

cost-effectiveness and ensure coherence of action within the Programme as well as coordination, complementarity and non-duplication of such activities throughout the United Nations system;

3. *Endorses* the agreed conclusions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment of 1994<sup>92</sup> regarding coordination by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme of drug control-related policies and activities of the United Nations system, including international financial institutions;

4. *Urges* the governing bodies of the United Nations organizations associated with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control to help ensure effective follow-up by including drug control in their agendas with a view to assessing the activities undertaken in accordance with the Plan and examining how the drug problem is addressed in relevant programmes;

5. *Invites* Member States to inform the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segment of 1996 on progress in international cooperation, especially on specific national efforts to engage the United Nations system and the multilateral development banks in addressing the drug problem;

## VI

### UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMME

1. *Welcomes* the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to implement its mandates within the framework of the international drug control treaties, the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control, the Global Programme of Action and relevant consensus documents;

2. *Notes with concern* the decline of available resources for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;

3. *Urges* all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in particular by increasing voluntary contributions to the Programme, to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

4. *Invites* Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways and means of improving the coordination of United Nations drug control-related activities;

5. *Welcomes* the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-eighth session on the programme budget of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in accordance with the mandate contained in section XVI, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to comply with the approved format and methodology of the programme budget of the Fund, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and encourages the Executive Director to continue his efforts to improve the presentation and transparency of the budget;

<sup>92</sup>See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/49/3/Rev.1)*, chap. III, sect. B.

7. *Stresses* the importance of the meetings of heads of national law enforcement agencies, and encourages them to consider ways to improve their functioning and to strengthen their impact so as to enhance cooperation in the fight against drugs at the regional level;

## VII

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted under the item entitled "International drug control",<sup>93</sup>

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, taking into account the promotion of integrated reporting:

(a) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session an updated report on the status of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

(b) To include, in his annual report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, recommendations on ways and means to improve implementation and provision of information by Member States.

97th plenary meeting  
21 December 1995

### 50/149. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 49/174 of 23 December 1994,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>94</sup> and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,<sup>95</sup>

*Bearing in mind* the fact that most of the affected countries are least developed countries,

*Convinced* of the necessity of strengthening the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation and overall coordination of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

*Welcoming* the prospects for voluntary repatriation and durable solutions to the refugee problems throughout Africa,

*Recalling* its resolution 49/7 of 25 October 1994, in which it endorsed the convening of a regional conference for assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes region,

*Taking into account* resolution CM/Res.1588 (LXII) on refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-second ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 21 to 23 June 1995,<sup>96</sup>

*Recognizing* the need for States to create conditions conducive to the prevention of flows of refugees and displaced persons and to voluntary repatriation,

*Bearing in mind* that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>94</sup> and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,<sup>95</sup>

2. *Notes with concern* the effects of political instabil-

<sup>93</sup>A/50/460 and A/50/461.

<sup>94</sup>A/50/413.

<sup>95</sup>*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/50/12)*.

<sup>96</sup>See A/50/647, annex I.

ity, internal strife, human rights violations, foreign intervention, poverty and natural disasters, such as drought, in increasing the number of refugees and displaced persons in some countries of Africa;

3. *Expresses deep concern* at the serious and far-reaching consequences of the presence of large numbers of refugees and displaced persons in the receiving countries and the implications for their security, their long-term socio-economic development and the environment;

4. *Expresses its appreciation and strong support* for those African Governments and local populations which, in spite of the general deterioration of socio-economic and environmental conditions, as well as over-stretched national resources, continue to accept the additional burdens imposed by increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, in compliance with the relevant principles of asylum;

5. *Commends* the Governments concerned for their sacrifices, for providing assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and for their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation and other measures taken to find appropriate and lasting solutions;

6. *Expresses its gratitude* to the international community for the humanitarian assistance it has continued to render to refugees and displaced persons and to the countries of asylum, and calls upon it to continue to provide assistance to the millions of refugees and displaced persons in Africa;

7. *Expresses its concern* regarding instances, in some parts of Africa, where the fundamental principle of asylum is jeopardized as a result of unlawful expulsion, refoulement, or other threats to life, physical security, dignity and well-being;

8. *Welcomes* the strengthening of cooperation, at all levels, between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Organization of African Unity, and urges both organizations, with relevant subregional bodies, United Nations and non-governmental organizations, the international community and the Governments concerned, to increase their efforts to address the root causes, work out strategies and find durable solutions to the problems of displacement in Africa;

9. *Also welcomes* the initiatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to implement General Assembly resolution 49/7, and endorses the Plan of Action adopted by the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region, held at Bujumbura from 15 to 17 February 1995, as a framework for solution-oriented approaches to the humanitarian problems in the Great Lakes region;

10. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to intensify its protection activities by, *inter alia*, supporting the efforts of African Governments through appropriate training of relevant officers and other capacity-building activities, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles and providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the efforts of Governments and for the important work being done by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations organizations, the International Organization for Migration, non-governmental organizations and other cooperating bodies on the implementation of vol-

untary repatriation of refugees in Africa, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner, in conjunction with the Organization of African Unity and Governments concerned, subregional groupings and other interested parties, actively to continue to seek sustainable solutions to the refugee problem in Africa, in particular through facilitating voluntary return in a dignified and orderly manner;

12. *Appeals* to Governments, United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community to create conditions that can facilitate the voluntary return and the early rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees;

13. *Commends* the Governments of the Great Lakes region and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on their initiatives to promote repatriation within the framework of tripartite agreements on voluntary repatriation of refugees in the region;

14. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to cooperate with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in emergency humanitarian situations in Africa;

15. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in conjunction with host Governments, United Nations and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to undertake an early assessment of the negative impacts of large refugee concentrations on the host communities, with a view to initiating timely and concrete measures to prevent damage and to assist in its repair, especially damage caused by mass refugee influxes to the environment and ecosystems in host countries;

16. *Notes with satisfaction* the voluntary return of millions of refugees to their homelands following the successful repatriation and reintegration operations carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the cooperation and collaboration of many countries hosting refugees, and looks forward to other programmes to assist the voluntary repatriation of all refugees in Africa;

17. *Expresses its concern* about the long stay of refugees in certain African countries, and calls upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to keep under review her programmes in those countries, taking into account the increasing requirements there;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the specialized agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their assistance in mitigating the plight of the large number of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

19. *Expresses the hope* that additional resources will be made available for general refugee programmes to keep pace with refugee needs;

20. *Calls upon* Governments, United Nations organizations, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole to strengthen the emergency response capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the basis of the experience of the emergency in Rwanda, and to continue providing needed resources and operational support to Rwandese refugees and the host countries until a permanent solution can be implemented;

21. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure in areas affected by refugees in countries of asylum;

22. *Calls upon* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide the necessary support and financial assistance to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to enhance her capacities and abilities to implement emergency operations, care and maintenance activities and repatriation and reintegration programmes for the benefit of refugees, returnees and, as appropriate, internally displaced persons;

23. *Appeals* to Member States and international and non-governmental organizations to provide adequate financial, material and technical assistance for relief and rehabilitation programmes for the large number of refugees, voluntary returnees and displaced persons and victims of natural disasters and to the affected countries;

24. *Requests* all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to pay particular attention to meeting the special needs of refugee women and children;

25. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, United Nations humanitarian organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, regional and international financial institutions, the International Organization for Migration and non-governmental organizations to increase the capacity for coordination and delivery of humanitarian emergency assistance and disaster relief in general, with States and others concerned in respect of asylum, relief, repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, including those refugees in urban areas;

26. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to review her general programmes in Africa to take account of the increasing requirements in that region and with a view to continuing her efforts and expanding her activities in close collaboration with the Organization of African Unity, regional organizations and governmental and non-governmental organizations in Africa, in order to consolidate aid and increase essential services to refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", and an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996.

*97th plenary meeting  
21 December 1995*

#### **50/150. Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* its resolution 49/172 of 23 December 1994,

*Aware* that the majority of refugees are children and women,

*Bearing in mind* that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable refugees and require special assistance and care,

*Mindful* of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of those unaccompanied minors is their return to and reunification with their families,

*Noting* that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has developed revised Guidelines on Refugee Children, issued in May 1994,

*Noting also* the efforts of the High Commissioner to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and that further efforts need to be exerted to this effect,

*Recalling* the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>97</sup> and the 1951 Convention<sup>97</sup> and the 1967 Protocol<sup>98</sup> relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>99</sup>

2. *Expresses its deep concern* at the plight of unaccompanied refugee minors, and emphasizes the urgent need for their early identification and for timely, detailed and accurate information on their number and whereabouts;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the return to and reunification with their families of unaccompanied refugee minors;

4. *Urges* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all United Nations organizations, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to take appropriate steps to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interests of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

5. *Condemns* all acts of exploitation of unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as soldiers or human shields in armed conflict and their recruitment in military forces, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

6. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations and international organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied minors in the areas of relief, education, health and psychological rehabilitation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*97th plenary meeting  
21 December 1995*

#### **50/151. Comprehensive consideration and review of the problems of refugees, returnees, displaced persons and related migratory movements**

*The General Assembly,*

<sup>97</sup>United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>98</sup>*Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>99</sup>A/50/555.