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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Maria-Iuliana Niculae (Romania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions” and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered proposals and took action under the item at its 9th and 14th meetings, on 12 and 17 November. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records.¹ Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 1st to 6th meetings, from 30 September to 7 October.²

3. The Committee, pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, held on 30 September, and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the working arrangements for its seventy-sixth session and the available technological and procedural solutions in the interim period, convened one virtual informal meeting to hear an introductory statement and hold an interactive dialogue on the item. The proceedings of the virtual informal meeting are reflected in the annex to the present document.

4. Also pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, and in lieu of the holding of in-person general discussions of agenda items allocated to the Third

¹ [A/C.3/76/SR.9](#) and [A/C.3/76/SR.14](#).

² See [A/C.3/76/SR.1](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.2](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.3](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.4](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.5](#) and [A/C.3/76/SR.6](#). Pursuant to the organization of work adopted at the 1st meeting, on 30 September, official statements received by the Secretariat for posting on eStatements can be accessed at the following link: journal.un.org.



Committee, official statements received by the Secretariat under the item can be accessed through the Third Committee Place of the e-deleGATE portal.

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

- (a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([A/76/12](#));
- (b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([A/76/12/Add.1](#));
- (c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa ([A/76/290](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.59](#)

6. At its 9th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees” ([A/C.3/76/L.59](#)), which was submitted by Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zambia. Subsequently, Albania, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, the Central African Republic, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Israel, Kiribati, Latvia, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine and Uruguay joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Finland, on behalf of the Nordic countries, made a statement.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.59](#) by a recorded vote of 173 to 0, with 5 abstentions (see para. 15, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated

States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Eritrea, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Syrian Arab Republic.

9. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Dominican Republic, Switzerland, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine), the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Australia and Singapore made statements.

10. After the vote, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the Russian Federation, Poland, Bahrain (also on behalf of Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), the Islamic Republic of Iran Azerbaijan, and Hungary. A statement was also made by the observer for the Holy See.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.60/Rev.1](#)

11. At its 14th meeting, on 17 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa” ([A/C.3/76/L.60/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Ghana on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, and Ukraine. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Georgia, Greece, Japan, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the Group of African States, made a statement.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.60/Rev.1](#) (see para. 15, draft resolution II).

14. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico and Hungary.

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

15. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office¹ and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-second session² and the decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing deep concern that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

Noting with grave concern that, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

Recognizing that the greatest share of the refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, the majority of whom are women and children, are hosted by developing countries,

Noting with grave concern the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as their host communities and countries and countries of origin, and recalling that the pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

Recognizing that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

Expressing its appreciation for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

Underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly and perilously exposed,

Reaffirming the need for consistency with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

Recalling its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution [75/127](#) of 11 December 2020,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/76/12).*

² *Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/76/12/Add.1).*

1. *Affirms* the importance of the work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities, and underlines the importance of seeking durable solutions, and the significance of the Office's efforts to promote addressing root causes, within its mandate;
2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-second session;
3. *Welcomes* the seventieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees³ and the sixtieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;⁴
4. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process;
5. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto⁵ as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;
6. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;
7. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;
8. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons⁶ and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, notes that 96 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 77 States 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 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with 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;
9. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, welcomes the results achieved since the launch of the global campaign to end statelessness in 2014, including through the implementation by States of

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

pledges made at the high-level segment that took place at the start of the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee, and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further accelerate the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

10. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of, assistance to, and achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in line with applicable international law, and taking into consideration international and regional norms and standards, as appropriate, and welcomes efforts by States to incorporate such norms and standards into domestic law and national development plans, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe, sustainable and dignified return, local integration or relocation in their own country;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts to establish the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Internal Displacement, notes the submission of its report, and calls for further consultations on its follow-up, with relevant stakeholders, including intergovernmental consideration;

12. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

13. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the ongoing measures to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to further strengthen its emergency response capacity to ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

14. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels;

15. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure an inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the refugee coordination model;

16. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [75/127](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

17. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more

equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating the perspectives of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in humanitarian responses;

19. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

20. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants⁷ at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement relevant commitments made therein;

21. *Also recalls* the global compact on refugees,⁸ affirmed on 17 December 2018,⁹ and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the compact to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the global compact on refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions;

