

UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly
FORTY-FOURTH SESSION
Official Records

THIRD COMMITTEE
46th meeting
held on
Friday, 17 November 1989
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 46th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KABORE (Burkina Faso)

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(continued)

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Distr. GENERAL
A/C.3/44/SR.46
24 November 1989

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH
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89-57255 2062S (E)

12 P.

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 110: OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (continued) (A/44/12 and Add.1, A/44/93-S/20420, A/44/415-S/20749, A/44/520, A/44/523, A/44/527 and Corr.1 and 2, A/44/551, A/44/688, A/44/689 and A/44/710)

1. Mr. PALMA (Honduras), speaking on behalf of the five countries of Central America, expressed appreciation to Mr. Hinterregger for his presentation of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), contained in document A/44/12 and for the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Central American Refugees contained in document A/44/527. Those reports reflected the gravity of the refugee problem, which the Central American countries shared with many other regions.
2. The composition of refugee populations was a matter of great concern: children under the age of 18 and women made up more than half of the world's refugees. Because those two groups had special needs, the Central American countries supported the work of the UNHCR Steering Committee on Refugee Women and the Working Group on Refugee Children.
3. It was gratifying that three major international conferences had been held on the problem of refugees in southern Africa, Indo-China and Central America and, in that connection, he wished to express appreciation to the Secretary-General, UNHCR, the UNDP Administrator and all the United Nations organs and specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations that had helped organize those conferences.
4. Besides causing the deaths of tens of thousands of Central Americans and serious economic damage, the prolongation of the various conflicts in the Central American region during the past decade had had tragic consequences for human development. The presence of almost 2 million refugees and displaced persons in Central America had resulted in social, economic and political upheaval in host countries, adding a heavy burden to their already weak economies.
5. For many years, the emphasis in refugee programmes world wide had been mainly on providing international protection and assistance. Despite all the efforts made, however, the refugee problem persisted and, in the absence of lasting solutions, could become worse. The situation in Central America called for an appropriate combination of humanitarian and development assistance and it was on that basis that the Concerted Plan of Action, adopted at the International Conference on Central American Refugees, had been formulated. The countries of Central America were in urgent need of a comprehensive approach in the form of the establishment or strengthening of programmes of self-sufficiency, integration and, above all, resettlement and repatriation. In creating the necessary political conditions for a firm and lasting peace in the region, voluntary repatriation was the ideal solution to the refugee problem. The burden of repatriation programmes could not be borne by the Central American countries alone, however. The time had come for those countries which were in a position to do so to assist the Central American countries in their efforts.

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(Mr. Palma, Honduras)

6. In response to requests by some donor countries that the Central American countries harmonize their methodologies for preparing and submitting projects, the Central American Governments, in co-operation with UNHCR and UNDP, had developed a methodology which gave priority to finding durable solutions to all the consequences of the critical situation in the region. In that connection, the Central American countries had begun some time previously to prepare priority development projects designed to help refugees return home or successfully integrate in the productive life of host countries. In addition, they had set up national and international mechanisms to follow up the Concerted Plan of Action and by December 1989 would all have submitted their priority projects, thereby helping the international community to fulfil its commitment to alleviating the plight of thousands of refugees and displaced persons in Central America.
7. Reducing the budget of UNHCR would adversely affect the scope of its activities and was incompatible with the search for long-term solutions, which were always more costly than simply attending to refugees' basic needs. The proposed cuts raised questions as to the future of the programmes envisaged under the Concerted Plan of Action. UNHCR should have increased financial resources so that, in co-ordination with UNDP, it could promote programmes of self-sufficiency for refugees and displaced and repatriated persons. The success of co-operation between UNHCR and UNDP in Central America was amply demonstrated in the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America and in the convening of the Conference.
8. Latin America had a long and noble history of providing asylum for refugees. However, the burden of providing protection for Central American refugees and finding long-term solutions must be shared by the international community.
9. Mr. VAN WULFFTEN PALTHE (Netherlands) said that UNHCR faced a difficult and delicate task. The flow of migrants - refugees and others - was increasing at a spectacular rate, creating major humanitarian, social and economic problems. Even the recent return of many refugees to their countries of origin, while encouraging, imposed an additional burden on UNHCR.
10. In taking on a large share of the burden of the refugee problem, UNHCR had taxed its human and financial resources to the limit. Those problems needed to be addressed without diminishing UNHCR's capacity to carry out its mandate. International protection had always been a basic priority for UNHCR and should remain so.
11. His delegation remained concerned about the overall protection situation, in spite of recent positive developments. It welcomed the voluntary return of refugees to Namibia and the outcome of the international conferences on Central American and Indo-Chinese refugees. In that connection, he wished to emphasize the need for full implementation of the plans of actions adopted for those regions, which included comprehensive provisions for safeguarding the security and well-being of individual refugees.

