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

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, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Zambia: draft resolution

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,

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).



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. *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

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

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

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 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

⁶ Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

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. *Recognizing* 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. *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;

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](#).

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 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;

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).

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;

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.