22. *Welcomes* the pledges, contributions and commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum, in December 2019, encourages the sustained engagement of States and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of pledges and in their review process, including at the first meeting of high-level officials in December 2021, and in this regard requests the High Commissioner to report regularly on the progress being made, the challenges ahead and the areas in need of further support, and invites the Office of the High Commissioner to start the preparations for the second Global Refugee Forum, in 2023, in a timely and inclusive manner;

23. *Emphasizes* the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing in the context of the global compact on refugees;

24. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework that is part of the global compact on refugees, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach and the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, and welcomes the launch and efforts of support platforms established for these mechanisms, as concrete arrangements to support responsibility-sharing;

25. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the global compact on refugees and its comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, while recognizing contributions already made to ensure timely, adequate, flexible and needs-driven humanitarian

⁷ Resolution 71/1.

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

⁹ See resolution 73/151.

assistance, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin;

26. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to report on the results to Member States in 2022;

27. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

28. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Nations development system reform, including as part of broader efforts towards generating system-wide effectiveness, transparency, accountability and efficiencies;

29. *Notes* the transformation process that the High Commissioner is implementing to establish clearer authorities and lines of accountability, including through regionalization and decentralization, to enable a more timely, relevant and efficient response to the needs of persons of concern and to ensure the effective and transparent use of the Office's resources;

30. *Affirms* the importance of a geographically diverse and representative workforce, with a view to reflecting the international character of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon the Office to take effective measures to ensure balanced geographical representation and gender parity across the regions, in particular from underrepresented States, among its workforce both at headquarters and in the field, particularly at the senior level, which will also promote a better understanding of the working environment;

31. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages the Office to sustain action with a view to strengthening and enforcing the zero-tolerance approach;

32. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, facilities and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need, and calls upon all States and parties to armed conflict to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilian populations and humanitarian personnel;

33. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not act with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

34. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights, and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to prevent and fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance, hate speech, stigmatization and stereotyping;

35. *Deplores* the growing number of incidents of refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as practices of denial of access to asylum, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

36. *Stresses* the importance of preventing abuse of asylum systems, including for political purposes, in order to safeguard the efficiency and functionality of asylum systems for those in need of international protection;

37. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees and internally displaced persons in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

38. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

39. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to step up efforts to combat human trafficking and human smuggling and to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

40. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

41. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of the most vulnerable, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

42. *Expresses grave concern* about the long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

43. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including refugee-hosting countries as well as the countries of origin, have universal, timely, effective and equitable access to safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines

and medical supplies and equipment, and calls upon States and other partners to urgently support funding and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccines for all, including persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their host communities, bearing in mind that extensive immunization against COVID-19 is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission and bringing the pandemic to an end, and to ensure that refugees can access correct information to avoid the negative impact of disinformation and misinformation;

44. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

45. *Recognizes* the generosity of host countries, and their differentiated experiences and situations, appreciates the contributions of refugees in host countries and countries of resettlement, including facilitating the generation of decent work opportunities, with the purpose of developing sustainable livelihoods until durable solutions are achieved, and recalls that international cooperation is needed in support of host communities, particularly in long-standing refugee-hosting countries;

46. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence and other harmful practices, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

47. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure that the perspectives of women and girls in situations of displacement are taken into account by promoting their meaningful participation in matters affecting them, as well as women's full and equal participation in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response;

48. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure that the humanitarian needs of persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, and their host communities, including clean water, food and nutrition, shelter, education, livelihoods, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health and other protection needs, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

49. *Welcomes* and calls upon States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard urges Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure reliable and safe access for persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as basic health-care services and psychosocial support from the onset of emergencies, while recognizing that relevant services are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies;

50. *Encourages* States to put in place, if they have not yet done so, appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary

consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children and to protect them from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence;

51. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States, in their implementation of the global compact on refugees, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, and to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees,¹⁰ and underlines the importance of quality education in countries of origin;

52. *Notes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

53. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to address mental health and psychosocial well-being by promoting the availability of mental health and psychosocial support to persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as host communities, and encourages the further strengthening of such measures, including through international support;

54. *Notes* 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 efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children and other essential documentation;

55. *Notes with concern* that arbitrary deprivation of nationality pushes people into statelessness and is a source of widespread suffering, and calls upon States to refrain from adopting discriminatory measures and from enacting or maintaining legislation that would arbitrarily revoke citizenship of their nationals, rendering a person stateless;

56. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions for them and for refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

57. *Reaffirms* that accelerating complementary pathways to solutions is crucial for addressing protracted refugee situations, and recognizes the importance of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for seeking durable solutions for refugees, in accordance with its mandate;

58. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

¹⁰ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 19–22 May 2015* (Paris, 2015).

59. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process their root causes;

60. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

61. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to coordinate and exert further efforts to promote and facilitate, whenever the prevailing circumstances are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and, where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

62. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

63. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

64. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

65. *Calls upon* States, with the assistance of relevant stakeholders, to create expanded opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, broaden the base of countries and actors engaged, and expand the scope and size and maximize the protection and quality of resettlement as an invaluable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, and acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and recognizes the need to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees, recalling in this regard the annual resettlement needs identified by the Office of the High Commissioner;

66. *Also calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

67. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner,

the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

68. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed movements in order to better address protection needs of people in the context of mixed movements, bearing in mind the particular needs of persons in vulnerable situations, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

69. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

70. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

71. *Expresses deep concern* about the adverse sudden and slow onset impacts of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation, which are increasing in intensity and frequency, and which interact with the drivers of forced displacement and disproportionately affect persons in vulnerable situations, including forcibly displaced populations in developing countries and particularly in small island developing States and the least developed countries, and welcomes the increased attention and efforts of the Office to address these challenges in its work, including the adoption of a strategic framework for climate action, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies;

72. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address climate change, including with a view to building local and national resilience and capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to displacement in this context;

73. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing their capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

74. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental, development, security and social impacts of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the conditions for refugees through building their resilience and that of their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

75. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively

impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

76. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to further enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

77. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute¹¹ and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution [58/153](#) of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes, keeping in mind the importance of unearmarked and other flexible funding;

78. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

¹¹ Resolution [428 \(V\)](#), annex.

Draft resolution II

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969¹ and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,²

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,³ together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,⁴ as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Welcoming the entry into force on 6 December 2012 and the ongoing process of ratification of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,⁵ which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative frameworks for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Recalling the decision of the African Union to declare 2019 as the African Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities, among refugees and displaced persons, including exposure to discrimination, sexual exploitation and abuse, physical abuse, violence and exploitation and the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing, responding to and addressing sexual and gender-based violence as well as violations and abuses committed against refugee, returnee and displaced children,

Expressing gravest concerns about the humanitarian impact of and risks posed by the short- and long-term impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including on the already significant levels of humanitarian and development needs and suffering of affected people and communities, recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women, children and people in vulnerable situations, and profoundly concerned by rising humanitarian assistance and protection needs including due to the increase in violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children, and the significant impact on education, especially for girls, as well as high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition and rising risks of famine, loss of livelihoods, and all the negative impacts on health, including mental health, which are also exacerbated by weakened health systems, and the impacts and risks for displacement; and recognizing the compounded risks and impacts due to armed conflict, poverty, natural disasters, violence, the adverse effects of climate change, and other environmental challenges; and further recognizing the efforts and measures proposed by the Secretary-General concerning the response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Gravely concerned about the continued rising number of refugees and displaced persons in various parts of the continent,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 3014, No. 52375.

Acknowledging the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees and their host communities,

Expressing grave concern about funding gaps in the budgets of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme, which are among the most underfunded, in responding to various refugee situations in different parts of Africa, which are a major factor leading to the deterioration in living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa,

Emphasizing the need to develop a holistic approach in addressing large movements of population that takes into account the underlying causes of displacement,

Recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases,

Recalling the high-level segment on the theme “Enhancing international cooperation, solidarity, local capacities and humanitarian action for refugees in Africa” of the sixty-fifth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, held in Geneva from 29 September to 3 October 2014, and the statement adopted on 30 September 2014 by States members of the Executive Committee,⁶ and expressing deep concern that this particular event has not mobilized the necessary support for refugees and their hosting countries and communities,

Welcoming progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on Durable Solutions for Somali Refugees and the Reintegration of Returnees in Somalia, welcoming also the nomination of the Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the Horn of Africa, the adoption of the Djibouti declaration on refugee education in December 2017 and the Kampala Declaration on Jobs, Livelihoods and Self-Reliance for Refugees, Returnees and Host Communities in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development Region, adopted on 28 March 2019, and welcoming further the reaffirmation by Member States of the commitment to promote inclusive policies towards refugees, as noted in the communiqué of the second interministerial stocktaking meeting on the Nairobi Declaration and Action Plan,

