

ship of the Afghan refugees, in co-ordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

6. *Expresses its appreciation and support* for the efforts and constructive steps taken by the Secretary-General, especially the diplomatic process initiated by him, in the search for a solution to the problem;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue those efforts with a view to promoting a political solution, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution, and the exploration of securing appropriate guarantees for the non-use of force, or threat of force, against the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of all neighbouring States, on the basis of mutual guarantees and strict non-interference in each other's internal affairs and with full regard for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep Member States and the Security Council concurrently informed of progress towards the implementation of the present resolution and to submit to Member States a report on the situation at the earliest appropriate opportunity;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-first session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

74th plenary meeting
13 November 1985

40/13. International relief to Colombia

The General Assembly,

Deeply distressed by the loss of lives, the number of afflicted persons and the enormous destruction wrought by the volcanic activity of Nevado del Ruiz, affecting areas of the departments of Caldas, Tolima and Valle del Cauca in Colombia,

Noting the efforts of the Government and people of Colombia to save lives and alleviate the sufferings of the victims of this natural disaster,

Considering the enormous effort that will be required to alleviate the grave situation caused by this natural disaster,

Recognizing that the magnitude of the catastrophe and its effects will require, as a complement to the effort being made by the people and Government of Colombia, a demonstration of international solidarity to ensure the necessary multilateral co-operation in order to meet the immediate emergency in the affected areas, as well as to undertake the task of reconstruction,

1. *Expresses its solidarity and support* to the Government and people of Colombia in this tragedy;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the States, international and regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and individuals providing emergency relief to Colombia;

3. *Calls upon* the Governments of the Member States to contribute generously to the relief and reconstruction efforts in the affected areas and, to the extent possible, to channel their assistance through the United Nations system;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to mobilize resources in order to assist in the relief and reconstruction task of the Government of Colombia;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to co-ordinate the multilateral assistance and, in consultation with the

Government of Colombia, to determine the emergency and reconstruction needs of the affected areas.

79th plenary meeting
15 November 1985

40/19. Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3026 A (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, 3148 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 3187 (XXVIII) of 18 December 1973, 3391 (XXX) of 19 November 1975, 31/40 of 30 November 1976, 32/18 of 11 November 1977, 33/50 of 14 December 1978, 34/64 of 29 November 1979, 35/127 and 35/128 of 11 December 1980, 36/64 of 27 November 1981 and 38/34 of 25 November 1983,

Recalling also the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,²⁴ adopted on 14 November 1970 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General submitted in co-operation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,²⁵

Noting with satisfaction that following its appeal other Member States have become parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property,

Aware of the importance attached by the countries of origin to the return of cultural property which is of fundamental spiritual and cultural value to them, so that they may constitute collections representative of their cultural heritage,

Noting with satisfaction that some countries have taken positive steps towards the return or restitution of museum pieces, archives and *objets d'art* to their countries of origin,

Reaffirming the importance of inventories as an essential tool for the understanding and protection of cultural property and for the identification of dispersed heritage and as a contribution to the advancement of scientific and artistic knowledge and intercultural communication,

Deeply concerned at the clandestine excavations and the illicit traffic in cultural property that continue to impoverish the cultural heritage of all peoples,

Supporting the solemn appeal made on 7 June 1978 by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the return of irreplaceable cultural heritage to those who created it,

1. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation on the work they have accomplished, in particular through the promotion of bilateral negotiations, for the return or restitution of cultural property, the preparation of inventories of movable cultural property, the reduction of illicit traffic in cultural property and the dissemination of information to the public;

2. *Reaffirms* that the restitution to a country of its *objets d'art*, monuments, museum pieces, archives, manuscripts, documents and any other cultural or artistic treasures contributes to the strengthening of international co-operation and to the preservation and flowering of uni-

²⁴ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Sixteenth Session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, p. 135.

²⁵ A/40/344.

versal cultural values through fruitful co-operation between developed and developing countries;

3. *Recommends* that Member States adopt or strengthen the necessary protective legislation with regard to their own heritage and that of other peoples;

4. *Invites* Member States to continue drawing up, in co-operation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, systematic inventories of cultural property existing in their territory and of their cultural property abroad;

5. *Also invites* Member States engaged in seeking the recovery of cultural and artistic treasures from the sea-bed, in accordance with international law, to facilitate by mutually acceptable conditions the participation of States having a historical and cultural link with those treasures;

6. *Appeals* to Member States to co-operate closely with the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation and to conclude bilateral agreements for this purpose;

7. *Also appeals* to Member States to encourage the mass information media and educational and cultural institutions to strive to arouse a greater and more general awareness with regard to the return or restitution of cultural property to its country of origin;

8. *Endorses* the opinion expressed at the World Conference on Cultural Policies, held at Mexico City from 26 July to 6 August 1982, that the return of cultural property to its country of origin should be accompanied by the training of key personnel and technicians and the provision of the necessary facilities for the satisfactory conservation and presentation of the property restored;²⁶

9. *Welcomes* the steady increase in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property;

10. *Invites once again* those Member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-second session the item entitled "Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin".

*87th plenary meeting
21 November 1985*

40/20. Co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,²⁷

Recalling its previous resolutions on the promotion of co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and the practical measures taken for their implementation, in particular resolution 39/8 of 8 November 1984, and its resolution 39/29 of 3 December 1984 on the critical economic situation in Africa and the Declaration annexed thereto,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions, decisions and declarations adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-second ordinary session and by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of that organization at its twenty-first ordinary session, which were held at Addis Ababa from 10 to 17 July and from 18 to 20 July 1985, respectively,²⁸

Taking note also of the resolutions, decisions and declarations adopted by the Organization of African Unity on the promotion of co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Noting, in particular, the Declaration on the Economic Situation in Africa and Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990, annexed thereto, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-first session,²⁹ which was devoted mainly to the critical economic situation in Africa,

Considering the important statement by the current Chairman of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity of 21 October 1985,³⁰ particularly with regard to the critical economic situation in Africa as well as other matters of concern to the two organizations,

Gravely concerned about the serious and deteriorating economic situation in Africa, in particular the effects of the prolonged drought, desertification and the adverse effects of the international economic environment on the African States,

Recalling, in this connection, the Lagos Plan of Action for the Implementation of the Monrovia Strategy for the Economic Development of Africa, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its second extraordinary session, held at Lagos on 28 and 29 April 1980,³¹

Recognizing the need for closer co-operation between the Organization of African Unity and all specialized agencies, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in realizing the goals and objectives set forth in the Lagos Plan of Action,

Gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in southern Africa arising from the continued domination of the peoples of the area by the minority racist régime of South Africa and conscious of the need to provide increased assistance to the peoples of the region and to their liberation movements in their struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and *apartheid*,

Conscious of its responsibilities to provide economic, material and humanitarian assistance to independent States in southern Africa to help them cope with the situation caused by the acts of aggression committed against their territories by the *apartheid* régime of South Africa,

Deeply concerned at the gravity of the situation of the refugees in Africa and the urgent need for increased international assistance to help African countries of asylum cope with the heavy social, economic and administrative burden imposed on their fragile economies,

Recognizing the important role which the various information units and departments of the United Nations system can play in disseminating information to bring about a greater awareness of the grave situation prevailing in southern Africa as well as the social and economic problems and the needs of African States and their regional and subregional institutions,

²⁶ See A/38/456, p. 12, para. 17.

²⁷ A/40/536.

²⁸ See A/40/666.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, annex I, declaration AHG/Decl.I (XXI).

³⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fortieth Session, Plenary Meetings*, 42nd meeting.

³¹ A/S-11/14, annex I.