

10. *Decides* to consider this question at its forty-sixth session on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

*68th plenary meeting  
14 December 1990*

**45/138. 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,

*Taking note also* of the note verbale dated 17 May 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General<sup>199</sup> regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner,

1. *Decides* to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from forty-three to forty-four;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the one additional member at its first regular session of 1991.

*68th plenary meeting  
14 December 1990*

**45/139. 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 or displaced persons within their own homeland,

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,<sup>200</sup> 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,

*Aware* 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 to 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 High Commissioner to continue 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.

*68th plenary meeting  
14 December 1990*

**45/140. 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,<sup>200</sup> as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its forty-first session,<sup>201</sup> noting the statement made by the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the High Commissioner on 15 November 1990,<sup>202</sup> and having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees,<sup>203</sup>

*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 High

<sup>199</sup> E/1990/89.

<sup>200</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/45/12).*

<sup>201</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/45/12/Add.1).

<sup>202</sup> *Ibid.*, *Forty-fifth Session, Third Committee*, 43rd meeting, and corrigendum.

<sup>203</sup> A/45/449.

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<sup>204</sup> and/or the 1967 Protocol<sup>205</sup> relating to the Status of Refugees,

*Welcoming* the valuable support extended by Governments to the Office of the 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,

*Commending* the Office of the 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 High Commissioner in its 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 respect for 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 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 also* 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 to solve problems of refugees and returnees and areas hosting them,

*Commending* the Office of the 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 the

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 High Commissioner and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and in this connection welcomes initiatives to promote further awareness of 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 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 to 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 and armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its thirty-eighth session;<sup>206</sup>

5. *Calls upon* States to give high priority to the rights of refugee children and to their survival, protection and development as reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child<sup>52</sup> and in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s,<sup>53</sup> adopted by the World Summit for Children in New York on 30 September 1990;

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 High Commissioner, as well as the conclusion on refugee women and international protection adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session;<sup>207</sup>

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 and facilitating voluntary repatriation and the return of their nationals who are not refugees;

<sup>204</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>205</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>206</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/42/12/Add.1)*, para. 206.

<sup>207</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 23.

10. *Urges* all States to support the Office of the 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 remain 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 of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its extraordinary session in May 1990 to adopt the report of the Temporary Working Group<sup>208</sup> 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 of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session,<sup>209</sup> 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 humanitarian endeavours of the Office of the High Commissioner 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 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, in which, *inter alia*, the Council requested 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 to 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 High Commissioner at its forty-first session,<sup>210</sup> in which, in particular, the Executive Committee recognized the importance of human rights and humanitarian principles and recognized 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 noted the

difference between refugees and persons seeking to migrate for economic and related reasons;

16. *Also endorses*, with these objectives in mind, the conclusion on solutions and protection adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session,<sup>211</sup> in which the Executive Committee noted the establishment of the 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 of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees<sup>212</sup> and on repatriation to Cambodia,<sup>213</sup> 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 these conclusions and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

18. *Endorses* the conclusions on the International Conference on Central American Refugees<sup>214</sup> and on the situation of refugees in Africa,<sup>215</sup> adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session, and calls upon the Office of the 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 countries referred to in paragraph 19 above 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 High Commissioner are met.

68th plenary meeting  
14 December 1990

<sup>208</sup> A/AC.96/742.

<sup>209</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/45/12/Add.1), para. 29.

<sup>210</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 21.

<sup>211</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 22.

<sup>212</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25.

<sup>213</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 26.

<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 27.

<sup>215</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 28.

## 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 for Refugees 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 for Refugees to determine in future the terms and conditions for the operation of the Emergency Fund of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

68th plenary meeting  
14 December 1990

#### 45/141. International Conference on Central American Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

Recalling its 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 also 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 concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting in August 1987,<sup>216</sup> as indicated in the San Salvador communiqué on the Central American refugees, of 9 September 1988,<sup>217</sup>

Recognizing the importance and validity of the Declaration of the International Conference on Central American Refugees,<sup>218</sup> held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989, and especially of the framework contained in the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, adopted by the Conference,<sup>218</sup>

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

Taking into account that the Conference has become an integral part of the Special Plan of Economic Co-operation for Central America,<sup>219</sup> as referred to in General Assembly resolution 42/231, thus responding to the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Recalling the important declarations of support for the Conference process and its objectives contained in the communiqués issued by the Central American Pres-

idents 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 and in resolution 1021 (XIX-0/89) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States; in the conclusion adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the Guatemala Declaration and the Concerted Plan of Action;<sup>215</sup> and, lastly, in the communiqué of the meeting between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the European Community and of Central America,<sup>220</sup> held at Dublin on 9 and 10 April 1990,

Noting the generous support provided by the countries participating in the First International Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference for the proposals presented at the Meeting by the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico,

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 Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme with the affected countries through the Joint Support Unit of the Conference to ensure the follow-up of the Concerted 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 report of the Secretary-General<sup>221</sup> and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees relating to the International Conference on Central American Refugees;<sup>222</sup>

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 in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, 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 of the Central American region;

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 capacities, 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 plans and programmes and to action aimed, specifically, at eradicating extreme poverty;

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

<sup>216</sup> A/42/521-S/19085, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-second Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1987*, document S/19085.

<sup>217</sup> A/C.3/43/6, annex.

<sup>218</sup> See A/44/527 and Corr.1 and 2, annex.

<sup>219</sup> A/42/949, annex.

<sup>220</sup> A/44/944-S/21282, annex II.

<sup>221</sup> A/45/450.

<sup>222</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/45/12)*; and *ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/45/12/Add.1), para. 27.