Recalling the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006, and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact that are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation the generosity, hospitality and spirit of solidarity of African States, including host communities, that, despite their limited resources, continue to host a large number of refugees, owing to humanitarian crises and protracted refugee situations, and in this regard expressing particular appreciation for the commitment and efforts of neighbouring countries in the recent humanitarian crises on the continent,

Welcoming efforts by African States that endeavour to facilitate the voluntary repatriation, local integration, resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees and to promote conditions conducive to the voluntary return and sustainable reintegration of

⁶ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/69/12/Add.1)*, annex I.

refugees in their country of origin, acknowledging with appreciation the coordination of humanitarian assistance by the United Nations as well as the continuing efforts of donors, the United Nations system, including the Office of the High Commissioner, regional organizations, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other partners,

Welcoming also efforts made with regard to durable solutions for addressing the plight of refugees during emergencies, and recalling that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution,

Recognizing that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory, recognizing also the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community and with regard to burden- and responsibility-sharing, and recognizing further the efforts of all States in this regard,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem, in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

Expressing concern regarding the decreasing trend in resettlement opportunities, and recognizing the need to expand resettlement opportunities,

Recognizing the need to encourage increased efforts to facilitate and assist voluntary return and local integration,

Welcoming the ongoing 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,⁷

Acknowledging the efforts made by States and regional groups since the launch of the #IBelong campaign to eradicate statelessness and to afford protection to stateless people, as well as the commitments made during the high-level segment on statelessness convened by the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the outcomes of the fifth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration, both held in October 2019,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁸ supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenges of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Taking note of the World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, while recognizing that it did not have an intergovernmentally agreed outcome, and welcoming the commitment of the African Heads of State and Government, adopted by the African Union, on the theme “One Africa, One Voice, One Message at the World Humanitarian Summit”,

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

⁸ Resolution 70/1.

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General⁹ and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;¹⁰

2. *Calls upon* African States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its wider implementation;

3. *Notes* the need for African States, with the support and collaboration of the international community, to resolutely address the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent;

4. *Recalls* the global compact on refugees as set out in the High Commissioner's annual report (part II) of 2018,¹¹ affirmed on 17 December 2018,¹² and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the compact in order to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the global compact on refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions, including at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, and requests the High Commissioner to report regularly on the progress being made;

5. *Welcomes* the important outcomes of the six continental consultative meetings that were organized under the 2019 theme of the African Union, "Year of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa", with regard to global responsibility-sharing, the role of parliamentarians in preventing and resolving forced displacement, statelessness, the mixed movements of refugees and migrants, and the ratification and implementation of the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969 and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) of 2009;

6. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the Heads of State and Government of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development towards the successful negotiations in Khartoum and the eventual signing of the final Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan between the Government and the opposition movements during the thirty-third extraordinary summit, held in Addis Ababa on 12 September 2018, and encourages ongoing efforts to fully implement this agreement in order to achieve a sustainable and lasting peace;

7. *Commends* the continued efforts and commitment by the regional Governments towards resolving conflicts in the region, including the ongoing mediation by the Sudan between the parties to the conflict in the Central African Republic under the umbrella of the African Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic;

8. *Welcomes* the outcome of the second regional protection dialogue on the Lake Chad basin, held in Nigeria in January 2019, as well as the signing of the Abuja Action Statement by the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria, with a view to enhancing the response to the urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities;

⁹ A/76/290.

¹⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/76/12).*

¹¹ See A/73/12 (Part II).

¹² See resolution 73/151.

9. *Also welcomes* the regional dialogue on protection and solutions related to the situation of forced displacement in the Sahel, held in Bamako on 11 and 12 September 2019, hosted by the Government of Mali, with the participation of government officials from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and the Niger, and further welcomes the outcome of the dialogue, namely, the Bamako conclusions and ministerial declaration adopted in Geneva on 9 October 2019;

10. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious and the number of refugees and internally displaced persons has dramatically increased, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of, and respect and ensure respect for, international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

11. *Welcomes* decision Assembly/AU/Decl. 8 (XXXII), adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its thirty-second ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 10 and 11 February 2019, in which the 2019 theme of the African Union was declared to be the “Year of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa”;

12. *Expresses its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African States hosting large numbers of refugees, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

13. *Notes* the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a generalized and collective mobilization of the international community to mitigate the short- and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and calls for a strengthening of international cooperation in order to ensure equitable and timely access to safe, effective and quality vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics;

14. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including refugee-hosting countries as well as the countries of origin, have universal, timely, effective, quality and equitable access to safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and medical supplies and equipment, and calls upon States and other partners to urgently support funding and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring access to the COVID-19 vaccines for all, including persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their host communities, bearing in mind that extensive immunization against COVID-19 is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission and bringing the pandemic to an end, and to ensure that refugees can access correct information to avoid the negative impact of disinformation and misinformation;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons of its Permanent Representatives Committee and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

16. *Underlines* the need to provide an efficient humanitarian response to internally displaced persons, and recognizes in this regard the importance of the

African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa;

17. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in identifying, through the full participation of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee communities, in particular the non-discriminatory treatment and protection of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

18. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration into new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of displaced children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, as well as the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict in violation of applicable international law, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

19. *Recognizes* that no solution to forced displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of durable solutions, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

20. *Reaffirms* the conclusion on civil registration adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its sixty-fourth session, held in Geneva from 30 September to 4 October 2013,¹³ and recognizes the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

21. *Also reaffirms* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its fifty-second session,¹⁴ notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

22. *Appreciates* the ongoing efforts undertaken by Member States to implement the conclusion on machine-readable travel documents for refugees and stateless persons adopted by the Executive Committee at its sixty-eighth session;¹⁵

23. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their

¹³ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/68/12/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/56/12/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. B.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 12A (A/72/12/Add.1)*, chap. III, sect. A.

respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

24. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by the African countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework, and underscores the importance for the international community of ensuring adequate, timely and predictable support;

25. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern with regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

26. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

27. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

28. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

29. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity, which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all measures necessary to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

30. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, and encourages African States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying and enforcing the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;¹⁶

31. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community, donors and other entities concerned to continue and, where appropriate, to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical, legal and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular to those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers;

32. *Reaffirms* the right of return, in accordance with international law, and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

33. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

34. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance which allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

35. *Recognizes* the increase in the number and scale of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain circumstances may contribute to displacement and additional pressure on host communities, encourages the United Nations and all relevant actors to strengthen the efforts aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced within the context of such disasters, and notes in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements;

36. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement, where appropriate and feasible;

37. *Expresses serious concern* about the chronic underfunding for humanitarian assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in Africa;

38. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide assistance for material, financial and technical support intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons, where appropriate, and notes with concern the environmental degradation in these areas;

39. *Urges* the international community, in line with the principles of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant humanitarian organizations and, taking into account the substantially increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees, and recognizes the importance of increased, flexible, predictable and multi-year funding;

40. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including the improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and the realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

41. *Recalls* the need to reflect on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and to prevent and reduce such displacement, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to work with Member States and the United Nations system to explore ways to better address the long-term needs of internally displaced persons, support communities that host them and improve the lives of the many millions of internally displaced persons;

42. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, welcomes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,¹⁷ notes the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

43. *Welcomes* the efforts by the High Commissioner to improve coordination with Member States and other United Nations agencies;

¹⁷ E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

44. *Also welcomes* the efforts by the High Commissioner towards regionalization and decentralization, including to ensure that decision-making is closer to the point of delivery, and towards efficiency gains as efforts continue to advance refugee protection and solutions;

45. *Encourages* African States, together with development and humanitarian actors, to work closely on multi-year strategies for refugees and internally displaced persons, factoring in the subregional dimension of many forced displacement crises;

46. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue the ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with the Council's mandate, and to include information thereon in all reports to the Council and the General Assembly;

47. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, taking fully into account, inter alia, the situation of their host communities, refugee camps and the efforts expended by countries of asylum and those aimed at bridging funding gaps, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

Annex**Virtual informal meeting to hear an introductory statement and hold an interactive dialogue on agenda item 65**

At the 28th virtual informal meeting of the Committee, on 29 October 2021, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Lebanon, the United States of America, Morocco (on behalf of the Group of African States), Mexico, Ethiopia, Qatar, Switzerland, Azerbaijan, Thailand, Romania, Georgia, Pakistan, Egypt, Malaysia, Italy, China, France, the Republic of Korea, Armenia, Cyprus, Côte d'Ivoire, Greece, India, Canada, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), the European Union, Mali, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bangladesh, Algeria and Morocco, as well as the observer for the Sovereign Order of Malta.
