

Refugees, to keep the African refugee situation under close and constant scrutiny and to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1982, a report containing up-to-date information on the condition of refugees in the countries concerned in order to facilitate consideration by the General Assembly, at its thirty-seventh session, of the necessity of convening an international conference in 1983 to review the status of contributions and commitments made at the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, and to assess the needs and measures for further assistance for refugees and returnees in implementation of programmes for their relief, rehabilitation and resettlement;

7. *Invites* governmental bodies of specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to consider, within their sphere of competence, various ways and means to increase substantially assistance to African refugees and returnees;

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to keep under constant review the situation of refugees in Africa in order to ensure maximum international assistance on a global basis;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*97th plenary meeting
14 December 1981*

36/125. 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,⁸⁴ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-second session,⁸⁵ and having heard the High Commissioner's statement,⁸⁶

Recalling its resolutions 35/41 A and B and 35/42 of 25 November 1980,

Expressing deep concern at the persistence and gravity of the problems of refugees and displaced persons in the world, particularly in different parts of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe,

Noting with great appreciation the positive responses of Governments to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner through offers of asylum, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation and financial contributions, as well as the generous support given to the Office of the High Commissioner in its humanitarian task,

Reaffirming the eminently humanitarian and non-political character of the activity of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Extending its congratulations to the Office of the High Commissioner for the award of the 1981 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its work for refugees,

Considering the continuing and urgent need for a substantial international effort to promote durable solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner through voluntary

repatriation or return and resettlement, drawing particular attention to women and children refugees, and disabled and elderly refugees,

Noting with satisfaction that a growing number of States have acceded to the 1951 Convention⁸⁷ and the 1967 Protocol⁸⁸ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Noting with great concern that, despite an increasingly broad understanding of the principles of international protection, refugees still encounter serious difficulties in many parts of the world in obtaining asylum and that they are exposed to the threat of *refoulement*, arbitrary detention and physical violence.

Deploring, in particular, the instances of military attacks on refugee camps in southern Africa and elsewhere and physical attacks on asylum seekers at sea,

Drawing attention to the problem of refugees rescued at sea and the difficulties encountered for their disembarkation, involving threats of *refoulement*,

Welcoming the success achieved by the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva on 9 and 10 April 1981, as a first step in arousing worldwide interest and support for refugees in Africa,

1. *Commends* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the manner in which they have continued to discharge their responsibilities for protecting and assisting refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office;

2. *Takes due note* of the proposals made by the High Commissioner⁸⁹ and generally endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner⁹⁰ to strengthen the management of his Office on the basis of the principles and guidelines of the General Assembly, and welcomes his intention to seek the assistance of the Administrative Management Service of the Secretariat in undertaking expeditiously a review of the managerial methods and organizational structure of his Office, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;⁹¹

3. *Calls upon* the international community to share the burden of assisting refugees and displaced persons the world over, taking into account the economic and demographic absorptive capacity of the countries concerned;

4. *Reaffirms* the fundamental nature of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection to refugees and the importance of promoting durable and speedy solutions, in consultation and agreement with the countries concerned, through voluntary repatriation or return and subsequent assistance in rehabilitation and, whenever appropriate, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner;

5. *Urges* Governments to intensify their support for activities which the High Commissioner is carrying out in accordance with his mandate and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, especially by:

(a) Facilitating the High Commissioner's efforts in the field of international protection, in particular by scrupulously observing the principle of asylum and *non-refoulement* and by protecting asylum seekers in situations of large-scale influx, as endorsed by the Executive Committee of the

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12 A (A/36/12/Add.1).

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, Thirty-sixth Session, Third Committee, 50th meeting, paras. 2-20.

⁸⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

⁸⁹ See A/AC.96/594/Add.1 and Corr.1.

⁹⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 A (A/36/12/Add.1)*, para. 64.

⁹¹ A/AC.96/597.

Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-second session;⁹²

(b) Supporting his efforts to promote, in co-operation with Governments, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations, durable and speedy solutions to the problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office;

6. *Urges* Governments to join in greater international efforts in the suppression of piracy on the high seas, in accordance with their international obligations, and to take appropriate action to protect asylum seekers from acts of violence at sea;

7. *Notes with great concern* the serious humanitarian problems resulting from armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements which are the concern of the High Commissioner, and the need for special measures to protect and ensure the safety of such refugees;

8. *Welcomes* the measures taken to implement the recommendations on the subject of assistance to women refugees and displaced women of concern to the High Commissioner in the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women,⁹³ endorsed in General Assembly resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980;

9. *Commends* the High Commissioner for his special efforts on behalf of disabled refugees on the occasion of the International Year of Disabled Persons;

10. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue participating in the follow-up of the International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and urges the international community to maintain the momentum gained by the Conference in providing assistance to refugees in Africa commensurate with the growing number of African refugees;

11. *Urges* the High Commissioner to provide humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of the vastly increased numbers of refugees in various regions of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe;

12. *Stresses* the importance of maintaining the relief efforts and the resettlement momentum for boat and land cases in South-East Asia, including the Programme of Orderly Departure, and urges all Governments to provide opportunities for durable solutions to those refugees;

13. *Urges* the High Commissioner further to explore the elaboration of arrangements in order to facilitate the disembarkation and resettlement of asylum seekers rescued at sea;

14. *Reaffirms* the High Commissioner's leading responsibility in emergency situations regarding refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office as well as his responsibility in the co-ordination of assistance in those situations and commends him for the considerable progress made in the elaboration of adequate procedures to meet emergency situations, in co-ordination with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system;

15. *Requests* the High Commissioner, while carrying out his responsibilities, to co-ordinate and co-operate closely with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system for greatest efficiency of relief in the case of major emergencies;

16. *Urges* all Governments in a position to do so to contribute generously in order to provide the High Com-

missioner with the necessary means to attain the objectives of his humanitarian programme.

*97th plenary meeting
14 December 1981*

36/126. United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace

The General Assembly.

Recalling its resolution 35/136 of 11 December 1980, in which it endorsed the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women,⁹³ and decided to convene in 1985, at the conclusion of the Decade, a World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women,

Bearing in mind its resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI) of 1 May 1974, containing the Declaration and the Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, containing the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, and 3362 (S-VII) of 16 September 1975 on development and international economic co-operation,

Emphasizing the importance attached in the International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade⁹⁴ to the need to improve the status of women and ensure their full participation in the development process as agents and beneficiaries of development,

Taking note of chapter XXV, on the role of women in development, of the New Delhi Declaration,⁹⁵ adopted by the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Non-Aligned Countries, held at New Delhi from 9 to 13 February 1981,

Emphasizing that the recommendations made in the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the Decade and in other relevant decisions and resolutions adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women should immediately be translated into concrete action by States, the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Welcoming the entry into force on 3 September 1981 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁹⁶ and the growing number of States that have ratified it,

Convinced that the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women must be given the assistance needed to enable it to begin to function as early as possible in the host country,

Noting that the review and appraisal of the progress made by Governments in implementing the Programme of Action will be carried out by the Commission on the Status of Women every two years, beginning with the Commission's twenty-ninth session,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women,⁹⁷

1. *Affirms* that the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Second Half of the United Nations Decade for Women and of the relevant recommendations, resolutions and decisions adopted by the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women should result in the complete integration of women into the development process and in the effective realization of the objectives of the

⁹² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 A (A/36/12/Add.1), para. 57 (2).*

⁹³ *See Report of the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.80.IV.3 and corrigendum), chap. I, sect. A.*

⁹⁴ Resolution 35/56, annex.

⁹⁵ A/36/116 and Corr.1, annex.

⁹⁶ Resolution 34/180, annex.

⁹⁷ A/36/564.