



**Extracts of international documents encouraging States to accede to
the 1954 Convention relating to the status of stateless persons and the
1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness**

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General Assembly Resolutions

- **General Assembly Resolution 64/127. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 18 December 2009**

<http://www.un.org/ga/64/resolutions.shtml>

The General Assembly,

[...]

4. *Notes* that sixty-five States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that thirty-seven States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

- **General Assembly Resolution 63/148. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 18 December 2008**

<http://www.un.org/ga/63/resolutions.shtml>

The General Assembly,

[...]

5. *Notes* that sixty-three States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that thirty-five States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

- **General Assembly Resolution 62/124. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 18 December 2007**

<http://www.un.org/ga/62/resolutions.shtml>

The General Assembly,

[...]

5. *Notes* that sixty-two States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that thirty-four States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

- **General Assembly Resolution 50/152. Office of the United Nations High**

Commissioner for Refugees, 9 February 1996

<http://www.unhcr.org/42bc05372.html>

The General Assembly,

[...]

15. Requests the Office of the High Commissioner, in view of the limited number of States party to these instruments, actively to promote accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness, as well as to provide relevant technical and advisory services pertaining to the preparation and implementation of nationality legislation to interested States;

• General Assembly Resolution 49/169. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 24 February 1995

<http://www.unhcr.org/42bc095a2.html>

The General Assembly,

[...]

20. Calls upon States to assist the High Commissioner to fulfill her responsibilities, under General Assembly resolution 3274 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, with respect to the reduction of statelessness, including the promotion of accessions to and full implementation of international instruments relating to statelessness;

Executive Committee Conclusions

- **Conclusion No. 106 (LVII) on Identification, Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons, Executive Committee Conclusions, 6 October 2006**

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/print?tbl=EXCOM&id=453497302>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(n) *Encourages* States to give consideration to acceding to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and, in regard to States Parties, to consider lifting reservations;

(u) *Encourages* States which are not yet Parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons to treat stateless persons lawfully residing on their territory in accordance with international human rights law; and to consider, as appropriate, facilitating the naturalization of habitually and lawfully residing stateless persons in accordance with national legislation;

- **Conclusion No. 102 (LVI) – 2005**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/43575ce3e.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(y) *Welcomes* the accession of Senegal to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; *acknowledges* UNHCR's role, where applicable, in providing technical and operational support and advisory services to States with the aim of addressing the problem of statelessness and in furthering the protection of stateless persons, where necessary; and *calls on* States, in cooperation with UNHCR and other relevant actors to address the needs of persons in protracted situations of statelessness and to assist stateless persons to access legal remedies to redress statelessness, in particular that which results from arbitrary deprivation of nationality.

- **Conclusion No. 99 (LV) – 2004**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/41750ef74.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(z) *Welcomes* the accession of Uruguay and the Czech Republic to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and of Liberia and Lesotho to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; and encourages UNHCR, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Convention, to renew its efforts to promote further accession to both Conventions;

- **Conclusion No. 95 (LIV) – 2003**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3f93aede7.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(w) *Encourages* UNHCR's efforts to promote all State activities that reduce or resolve statelessness and to promote further accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as effective tools for the prevention of statelessness, which may lead to the reduction of refugee flows and the implementation of durable solutions, and reiterates its encouragement for States to consider accession to these instruments, where appropriate;

- **Conclusion No. 90 (LII) - 2001**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3bd3e3024.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(p) *Reiterates* its call for States to consider accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and encourages UNHCR to continue to promote further accessions to and full implementation of both instruments by the States concerned;

- **Conclusion No. 87 (L) – 1999**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c6ec.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(s) *Notes* with concern the persistence of statelessness problems; welcomes the accession of Chad to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as well as the accession of St Vincent and the Grenadines and Zimbabwe to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; and encourages UNHCR to continue to promote further accessions to and full implementation of both instruments by the States concerned;

- **Conclusion No. 85 (XLIX) – 1998**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c6e30.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(m) *Reaffirms* the importance of the right to a nationality and calls on States to adopt all necessary measures to prevent or reduce the incidence of statelessness, including through national legislation and, as appropriate, accession to and implementation of the Statelessness Conventions; draws particular and urgent attention in this regard to the situation of children of refugees and asylum-seekers born in asylum countries who could be stateless unless appropriate legislation and registration procedures are in place and are followed;

- **Conclusion No. 81 (XLVIII) – 1997**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c690.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(o) *Welcomes* the growing number of accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and encourages UNHCR to continue its efforts, in cooperation with interested organizations, to promote further accessions to both instruments, as well as to provide technical and advisory services and training globally, to disseminate information on statelessness and nationality issues, and to further its cooperation with States and other organizations interested in this area;

