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OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Mario L. DE LEON (Philippines)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 1990, 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" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered the item at its 43rd to 47th, 49th and 55th meetings, on 15, 16, 19, 21 and 28 November 1990. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/45/SR.43-47, 49 and 55).

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

(a) Report of the Economic and Social Council, chapter III, section E (A/45/3); 1/

(b) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/45/12 2/ and Add.1); 3/

1/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/45/3/Rev.1).

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/45/12).

3/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/45/12/Add.1).

79.

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees (A/45/449);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Central American Refugees (A/45/450);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa (A/45/480);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "The co-ordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugees flows" (A/45/649 and Corr.1 and Add.1);

(g) Letter dated 2 August 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/378).

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 15 November, the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement (A/C.3/45/SR.43).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.60

5. At the 49th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Tunisia, 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.3/45/L.60) entitled "International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa".

6. At the 55th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.60 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution I).

7. After the draft resolution was adopted, the representatives of the United States of America and Italy (on behalf of the Twelve States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Community) made statements (A/C.3/45/SR.55).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.61

8. At the 49th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chad, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mauritania, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Somalia, the Sudan, Thailand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/45/L.61) entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". Subsequently, Yugoslavia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the 55th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.61 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution II).

10. After the the draft resolution was adopted, the representative of the United States of America ^{4/} made a statement.

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.63

11. At the 49th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Guinea, on behalf of Algeria, Benin, Bolivia, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, the Sudan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/45/L.63) entitled "Emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons". Subsequently, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt and France joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the 55th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.63 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.64

13. At the 49th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Djibouti, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/45/L.64) entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". Subsequently, Argentina and the Philippines joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Sweden orally revised it as follows:

(a) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "are commensurate with" were replaced by the word "meet" before the words "the current size";

(b) In the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "timely and" before the words "adequate resettlement" were deleted.

^{4/} The representative of the United States of America indicated that his delegation had not participated in the action taken on the draft resolution.

15. At the 55th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.64, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution IV).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.65

16. At the 49th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Guatemala, on behalf of Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Spain, Sweden, Uruguay and Venezuela, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.3/45/L.65) entitled "International Conference on Central American refugees".

17. At the 55th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/45/L.65 without a vote (see para. 18, draft resolution V).

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 44/136 of 15 December 1989 on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa,

Gravely concerned about the continuous deterioration of the situation in southern Africa arising from the domination and oppression of the people of South Africa by the minority racist régime of South Africa,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General 5/ on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, held at Oslo from 22 to 24 August 1988,

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,

Convinced of the necessity to strengthen the capacity of the identified focal points within the United Nations system for the implementation and the 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 to these persons,

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; 6/
3. Expresses its gratitude to the countries and organizations that have given assistance to the countries of 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 the specific tasks and responsibilities assigned 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 assigning 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. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the identified focal points at the field level to enable them to respond more effectively to government requests for assistance to refugees and displaced persons;
9. Once again urges all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake the measures required of them under the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action;
10. Decides to consider this question at its forty-sixth session on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/55 of 24 July 1990 on the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting also the note verbale dated 17 May 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations 7/ addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

1. Decides to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 43 to 44;
2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to elect the one additional member at its first regular session in 1991.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the civil strife that has in the past year ravaged the West African State of Liberia, decimated its population and forced thousands of Liberians to become refugees abroad and displaced persons within their own homeland,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 8/ in which he asserts that developments in the West African subregion necessitate new emergency operations,

Deeply concerned about the mass exodus of innocent victims of the Liberian civil strife into neighbouring West African countries and the enormous burden that this movement has placed on the infrastructure and already insufficient resources of the West African countries concerned,

7/ E/1990/89.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/45/12).