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(Mr. Van Wulfften Palthe, Netherlands)

12. International protection would also be increased if more States acceded to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. He commended Hungary for its recent accession and hoped that other States would soon follow suit. His delegation welcomed the forthcoming UNHCR study on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, which would draw attention to the numerous situations in which basic protection principles were not being implemented. His country condemned all violations of refugee law and urged all parties concerned to uphold the internationally agreed humanitarian standards for the treatment and protection of refugees. In that connection, it welcomed the action taken by the UNHCR Executive Committee on matters of international protection.

13. He welcomed the Executive Committee's decision to establish a working group to review policy, management and funding issues within UNHCR. The major objectives of that initiative should be to define the UNHCR mandate more clearly, to streamline administrative structures and the management of assistance programmes and to set out a strategy for durable solutions.

14. Organizations dealing with the refugee problem needed to shift their emphasis from the provision of emergency humanitarian aid to the promotion of long-term solutions through a more structural approach aimed either at integrating refugees into countries of asylum or assisting their voluntary return to their home countries. UNHCR could not achieve permanent solutions to refugee problems on its own; it must mobilize aid from other agencies and institutions at the national and international levels. It had already made efforts to work more closely with organizations such as UNDP and the World Bank. No new agencies were needed; existing agencies must be persuaded to place greater emphasis on refugee-related development in their programmes and to establish additional mechanisms for that purpose.

15. His delegation welcomed the decisions taken by the Executive Committee at its fortieth session on refugee aid and development and on the sharing of responsibilities for operational activities relating to refugees. He hoped that the General Assembly would endorse the recommendations of the Executive Committee on those matters.

16. Mrs. HELKE (United Kingdom) said that her delegation endorsed fully the statement made on item 110 by the representative of France, speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community. It was generally agreed that the best way to tackle refugee situations was to solve the problems that caused refugees to leave their countries and prevented them from returning. Her Government did not underestimate the difficulty of such an approach and would continue to play its part in assisting the efforts of UNHCR, whose task showed no sign of diminishing. The United Kingdom gave full support to UNHCR. In 1989, it had committed £23.3 million (equivalent to \$36 million) to UNHCR programmes and a further £3 million through the European Community. It commended the effectiveness of UNHCR activities in many areas, including the successful re-registration of Somali refugees in Ethiopia in August 1989, towards which her country had contributed half the cost.

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(Mrs. Helke, United Kingdom)