- **Conclusion No. 79 (XLVII) – 1996**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c430.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(g) *Recalls* also the importance of addressing the problem of statelessness, including through accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, welcomes the accession of Brazil and Guatemala to the 1954 Convention and of Azerbaijan to both statelessness conventions, and calls upon other States to consider accession to these instruments;

- **Conclusion No. 78 (XLVI) – 1995 – Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c443f.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(c) *Requests* UNHCR actively to promote accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, in view of the limited number of States parties to these instruments, as well as to provide relevant technical and advisory services pertaining to the preparation and implementation of nationality legislation to interested States;

- **Conclusion No. 74 (XLV) – 1994**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c6a4.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(ee) *Notes* with concern the persistent problems of stateless persons in various regions and the emergence of new situations of statelessness, and, acknowledging the responsibilities already entrusted to the High Commissioner by the United Nations General Assembly with respect to the prevention of statelessness (General Assembly resolution 3274 (XXIX)), calls upon UNHCR to strengthen its efforts in this domain, including promoting accessions to the Convention relating to the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, training for UNHCR staff and government officials, and a systematic gathering of information on the dimension of the problem, and to keep the Executive Committee informed of these activities;

- **Conclusion No. 68 (XLIII) – 1992**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c6e1c.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(y) *Reiterates* its call to States and relevant international agencies actively to explore and promote measures favorable to stateless persons and, recognizing the absence of an international body with a general mandate for these persons, calls upon the High Commissioner to continue her efforts generally on behalf of stateless individuals and to work actively to promote adherence to and implementation of the international instruments relating to statelessness.

- **Conclusion No. 65 (XLII) – 1991**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c404.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(r) *Reaffirms* Conclusion No. 50 (1) (XXXIX), reiterates its call to States actively to explore and promote measures favorable to stateless persons, including accession to the international instruments pertaining to stateless persons, and in this connection believes it would be useful for United Nations human rights bodies to address statelessness issues, including the problem of arbitrary deprivation of nationality and the content of the right to a nationality;

- **Conclusion No. 50 (XXXIX) – 1988**

<http://www.unhcr.org/excom/EXCOM/3ae68c9510.html>

The Executive Committee,

[...]

(l) *Noted* the close connection between the problems of refugees and of stateless persons and invited States actively to explore and promote measures favorable to stateless persons, including accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction Statelessness, as well as the adoption of legislation to protect the basic rights of stateless persons and to eliminate sources of statelessness;

Human Rights Council

- **Human Rights Council Resolution 20/5. Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, 16 July 2012**

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/5016631b2.pdf>

The Human Rights Council,

[...]

15. *Encourages* States to consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction on Statelessness, if they have not already done so;

- **Human Rights Council Resolution 20/4. The right to nationality: women and children, 16 July 2012**

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/503dd5422.pdf>

The Human Rights Council,

[...]

12. *Encourages* States to consider acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness if they have not already done so;

- **Human Rights Council Resolution 13/02. Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, 25 March 2010**

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/13session/A.HRC.RES.13.2_AEV.pdf

The Human Rights Council,

[...]

5. *Acknowledges* that 2011 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and encourages States that have not acceded to the Convention and to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons to consider doing so;

- **Human Rights Council Resolution 10/13. Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, 26 March 2009**

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/10session/Unedited_versionL.11Revised.doc

The Human Rights Council,

[...]

5. *Encourages* States that have not done so to consider acceding to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons;

- **Human Rights Council Resolution 7/10. Human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, 27 March 2008**

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/E/HRC/resolutions/A_HRC_RES_7_10.pdf

The Human Rights Council,
[...]

Calls upon States that have not already done so to consider accession to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons;

Special procedures of the Human Rights Council

Independent Expert on minority issues

- **Report of the independent expert on minority issues, Gay McDougall. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, , A/HRC/7/23, 28 February 2008**

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/113/51/PDF/G0811351.pdf?OpenElement>

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?m=149

82. States are urged to ratify or accede to all relevant international conventions, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, to ensure that nationality legislation is consistent with such standards and to fully conform to international obligations.

Independent Expert on the right of non-citizens

- **Final report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. David Weissbrodt. Prevention of discrimination, The rights of non-citizens, submitted in accordance with Sub-Commission decision 2000/103, Commission resolution 2000/104 and Economic and Social Council decision 2000/283**

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G03/143/95/PDF/G0314395.pdf?OpenElement>

32. Since the seven principal human rights treaties deal with many of the problems encountered by non-citizens, States should pursue universal ratification and implementation of those treaties - particularly, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. States, as appropriate, should also ratify and implement such other relevant treaties as the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, ILO Conventions Nos. 97, 118, 143, etc.; the Conventions on the Reduction of Statelessness and relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and optional Protocols, Protocols Nos. 4 and 7 to the European Convention on Human Rights; and the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

- **Statement on Parliamentary Action in Support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Refugee Protection, Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 188th session (Panama, 20 April 2011)**

<http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/188/UNHCR-statement.htm>

[...]

we reaffirm that *the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* are the principal international instruments for addressing statelessness. We encourage all States that have not yet done so to accede to or ratify these instruments and lift any reservations lodged at the time of accession.

Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)

- **Resolution on the Half-Day Special Meeting on "Legal Identity and Statelessness", 8 April 2006**

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=44eaddc54>

The Asian African Legal Consultative Organization at its Forty-Fifth Session,
[...]

6. Invites Member States to consider the possibility of acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness to address the plight of stateless persons in an effective way;

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region

- **Dar es-Salaam Declaration on Peace, Security and development in the Great Lakes region, November 2004**

http://www.icglr.org/common/docs/docs_repository/declarationdar-es-salaam.pdf

1. **We**, the Heads of State and Government of Member countries of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, meeting in Dar Es-Salaam, on 19 and 20 November 2004, under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union;
[...]

68. **Adopt** a common regional approach for the ratification and implementation of the UN Conventions on Statelessness, **harmonize** related national laws and standards, and **provide** refugees and displaced persons with identification documents enabling them to have access to basic services and exercise their rights;

Organization of American States

- **Resolution of the General Assembly, AG/RES. 2787 (XLIII-O/13), Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless**

Persons in the Americas (Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 5, 2013)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
[...]

CONSIDERING that at the Ministerial Meeting of Member States of the United Nations on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and the 50th Anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961, held in Geneva on December 7 and 8, 2011, the participating states recognized that “the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are the principal international statelessness instruments, which provide important standards for the prevention and resolution of statelessness and safeguards for the protection of stateless people,” and considered becoming a party to those Conventions, where appropriate, and/or strengthening their policies for preventing and reducing statelessness;

[...]

CONSIDERING ALSO that in the Brasilia Declaration on the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons in the Americas of November 11, 2010, it was resolved to “urge countries in the Americas to consider acceding to the international instruments on statelessness,

[...]

RECOGNIZING ALSO that 15 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have acceded to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; that nine are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; that Honduras recently became party to both international instruments; and that Ecuador and Paraguay recently became parties to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;

[...]

EMPHASIZING the importance of the right to nationality in the Americas, recognized in Article XIX of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in Article 20 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as the relevance of promoting accession to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;

[...]

RESOLVES:

1. To invite those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the international instruments in the area of stateless

persons, and to promote the adoption of procedures and institutional mechanisms for their application, in accordance with those instruments.

2. To emphasize the importance of the international instruments (proposed by the delegation of Canada) for the protection of stateless persons and for the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and to urge member states to follow up on the specific commitments entered into during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, with technical support from the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

- **Resolution of the General Assembly, AG/RES. 2599 (XL-O/10), Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons in the Americas (Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2010)**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
[...]

Underscoring that 2011 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness; and

[...]

Resolves [...]

1. To emphasize the importance of the universal instruments for the protection of stateless persons: the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

2. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the international instruments in the area of stateless persons, and to promote the adoption of procedures and institutional mechanisms for their application, in accordance with those instruments.

- **Resolution of the General Assembly, AG/RES. 2047 (XXXIV-O/04), The Protection of Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas (Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 8, 2004)**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
[...]

Resolves [...]

2. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider signature and/or ratification of, or accession to, as appropriate, the international instruments on refugees and statelessness or to consider withdrawing reservations made upon ratification or accession, as well as the adoption of necessary procedures and institutional mechanisms

for the determination of refugee status and for the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees, in keeping with the principles established in the international and regional instruments, as applicable.

- **Resolution of the General Assembly, AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03), The Protection of Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas (Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 10, 2003)**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
[...]
Resolves [...]

2. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying, or acceding to, as the case may be, the international instruments on refugees and statelessness, or to consider the possibility of withdrawing the reservations entered at the time of ratification or accession, and to consider adopting the procedures and institutional mechanisms necessary for their effective implementation, in keeping with the principles established in international and regional instruments.

- **Resolution of the General Assembly, AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02) The Protection of Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas (Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on June 4, 2002)**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
[...]
Resolves [...]

2. To reiterate its appeal to member states that have not yet done so to consider, in due course, signing, ratifying, or acceding to the international instruments on refugees and statelessness and adopting the procedures and institutional mechanisms necessary for their effective implementation, in accordance with the criteria established in universal and regional instruments, and to consider withdrawing reservations made at the time of ratification or accession.

Council of Europe

- **Recommendation R (1999) 18 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the Avoidance and Reduction of Statelessness**

<http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/refworld/rwmain?docid=3ae6b3964>

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

[...]

Hoping that as many member States as possible will soon sign and ratify the 1997 European Convention on Nationality, (...)