Awake that the majority of the refugees and displaced persons are women and children who are particularly vulnerable to the hardship imposed on them by the unfortunate circumstances,

Noting the determined and sustained efforts being made by the Governments of the West African countries hardest hit by the crisis to cater for and restore faith and hope among the Liberian refugees in their countries,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for having taken steps to encourage continued and concerted international action in favour of Liberian refugees and displaced persons;

2. Acknowledges, with grateful appreciation, the emergency humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the governmental and intergovernmental agencies to the thousands of Liberian refugees and displaced persons in the West African subregion;

3. Appeals to the organizations of the United Nations system, Member States and international and voluntary organizations, including non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to intensify urgent humanitarian and other assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of the Liberian civil strife taking refuge in neighbouring West African countries;

4. Also appeals to the organizations of the United Nations system, governmental and intergovernmental bodies as well as non-governmental organizations to provide the necessary material and financial assistance for the return and resettlement of the victims of the Liberian civil war;

5. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue with his efforts to mobilize additional resources necessary for the rehabilitation of Liberian refugees and displaced persons and to find a durable solution to the problem of Liberian refugees;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

A

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office, 9/ as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner on the work of its forty-first session, 10/ having heard the statement made by the Officer-in-charge of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on 15 November 1990 and having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, 11/

Recalling its resolutions 44/137 and 44/138 of 15 December 1989,

Reaffirming the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner, as well as the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's international 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 one hundred and seven States are now parties to the 1951 Convention 12/ and/or the 1967 Protocol 13/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Welcoming the valuable support extended by Governments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner in carrying out its humanitarian tasks,

Noting with concern that refugee protection continues to be seriously jeopardized in many States, including through expulsion, refoulement and other threats to the physical security, dignity and well-being of refugees,

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/45/12).

10/ Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/45/12/Add.1).

11/ A/45/449.

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

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

Commending the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for its efforts 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 United Nations High Commissioner to search for durable and timely solutions to the problems of refugees based on new approaches that meet the current size and characteristics of these problems and are built on the respect of fundamental human rights and basic internationally agreed protection principles and concerns,

Aware of the need for the international community to continue to provide adequate resettlement opportunities for those refugees for whom no other durable solution is in sight,

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 United High Commissioner into their territories, and emphasizing the need to share the burden of these States to the maximum extent possible through international assistance, including development-oriented assistance,

Aware that the application of the principle of international solidarity implies an improved sharing of responsibilities and arrangements between relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations for the financing and implementation of related activities and that such activities need also include specific development assistance to avert new flows of refugees as well as solving problems of refugees, returnees and areas hosting them,

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

2. Recognizes the urgent need to put all issues related to refugees, asylum-seekers and other migratory flows firmly on the international political agenda especially in view of the fortieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and in this connection welcomes initiatives to promote further awareness and support for the Office, including accessions to this instrument;

3. Calls upon all States to refrain from taking 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 ensure proper determination procedures and to continue to give humane treatment and grant asylum to refugees;

4. Condemns violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular those perpetrated by military or armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements, forced recruitment into armed forces and other forms of violence, and reiterates the conclusions on military or armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner at its thirty-eighth session; 14/

5. Calls upon States to give high priority to the rights of refugee children, to their survival and to their protection and development as reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child 15/ and in the World Declaration and Plan of Action on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, adopted by the World Summit for Children; 16/

6. Endorses the High Commissioner's policy on refugee women, which provides for the integration of refugee women into all the programmes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner, as well as the conclusion on refugee women and international protection, adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner at its forty-first session; 2/

7. Urges States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the implementation of the policy on refugee women through their own efforts;

8. 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;

9. Underlines the concept of State responsibility particularly as it relates to the countries of origin, including addressing root causes, facilitating voluntary repatriation and the return of their nationals who are not refugees;

14/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/42/12/Add.1).

15/ Resolution 44/25.

16/ A/45/625, Annex.

