory role of refugee women and the need for a policy framework and organizational work plan for implementation of the next stages in bringing refugee women into the mainstream of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner;

10. Endorses the conclusion on durable solutions and refugee protection adopted by the Executive Committee at its fortieth session, 15/ in which was recognized the need for the active promotion of solutions by the international community and by countries of origin, asylum and resettlement, in accordance with their respective obligations and responsibilities and the desirability of prevention, including through the observance of human rights, as the best solution;

11. Recognizes the importance of attaining durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees and to facilitate the solution of existing problems;

12. Approves the decision entitled, "Sharing of responsibilities for operational activities relating to refugees", 16/ adopted by the Executive Committee at its fortieth session and invites the agencies of the United Nations system as well as all relevant international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to establish as soon as possible specific mechanisms of co-operation to assure an agreed division of responsibilities and arrangements for the financing of these activities, while preserving the specific mandate of the High Commissioner to provide protection;

13. Urges the member States of relevant bodies to ensure that their delegates to such bodies as the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank and regional development banks and multilateral agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development are made aware of the refugee-related conclusions of the Executive Committee at its fortieth session and urges them to use their good offices to ensure the adoption of policies and the establishment of mechanisms, both institutional and financial, that will provide for co-ordinated and expeditious implementation of development initiatives related to refugees and returnees;

14/ Ibid., para. 27.

15/ Ibid., para. 23.

16/ Ibid., para. 33.

14. Recognizes with appreciation the ongoing work being done by the Office of the High Commissioner to put into practice the concept of development-oriented assistance to refugees and returnees, as initiated at the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa 17/ and reaffirmed in the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, 18/ as well as in the Guatemala Declaration and the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Refugees, Repatriates and Displaced Central Americans of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, 19/ and urges the Office to continue that process wherever appropriate, in full co-operation with appropriate international agencies, and urges Governments to support these efforts, being fully aware of the catalytic role of the Office of the High Commissioner;

15. Recognizes the importance of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, held at Geneva on 13 and 14 June 1989, the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989, and the adoption of the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Refugees, Repatriates and Displaced Central Americans and the Comprehensive Plan of Action on Indo-Chinese Refugees; 20/

16. Urges all States to support the Office of the High Commissioner in its efforts to search for durable solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office, primarily through voluntary repatriation or return, including assistance to returnees as appropriate, or, wherever appropriate, through integration into countries of asylum or through resettlement in third countries;

17. Expresses deep appreciation for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular those developing countries which, despite limited resources, continue to admit, on a permanent or temporary basis, large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

18. Urges the international community, in accordance with the principle of international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, to assist the above-mentioned countries in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden that the care for refugees and asylum-seekers represents;

17/ See A/41/572, annex.

18/ See A/43/717 and Corr.1, annex.

19/ A/44/527 and Corr.1 and 2, annex.

20/ A/44/523, annex.

19. Endorses the conclusions and decisions adopted by the Executive Committee at its fortieth session on assistance activities, which reflect the gravity of the financial crisis that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is facing at present;

20. Calls upon all Governments to contribute to the High Commissioner's programmes and, taking into account the need to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 43/119 of 8 December 1988,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, held at Geneva on 13 and 14 June 1989, 21/ and the Declaration and Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted by the Conference, 22/

Noting with satisfaction the active participation of Member States, specialized agencies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at the Conference,

Taking note of the decision on the Conference adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fortieth session, 23/

1. Welcomes the successful conclusion of the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, which was convened by the Secretary-General under the presidency of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and held at Geneva on 13 and 14 June 1989;

2. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the Conference;

21/ A/44/523.

22/ Ibid., annex.

23/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. H.

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General in convening the Conference and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the valuable assistance and contribution in organizing the Conference;
4. Welcomes the adoption of the Declaration and Comprehensive Plan of Action and affirms its belief that the Comprehensive Plan of Action is an important and sound basis for a balanced, humanitarian and durable solution to the problems addressed by the Conference;
5. Stresses that the measures stipulated in the Comprehensive Plan of Action are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and should be implemented, within the context of national laws and regulations and of international standards, by all States concerned in their totality;
6. Takes note of the progress on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action at the various bilateral and multilateral meetings among the parties concerned, especially those held within the context of the Steering Committee established by the Conference;
7. Calls upon all States concerned and the relevant specialized agencies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake the various measures required of them within the framework and letter of the Comprehensive Plan of Action;
8. Appeals to all States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide resources for the General and Special Programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enable it to carry out the tasks prescribed in the Comprehensive Plan of Action;
9. Stresses that the solution of the problem of those seeking refuge in the South-East Asian region could contribute positively towards a climate of peace, harmony and good-neighbourliness among States in the region;
10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor closely the progress towards implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

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DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

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, 24/

Also taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 25/

Welcoming the Declaration and Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons 26/ adopted by the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989,

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

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

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

26/ A/44/523, annex.

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, 27/ 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, 28/ 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,

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

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", 29/ and the International Conference on Central American Refugees,

27/ 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.

28/ See A/44/451-S/20778.

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

Recognizing the priority assigned to that section of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America 30/ 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 also 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 further 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 at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989, and the adoption by acclamation of the Declaration and Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons;

2. Welcomes the guidelines, goals and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action 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 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, so that they may be held at the earliest possible time;

5. Notes with interest that the Follow-Up Committee will hold its first meeting during the first week of March 1990, and urges the co-operating

30/ A/42/949, annex.

countries to respond positively to the assistance projects submitted by the Central American countries, including Belize and Mexico;

6. Urges 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. Urges 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 takes 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. Also 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. Expresses its appreciation to 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 Conference;

11. Expresses its 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. Expresses its gratitude to 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.
