

legally binding international treaties in the field of human rights,

*Recalling* its resolution 31/86 of 13 December 1976 and in particular the importance of the entry into force of the International Covenants on Human Rights as a major step in the international efforts to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, thereby contributing greatly to the co-operation of States in the attainment of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* in this respect its resolutions 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966 and 3270 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974,

*Noting with appreciation* that following its appeal several Member States have acceded to the International Covenants on Human Rights,

*Having noted* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>33</sup>

*Bearing in mind* the important responsibilities of the Economic and Social Council in relation to the international Covenants on Human Rights,

*Recognizing* the important role of the Human Rights Committee in the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights as a major step in the international efforts to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Human Rights Committee on its first and second sessions<sup>34</sup> and expresses satisfaction at the serious manner in which the Committee is undertaking its functions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which have extended their co-operation to the Human Rights Committee;

4. *Invites again* all States which have not yet done so to become parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as to consider the possibilities of acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;

5. *Appreciates* that the Human Rights Committee strives for uniform standards in the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and of the Optional Protocol thereto;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the Human Rights Committee informed of the activities of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-third session a report

on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

8. *Recalls* that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights envisages that the Secretary-General shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the Human Rights Committee.

*98th plenary meeting  
8 December 1977*

### 32/67. Report 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<sup>35</sup> and having heard his statement,<sup>36</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 31/35 of 30 November 1976 and taking into account the additional responsibilities assumed by the High Commissioner in different parts of the world for the benefit of an increasing number of refugees and displaced persons,

*Recognizing* the eminently humanitarian character of the various activities of the High Commissioner and the importance of permanent solutions being promoted by his Office, including voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement in other countries,

*Concerned* by infringements of the basic human rights of refugees and the urgent need on the part of Governments to ensure their effective and continued protection,

*Recognizing* the need for further accessions to and effective implementation by Governments of the relevant international instruments, including in particular the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>37</sup> and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,<sup>38</sup>

*Commending* the increasing number of Governments contributing to the High Commissioner's programmes and emphasizing the need for a wider sharing of the financial burden to provide the vital humanitarian assistance required by refugees and displaced persons,

1. *Expresses its deep satisfaction* at the efficient manner in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff continue to accomplish their humanitarian tasks;

2. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office, including those in urgent need of help in Africa, Asia and Latin America;

3. *Further requests* United Nations agencies and programmes to render the fullest possible support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian tasks;

4. *Urges* Governments to extend the necessary co-operation to the High Commissioner in promoting permanent and speedy solutions to the problems facing

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12 (A/32/12 and Corr.1) and Supplement No. 12A (A/32/12/Add.1).

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, Thirty-second Session, Third Committee, 45th meeting, paras. 1-9; and *ibid.*, Third Committee, Sessional Fascicle, corrigendum.

<sup>37</sup> United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 150.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

<sup>33</sup> A/32/188.

<sup>34</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 44 (A/32/44 and Corr.1).

his Office through voluntary repatriation and assistance in rehabilitation of returnees, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries as needed;

5. *Further urges* Governments to facilitate the efforts of the High Commissioner in the field of international protection, *inter alia*:

(a) By considering accession to the relevant international and regional instruments established for the benefit of refugees;

(b) By elaborating appropriate procedures at the national level for the effective implementation of the provisions of these instruments;

(c) By following humanitarian principles with respect to the granting of asylum and ensuring that these are scrupulously observed, including the principle of *non-refoulement* of refugees;

6. *Calls upon* Governments to contribute generously towards the financing of the High Commissioner's humanitarian activities in view of the universal character of the problems facing his Office and the need for a wider financial support of the programmes being undertaken by him.

98th plenary meeting  
8 December 1977

### 32/68. Continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2957 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, in which it decided to review, not later than at its thirty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1978,

*Recognizing* the need for concerted international action on behalf of the increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

*Considering* the outstanding work which has been performed by the Office of the High Commissioner in providing international protection and material assistance to refugees and displaced persons as well as in promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

*Noting with deep appreciation* the effective manner in which the Office of the High Commissioner has been dealing with various essential humanitarian tasks entrusted to it,

1. *Decides* to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1979;

2. *Decides* to review, not later than at its thirty-seventh session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1983.

98th plenary meeting  
8 December 1977

### 32/69. Expression of appreciation to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Noting with deep regret* that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will shortly be relinquishing his duties,

*Recognizing* the progress achieved under his guidance in promoting humanitarian solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons in various parts of the world,

*Considering* his unrelenting efforts to alleviate human suffering through the special humanitarian tasks entrusted to him in addition to the original functions of his Office,

1. *Expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks* to Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan for the effective and dedicated manner in which he has performed his functions as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. *Extends* its good wishes to him for success in his future undertakings.

98th plenary meeting  
8 December 1977

### 32/70. Assistance to refugees in southern Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Noting* the information provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the assistance activities of his Office on behalf of refugees in southern Africa,<sup>39</sup>

*Noting with deep concern* the increasing number of refugees from Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe and recognizing the burden thus imposed upon the receiving countries,

*Noting* the continuing efforts of the High Commissioner to extend adequate assistance to these refugees, particularly in neighbouring African States,

*Recognizing* the close co-operation existing between the Organization of African Unity and the High Commissioner,

1. *Commends* the programmes of assistance already being implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and requests him further to strengthen measures for the benefit of refugees in southern Africa;

2. *Urges* Governments to contribute generously towards the programmes of the High Commissioner and to provide him with the necessary facilities required to assist the refugees in southern Africa, *inter alia* by providing opportunities for local settlement, education and vocational training;

3. *Requests* United Nations agencies and programmes, non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies to extend maximum support to the High Commissioner in his efforts;

4. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his co-operation with the Organization of African Unity

<sup>39</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/32/12 and Corr.1)*, chap. III.