10. Urges all States to support the Office of the United Nations 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, which remains the most desirable solution to the problem of refugees or, wherever appropriate, through integration into countries of asylum or through resettlement in third countries;

11. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Committee at its extraordinary session in May 1990 ^{17/} to adopt the report by the Temporary Working Group, which was established by the Executive Committee at its fortieth session, and calls upon all parties concerned to continue to implement the recommendations contained in that report;

12. Endorses the decisions on administrative and financial matters adopted by the Executive Committee at its forty-first session, and notes with satisfaction the efforts under way to find an appropriate mechanism that will address the need of the High Commissioner to have a higher degree of flexibility to ensure funding of ongoing needs under approved general programmes and of initial emergency needs under special programmes pending the receipt of contributions pledged;

13. Calls upon the High Commissioner to sustain his efforts in assuring greater inter-agency co-operation in responding to the needs of refugees and, in particular, in seeking to complement the Office's humanitarian endeavours with development initiatives from specialized agencies so as to attain, in an effective and efficient manner, further and more concrete results towards achieving durable solutions, and calls also upon the member Governments to support these efforts in the governing bodies of these agencies;

14. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/78 of 27 July 1990 which, inter alia, requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to initiate, with a view to recommending ways of maximizing co-operation and co-ordination among the various organizations of the United Nations system, a system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of these organizations in the co-ordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees, and the full spectrum of their needs, in supporting the efforts of the affected countries, and report on the results to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991;

15. Endorses the conclusion on the note on international protection adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner at its forty-first session which, in particular, recognizes the importance of human rights and humanitarian principles and that the current size and characteristics of the refugee and asylum problem necessitate appropriate reassessment of international responses to the problem to date, with a view to developing comprehensive approaches to meet present realities, and at the same time notes the difference between refugees and persons seeking to migrate for economic and related reasons;

^{17/} A/AC.96/747.

16. Also endorses, with these objectives in mind, the conclusion on solutions and protection adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner at its forty-first session, which takes note of the establishment of the Executive Committee Working Group on Solutions and Protection, which will present a report to the Executive Committee at its forty-second session;

17. Further endorses the conclusions of the Executive Committee at its forty-first session on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees and on repatriation to Cambodia, welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to designate the High Commissioner as his Special Representative to co-ordinate efforts with all parties concerned to promote the phased and orderly return of non-refugees in a manner that is fully compatible with the humanitarian mandate of his Office and under conditions of safety and dignity, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor closely the progress towards the implementation of said conclusions and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

18. Endorses the conclusions of the Executive Committee at its forty-first session on the International Conference on Central American Refugees and on the situation of refugees in Africa, and calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner and all other parties concerned to continue their efforts in implementing these conclusions;

19. 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 large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers on a permanent or temporary basis;

20. Urges the international community, including non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the principle of international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, to continue to assist the above-mentioned countries and the High Commissioner in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden that the care for refugees and asylum-seekers represents;

21. 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 and timely 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 United Nations High Commissioner are met.

B

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, 2956 B (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 3271 B (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and 35/41 B of 25 November 1980 in connection with the Emergency Fund of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner in relation to the funding and administration of programmes and projects, including those aimed at responding to emergency situations,

Authorizes the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner to determine in future the terms and conditions for the operation of the Emergency Fund.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

International Conference on Central American refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling 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, 43/118 of 8 December 1988 and 44/139 of 15 December 1989,

Recalling that the International Conference on Central American Refugees is related to the initiative of the Central American Presidents expressed in the procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America (Esquipulas II), 18/ as indicated in the San Salvador communiqué on the Central American refugees, of 9 September 1988, 19/

Recognizing the importance and the continuing validity of the Declaration of the International Conference on Central American Refugees 20/ held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989, and especially the framework contained in the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American refugees, returnees and displaced persons, 20/

Noting the establishment of the national and international follow-up mechanisms contemplated in the Plan of Action of the Conference,

Taking into account that the Conference has become an integral part of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America, 21/ as outlined in General Assembly resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988, thus responding to the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

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

19/ A/C.3/43/6, annex.

20/ A/44/527, Corr.1, annex.

21/ A/42/949, annex.