17. As both a donor and an asylum country, the United Kingdom had welcomed the convening of three international conferences to discuss refugee issues in southern Africa, Central America and South-East Asia, and their adoption of comprehensive plans of action. It was vital that the follow-up strategies agreed upon at those conferences be fully and swiftly implemented by all concerned, particularly in South-East Asia, where Vietnamese "boat people" continued to arrive in overwhelming numbers.
18. Her country was concerned about the grave financial situation of UNHCR and fully supported the financial package agreed on by the Executive Committee. As a member of the Executive Committee, her delegation was participating fully in the working group established to review UNHCR finances and management. Recognizing that new flows of refugees and the search for new solutions imposed extra burdens on UNHCR, she stressed the need for it to use its limited resources prudently and effectively and urged greater co-ordination of its activities with those of other parts of the United Nations system, particularly UNDP. It was also essential that UNHCR oversee and co-ordinate the move, as and when necessary, from emergency relief to self-sufficiency programmes. She welcomed the continuing flexibility of UNHCR and hoped that due attention would be paid to appointing appropriate and effective Headquarters and field staff and to improving communications with and support for field staff.
19. Her country remained fully committed to its obligations under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. While it would never turn away genuine asylum-seekers and refugees, however, the United Kingdom, and the Territories for which it was responsible, reserved the right to return to their own countries individuals who proved not to be refugees and who therefore had no claim to international protection and to a home in another country. Special pleading on their behalf brought the concept of refugee status into disrepute.
20. She hoped that the recent resignation of the High Commissioner would cause minimum disruption to the activities of UNHCR and was grateful to Mr. Hinterregger for temporarily assuming his functions. Her country hoped to see a new High Commissioner nominated by the General Assembly at its current session and appreciated the efforts being made to that end. It was important for UNHCR to enter a period of stability in which to address its current financial and other problems.
21. Miss AIOUAZE (Algeria) said that, at a time when the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was being sought in several regions of the world, it was of the utmost importance that all Member States should respect the principle of equitable sharing of the financial burden. Also, States should realize that it was not enough to recognize international humanitarian law, especially if their domestic policies adversely affected the plight of asylum-seekers and refugees.

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(Miss Aiouaze, Algeria)

22. Algeria, which had a tradition of hospitality, had given asylum to Saharan refugees pending settlement of the question of the Western Sahara in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/33. With the assistance of UNHCR and the international community, it had spared no effort in attending to the needs of the refugees and intended to continue to do so until the question of the Western Sahara was finally resolved.

23. Mr. GOSHU (Ethiopia) said that international efforts in the past year had alleviated momentary hardships without dramatically altering, let alone resolving, the fate of millions of refugees throughout the world. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had primary responsibility for co-ordinating international efforts to safeguard the well-being of refugees, and needed all the support it could get to meet the many challenges facing it. His Government was prepared to co-operate fully with it in helping the hundreds of thousands of refugees in Ethiopia and to support its efforts world-wide.

24. Ethiopia supported the relevant international instruments designed to protect refugees and was convinced that voluntary repatriation offered the best and most durable solution to the refugee problem. Drought and lack of resources had unfortunately forced the temporary abandonment of the 1983 arrangement between Ethiopia, Djibouti and UNHCR for the organized voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees, but at least a precedent had been set.

25. Voluntary repatriation required international assistance in meeting the needs of returnees, so as to overcome the frequent reluctance of refugees to leave their camps in countries of asylum. Ethiopia provided the refugees in its camps and also Ethiopian returnees with the best conditions its limited resources permitted. It urged the international community to channel emergency assistance through Ethiopia's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, which had been set up to handle the refugee problem caused by the drought in Ethiopia's northern regions. The influx of refugees into Ethiopia was also continuing, with its attendant tale of human tragedy, and Ethiopia appreciated the encouraging response to its calls for emergency assistance that had helped save the lives of thousands of refugees.

26. The refugee situation in the Horn of Africa called for collective efforts by the countries concerned and he hoped that the improved political climate in the region would redound to the benefit of its refugees. While regional co-operation was the best way to solve the refugee problem, international efforts were also required, particularly recognition of the fact that high priority must be given to peace, regional stability and co-operation.

27. Mrs. SEMAMBO-KALEMA (Uganda) said that her country fully supported the Oslo Plan of Action, which had made a significant contribution to efforts to solve the refugee problem in southern Africa. In that and other regions, voluntary repatriation remained the most preferable and durable solution to the refugee problem. Countries should fulfil their humanitarian obligations and create conditions conducive to repatriation. Where voluntary repatriation or local integration were impossible, resettlement was the best alternative. UNHCR, in

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(Mrs. Semambo-Kalema, Uganda)

close co-operation with various Governments, had helped thousands of refugees to resettle. Nevertheless, in the search for lasting solutions to the refugee problem, more attention should be given to eliminating its root causes, such as armed conflict and aggression, foreign intervention and occupation, and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

28. Her delegation noted with concern the financial crisis facing UNHCR and hoped that a solution would soon be found. She paid tribute to the donor countries, intergovernmental organizations and private sources that had enabled UNHCR to carry out its humanitarian obligations and appealed to the donor community to continue to contribute to the Voluntary Fund. Lastly, she reaffirmed her Government's support for the work of UNHCR in providing assistance and protection to refugees and expressed gratitude to the other United Nations agencies and international organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, that had continued to work in close co-operation with it.

