

United Nations General Assembly resolutions of particular relevance to statelessness and nationality

UPDATED 16 May 2014

Reference	Overview of content	Date of adoption
A/RES/68/141	<p>5. <i>Welcomes</i> the ongoing implementation, and encourages further implementation, of pledges made by States at the intergovernmental ministerial event held in 2011 to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;</p> <p>8. <i>Welcomes</i> pledges by States to accede to the statelessness conventions, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as well as pledges to remove reservations to them, also welcomes the recent increase in the number of accessions to the two Conventions and notes that 79 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 55 are parties to the 1961 Convention, 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;</p> <p>9. <i>Re-emphasizes</i> that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;</p> <p>22. <i>Notes</i> with concern that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in some situations, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary;</p> <p>26. <i>Notes</i> that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes pledges by States to ensure the birth registration of all children;</p>	18 December 2013
A/RES/67/149	<p>5. <i>Welcomes</i> pledges by States to accede to the statelessness conventions, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, as well as pledges to remove reservations to them, also welcomes the recent increase in the number of accessions to the two Conventions, 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;</p> <p>OP 7 of the resolution is similar to OP 7 of resolution 61/137</p> <p>19. <i>Notes</i> with concern that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in some situations, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary;</p> <p>23. <i>Recognizes</i> that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes pledges by States to ensure the birth registration of all children.</p>	20 December 2012

A/RES/66/133	OP 5 of the resolution is similar to OP 4 of resolution 61/137 OP 7 of the resolution is similar to OP 7 of resolution 61/137	19 December 2011
A/RES/66/92	2. <i>Once again encourages</i> States to consider, as appropriate, at the regional or subregional levels, the elaboration of legal instruments regulating questions of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, with a view, in particular, to preventing the occurrence of statelessness as a result of a succession of States; 3. <i>Emphasizes</i> the value of the articles in providing guidance to the States dealing with issues of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, in particular concerning the avoidance of statelessness; 4. <i>Decides</i> that, upon the request of any State, it will revert to the question of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States at an appropriate time, in the light of the development of State practice in these matters.	9 December 2011
A/RES/65/194	OP 5 of the resolution is similar to OP 4 of resolution 61/137 OP 8 of the resolution is similar to OP 7 of resolution 61/137	21 December 2010
A/RES/64/127	OP 4 of the resolution is similar to OP 4 of resolution 61/137	18 December 2009
A/RES/63/148	OP 4 of the resolution is similar to OP 4 of resolution 61/137	18 December 2008
A/RES/63/118	Similar to 59/34	11 December 2008
A/RES/62/124	OP 5 of the resolution is similar to OP 4 of resolution 61/137	18 December 2007
A/RES/61/137	4. <i>Notes</i> that sixty-two States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that thirty-three 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 these 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; 7. <i>Emphasizes</i> that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community; (also preamble and OP2)	19 December 2006
A/RES/61/129	OP 4 of the resolution is similar to OP 5 of resolution 55/74	16 December 2005
A/RES/59/170	OP 4 of the resolution is similar to OP 5 of resolution 55/74	20 December 2004
A/RES/59/34	2. <i>Encourages</i> States to consider, as appropriate, at the regional or subregional levels, the elaboration of legal instruments regulating questions of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, with a view, in particular, to preventing the occurrence of statelessness as a result of a succession of States; 3. <i>Invites</i> Governments to submit comments concerning the advisability of elaborating a legal instrument on the question of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, including the avoidance of statelessness as a result of a succession of States;	2 December 2004
A/RES/58/151	OP 4 of the resolution is similar to OP 5 of resolution 55/74	22 December 2003
A/RES/57/187	OP 5 of the resolution is similar to OP 5 of resolution 55/74	18 December 2002
A/RES/56/137	OP 4 of the resolution is similar to OP 5 of resolution 55/74	19 December 2001

[A/RES/55/153](#)

2. *Takes note* of the articles on nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States, presented by the International Law Commission in the form of a declaration, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;
3. *Invites* Governments to take into account, as appropriate, the provisions contained in the articles in dealing with issues of nationality of natural persons in relation to the succession of States;
4. *Recommends* that all efforts be made for the wide dissemination of the text of the articles;

12 December 2000

A/RES/55/74	5. <i>Notes</i> that fifty-two States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that twenty-three States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons;	4 December 2000
A/RES/54/146	22. <i>Notes</i> that forty-eight States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that twenty States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness, recalls paragraphs 14 to 16 of its resolution 50/152 of 21 December 1995, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons;	17 December 1999
A/RES/53/125	20. <i>Recalls</i> paragraphs 14 to 16 of its resolution 50/152 of 21 December 1995, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons;	9 December 1998
A/RES/51/75	18. <i>Encourages</i> the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons, as part of her statutory function of 12 December 1996 providing international protection and of seeking preventive action, as well as her responsibilities under General Assembly resolutions 3274 (XXIV) of 10 December 1974 and 31/36 of 30 November 1976, and calls upon States to assist the High Commissioner in fulfilling her responsibilities and to consider acceding to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness;	12 December 1996
A/RES/50/152	14. <i>Encourages</i> the High Commissioner to continue her activities on behalf of stateless persons, as part of her statutory function of 21 December 1995 providing international protection and of seeking preventive action, as well as her responsibilities under General Assembly resolutions 3274 (XXIV) of 10 December 1974 and 31/36 of 30 November 1976; 15. <i>Requests</i> 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; 16. <i>Calls upon</i> States to adopt nationality legislation with a view to reducing statelessness, consistent with the fundamental principles of international law, in particular by preventing arbitrary deprivation of nationality and by eliminating provisions that permit the renunciation of a nationality without the prior possession or acquisition of another nationality, while at the same time recognizing the right of States to establish laws governing the acquisition, renunciation or loss of nationality; (also preamble); 24. <i>Calls upon</i> all Governments and other donors to demonstrate their international solidarity and burden-sharing with countries of asylum through efforts aimed at continuing to alleviate the burden borne by States which have received large numbers of refugees, in particular those with limited resources, and to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effect on countries of asylum of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and 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 other displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.	21 December 1995
A/RES/49/169	20. <i>Calls upon</i> States to assist the High Commissioner to fulfil 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;	23 December 1994

	(also preamble)	
A/RES/31/36	Continuation of UNHCR's mandate under article 11 of the 1961 Convention	30 November 1976
3274 (XXIX)	Provisional UNHCR mandate under article 11 of the 1961 Convention	10 December 1974

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