Recalling also the important declarations of support for the Conference process and its objectives contained in the communiqués issued by the Central American Presidents following the summit meetings at Tela, Honduras on 7 August 1989, Montelimar, Nicaragua on 3 April 1990, and Antigua, Guatemala on 17 June 1990; in General Assembly resolution 44/139 of 13 March 1990 and in resolution 1021 (XIX-0/89) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States; in the conclusion of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme 22/ and lastly, in the communiqué 23/ of the meeting between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the European Community and of Central America, held at Dublin on 9 and 10 April 1990,

Noting the generous support provided by the participating countries for the proposals presented by the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico at the first international meeting of the Follow-up Committee,

Convinced that peace, development and democracy are essential in order to solve the problem of uprooted populations in the region,

Recognizing the valuable co-operation of the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme with the affected countries through the Conference Joint Support Unit, to ensure the follow-up of the Plan of Action and the proper implementation of the objectives and proposals contained therein,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made in the region through dialogue and national reconciliation, which contribute to the consolidation of peace and the strengthening of democratic processes,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Secretary-General 24/ and of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees relating to the Conference; 25/

2. Welcomes with satisfaction the meetings held by the Follow-up Committee established by the Conference as the mechanism provided in the Concerted Plan of Action, and encourages further meetings with a view to the effective follow-up of activities related to the implementation of plans and projects in favour of displaced persons in Central America;

22/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/44/12/Add.1), para. 28.

23/ A/44/944-S/21282, annex II.

24/ A/45/450.

25/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplements Nos. 12 and 12A (A/45/12 and Add.1).

3. Recognizes the efforts made by the affected countries to establish conditions conducive to resolving the problem of uprooted populations in the region;

4. Urges the affected countries according to their possibilities, to strengthen their efforts to deal with the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to adapt the solutions to national and regional development programmes and to action aimed, specifically, at eradicating extreme poverty;

5. Agrees further on the need for projects in favour of refugees, returnees and displaced persons to promote, inter alia:

- (a) The participation of women;
- (b) The physical and intellectual development of children;
- (c) The preservation of ethnic and cultural values;
- (d) The protection of the environment;

6. Reaffirms its conviction that the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of displaced persons to their countries or communities of origin is one of the most positive signs of the progress of peace in the region;

7. Expresses its conviction that the process of return to and reintegration in the countries and communities of origin should take place in conditions of dignity and security and with the necessary guarantees to ensure that the affected populations are included in the respective national development plans;

8. Reaffirms also the continuing validity of the Concerted Plan of Action as a framework for solving the problems posed in the affected countries by the massive presence of uprooted populations from the Central American region, while recognizing that this constitutes only an initial response to the many problems to which uprootedness gives rise;

9. Expresses its appreciation for the resources committed to finance the proposals submitted by the Governments of Central America, Belize and Mexico at the first international meeting of the Conference Follow-up Committee and welcomes with satisfaction the willingness expressed by the Follow-up Committee to give favourable consideration to future projects submitted by the affected countries within the Conference framework and to explore all possible sources for funding them;

10. Stresses in particular, the need to support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme in the discharge of the special function assigned to them by the Secretary-General of the United Nations within the framework of the International Support and Verification Committee in order to provide them with the resources required for assisting the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families, as well as the Nicaraguan refugees being repatriated voluntarily;

11. Urges Member States, organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and subregional organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in humanitarian tasks in favour of the Central American refugees, returnees and displaced persons, to continue and increase their assistance and support for the responsible authorities of the affected countries in the implementation and follow-up of the guidelines, goals and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action, and expresses its gratitude to all the national and international organizations engaged in assistance to the uprooted populations and in the development of the region;

12. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme to continue their support for the affected countries in the implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action, especially through the activities of the Conference Joint Support Unit;

13. Urges the responsible authorities to maintain and strengthen measures to ensure the efficient implementation of the proposed programmes;

14. Stresses the importance of strengthening and developing the follow-up and promotion mechanisms established under the Plan of Action, in particular the support groups, in order to ensure co-ordination and co-operation between all the parties involved, and calls upon the Governments of the region to take the necessary measures to facilitate this process;

15. Recognizes also the importance of the role played by non-governmental organizations, as well as that of the affected populations in identifying their needs and participating in the planning and execution of projects in co-ordination with national committees and in accordance with the Plan of Action, and urges them to continue in this humanitarian and non-political endeavour;

16. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.