29. Ms. COOMBS (New Zealand) said that her country strongly supported the work of UNHCR, which had made a significant contribution to solving the refugee problem in the past year. New Zealand, which was a regular contributor to the UNHCR budget, also provided grants to special appeals and participated in the ongoing settlement of refugees. Although her country had taken part in refugee relief efforts world-wide and accepted refugees from many countries, its priority in recent years had been to assist its ASEAN neighbours in coping with the tragic Indo-Chinese refugee situation. The continuing mass exodus of people from Viet Nam had placed an excessive burden on countries of the region.

30. The Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted at the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees promised to make a major contribution to finding a permanent solution to that problem by reducing the outflow from Viet Nam and dealing with the backlog of refugees living in camps in countries of first asylum. All parties would have to play their part in order to ensure the success of the Plan. Although some of the efforts made thus far were encouraging, the problem would not be solved until the important question of repatriation was tackled.

31. Viet Nam, which had a central role to play in implementing the Comprehensive Programme Plan, should do more to discourage clandestine departures, facilitate the existing orderly departure programme and accept repatriation on a much larger scale. Its obligation would be clear once the distinction between genuine refugees and economic migrants was established. Viet Nam must allow the return, under fair conditions, of its nationals who did not meet the internationally accepted criterion for determining refugee status. Countries of first asylum must continue to live up to their obligations under the Plan by accepting "boat people" and providing initial facilities for them in co-operation with UNHCR and the international community.

32. The Comprehensive Plan of Action provided a realistic programme for the resettlement of refugees. New Zealand would continue to play its part in accepting Indo-Chinese refugees. It would receive 1,000 people from Indo-China over the next

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(Ms. Coombs, New Zealand)

three years if it could find suitable sponsors. Although priority would be given to people who already had family or friends in New Zealand, her Government was also prepared to accept people with no relatives in resettlement countries, handicapped persons and special needs cases. New Zealand had also broadened its criteria to make specific places available for women and children at risk. There was an urgent need to provide resettlement programmes for women who, because of their particular vulnerability, faced higher-risk situations in countries of first asylum. In that respect, New Zealand noted with satisfaction the creation of the post of Senior Adviser on Refugee Women to UNHCR and urged Governments to respond to the needs of that important segment of the refugee population.

33. Archbishop MARTINO (Observer for the Holy See) said that while credit must be given to many countries of first asylum and resettlement, UNHCR and numerous governmental and non-governmental organizations, much remained to be done in providing assistance to refugees. One could not measure the damage caused to individuals who were forced to stay in refugee camps, where a subculture of violence and crime often prevailed. Children often had to live in a dangerous and artificial environment, deprived of the benefits of traditional values, culture and religion.

34. The Holy See had participated in the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, the International Conference on Central American Refugees and the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees and had drawn attention each time to the moral and humanitarian aspects of the refugee problem. The conferences had underscored the continued plight of millions of people and the urgent need to adopt new, comprehensive and solution-oriented approaches to the problems under consideration.

35. It was obvious that refugee problems could not be tackled in isolation. The causes of refugee flows must be dealt with in countries of origin, where only respect for human rights, the cessation of internal conflicts and sustained economic development could and would allow the population to remain, or to return, in peace and safety. Other countries must also bear responsibility when they too had contributed to situations resulting in a refugee problem.

36. Policies on admission and resettlement must be in full accordance with international law and should be expanded to respond to new circumstances. The decision to return home must be taken freely and individually. Refugees who chose to remain outside their own countries must be helped to find alternative solutions.

37. He noted with satisfaction that greater attention had been given recently to the millions of internally displaced persons in the world. Although such people were primarily the responsibility of their national Governments, the international community and, in particular, the United Nations system must find ways to assist Governments in responding to their needs.

38. Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) reaffirmed his country's commitment to international efforts to solve refugee problems around the world. Japan was actively involved in

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(Mr. Sezaki, Japan)

efforts to help refugees in several regions. In South-East Asia, it welcomed the consensus adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action by the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees. Working with the ASEAN countries and Hong Kong with a view to creating a region-wide system, it had recently introduced a screening mechanism for Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers arriving in Japan, which it hoped would prove an effective way to stem the tide of illegal departures from Viet Nam. In that connection, Japan welcomed the recently instituted UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme for Vietnamese asylum-seekers in Hong Kong and had decided to double its contribution to the programme for the coming year to approximately \$US 370,000. However, with a total of 200,000 asylum-seekers, countries of first asylum needed the help of the international community as a whole if they were to achieve full and balanced implementation of the Plan of Action.

39. With regard to displaced persons along the Thai-Kampuchean border, Japan earnestly hoped that a comprehensive political settlement of the Kampuchean problem would soon allow the repatriation of Kampuchean in a safe, secure and dignified manner.

40. In South-West Asia, the continuing civil war in Afghanistan had further delayed the repatriation of Afghan refugees living in Pakistan and Iran. Japan had made a contribution of \$US 105 million to the Office of the United Nations Co-ordinator for Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programmes relating to Afghanistan and had pledged a contribution of approximately \$US 7 million to UNHCR general programmes of assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran.

41. With regard to Central America, Japan commended the outcome of the International Conference on Central American Refugees held in May 1989 at Guatemala City. It would continue to do everything in its power to help solve the refugee problems in that region and had sent a mission to Central America and Mexico in October to conduct an on-the-spot study of the refugee situation there.

42. With respect to Africa, Japan wished to commend those countries which had generously given asylum to refugees from neighbouring countries and would continue to do its utmost to assist them through its contributions to UNHCR.

43. In the light of the increasingly vital role of UNHCR, Japan was gravely concerned at the Office's unprecedented financial crisis. It would support fully any efforts by UNHCR to implement reforms in accordance with the package agreed upon at the fortieth session of the Executive Committee. Greater co-operation and co-ordination between UNHCR and other international organizations, such as UNDP, was also needed. Given its mandate, UNHCR should focus on its role as a catalyst and co-ordinator and should leave development-oriented activities to other international organizations.

44. Japan was one of the main supporters of UNHCR and had contributed approximately \$US 60 million to it so far in 1989. In view of the Office's current financial crisis, it was studying the possibility of making additional contributions.

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45. Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that only by eliminating apartheid and ensuring racial equality, national independence and better socio-economic conditions could a solution be found to the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa. Similarly, the problem of Palestinian refugees could be resolved only by settling the question of Palestine. His Government therefore reaffirmed its full support for all efforts to eliminate apartheid and called for the convening of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization.
46. His country continued to stand by its policy of welcoming back all Laotians except for a handful of former leaders of the old régime. In accordance with an aide-mémoire concluded with UNHCR, it had authorized the return to Laos of so-called "illegal immigrants" in Thailand. However, that return must be conducted in an orderly manner, under the auspices of UNHCR. In the light of the improving political situation in the region, his Government had agreed to accept the repatriation of 150 to 300 persons a month from Thailand, beginning in May 1989. As a matter of policy, it favoured voluntary repatriation whenever feasible. However, first-asylum countries must avoid resorting to the mass expulsion of so-called illegal immigrants and should not profit from his country's humanitarian policy by introducing undesirable elements among the returnees.
47. With the assistance of UNCHR and other donor countries, the Lao Government would do its best to facilitate the reintegration of returnees into society and to help them to attain full self-sufficiency. Projects were planned in the areas of transportation, education, health, vocational training and agriculture.
48. While Laos had participated in the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees and had joined in the consensus on the Comprehensive Plan of Action, it wished to reiterate several points made at that Conference. First, the authorities of the country of first asylum should take appropriate measures to ensure that asylum-seekers were not subjected to brutality and extortion by organized gangsters or local authorities. Second, the selection criteria applied for resettlement in third countries should not encourage a brain drain or a reverse transfer of technology from countries of origin. Third, the principle of voluntary repatriation must continue to guide UNHCR policy in the search for durable solutions.
49. Mr. GALAL (Egypt) said that, since refugee problems had a variety of causes, there was a need for a flexible approach to addressing them. Refugee situations had been created by civil war and internal conflict, by military aggression, by frontier disputes and by activities aimed at undermining stability in certain regions of the world.
50. While there were refugee problems on all continents, the most severe and the most complex were those in Africa. Egypt, as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, called for all possible efforts to be made to provide the necessary assistance to refugees in the southern and eastern parts of the

(Mr. Galal, Egypt)

continent, particularly where the situation was worsening day by day as a result of South Africa's policy of aggression against its neighbours.

51. The voluntary repatriation activities of UNHCR had the full support of his delegation, and it hoped that the Office would continue its repatriation efforts in Namibia in order to promote the stability of that young country.

52. A fundamental solution to world refugee problems required universal commitment to the principles of the United Nations calling for recognition of the right of peoples to self-determination, non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States and the freedom of each State to adopt a political, social and economic system in keeping with its circumstances, its heritage and its culture.

53. Mr. DLAMINI (Swaziland) said that the situation of refugees in the world had placed an increasing burden on countries of asylum and donor organizations and that it was essential, under the circumstances, to request increased contributions to UNHCR. Swaziland particularly welcomed international efforts to alleviate the plight of refugees in southern Africa but noted the difficulties of countries faced with sudden influxes of large numbers of refugees.

54. His own country had a population of 750,000 people and over 50,000 registered refugees. It lacked the resources it needed to fulfil its responsibilities to so many refugees for an extended period of time. In countries short of land, infrastructure and basic services, the temporary nature of refugee influxes led to short-term solutions, and the sheer numbers of refugees made long-term integration into the life of host countries impossible. The result was a sharp increase in crime which threatened the stability of the country of asylum. The huge influx of refugees, many of whom were not even registered, into Swaziland had required special efforts on the part of the Government to prevent them from being unlawfully employed and exploited as cheap labour.

55. While his country appreciated the efforts of UNHCR to alleviate the plight of refugees in southern Africa through contingency plans, national disaster plans and emergency management training programmes, he stressed the need for lasting solutions, which could be achieved only if economic and political tensions in the region subsided and regional Governments modified their ideological positions and accommodated groups and individuals holding different views. Some countries, of course, such as those affected by natural disasters or armed conflicts, needed more assistance than others.

56. He welcomed improvements in the refugee situation in Latin America, the Caribbean and South-East Asia and commended the role of UNHCR in Namibia, where over 42,000 refugees were being repatriated voluntarily from neighbouring countries.

57. Mrs. NIKOLIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that despite the voluntary repatriation of over 350,000 refugees in the past year and the success of UNHCR in repatriating over 42,000 Namibians, the overall refugee situation remained far from satisfactory.

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(Mrs. Nikolic, Yugoslavia)

Despite improved international relations, there were still nearly 14 million refugees in the world and UNHCR efforts had been slowed by lack of resources, the reluctance of many countries to accept and resettle new refugees and difficulties in implementing programmes aimed at durable solutions. International refugee agencies must be given the financial resources they needed to alleviate the plight of refugees and lessen the burden on host countries. In that connection, her delegation supported the follow-up activities to the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa and the Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted at the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, a plan which had rightly been commended by the UNHCR Executive Committee. The results of the International Conference on Central American Refugees also represented progress towards solving refugee problems in that region.

58. Her delegation supported all UNHCR efforts to protect refugees, particularly women, children, the disabled and the aged, who required its constant attention. She fully endorsed the request that UNHCR should continue its catalytic role in the area of refugee aid and development, in close co-operation with the relevant United Nations agencies and international and non-governmental organizations. The Executive Committee must become more actively involved in proposing measures to solve the critical financial situation currently facing UNHCR.

59. Lastly, she commended the work being done by UNHCR in Yugoslavia, where the number of refugees had doubled since 1988.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.