

women and children and to the measures being adopted to protect and improve the environment and to preserve ethnic and cultural values;

11. *Resolves* to give its full support to the Declaration of the Second International Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at San Salvador on 7 and 8 April 1992<sup>112</sup> and the communiqués of the meetings of the Follow-up Committee held at Managua on 29 September and 28 October 1992;

12. *Supports* the initiative of the Governments of the countries of Central America, Belize and Mexico to extend the duration of the Conference process until May 1994, in the light of the new needs that have emerged following the changes in the region;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*89th plenary meeting  
16 December 1992*

#### **47/104. Continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 42/108 of 7 December 1987, in which it decided to review, not later than at its forty-seventh session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1993,

*Recognizing* the need for concerted international action on behalf of the increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

*Considering* the outstanding work that has been performed by the Office of the High Commissioner in providing international protection and material assistance to refugees and displaced persons as well as in promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

*Noting with deep appreciation* the effective manner in which the Office of the High Commissioner has been dealing with various essential humanitarian tasks entrusted to it,

1. *Decides* to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1994;

2. *Decides also* to review, not later than at its fifty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1998.

*89th plenary meeting  
16 December 1992*

#### **47/105. 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 her Office,<sup>115</sup> as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of

its forty-third session,<sup>116</sup> and taking note of the statement made by the High Commissioner on 10 November 1992,<sup>117</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 46/106 of 16 December 1991,

*Reaffirming* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the fundamental importance of the international protection function of the High Commissioner and the need for States to cooperate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this primary and essential responsibility,

*Noting with satisfaction* that one hundred and fourteen States are now parties to the 1951 Convention<sup>118</sup> and/or the 1967 Protocol<sup>119</sup> relating to the Status of Refugees,

*Welcoming* the valuable support extended by Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out her humanitarian tasks,

*Noting with concern* that the number of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner, as well as of other persons to whom her Office is asked to extend assistance and protection, has continued to increase and that their protection continues to be seriously jeopardized in many situations as a result of non-admission, expulsion, *refoulement* and unjustified detention, as well as other threats to their physical security, dignity and well-being, and lack of respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights,

*Commending* the continued efforts of the High Commissioner to improve the situation of refugee women and children, who represent the majority of refugee populations and who, in many cases, are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection, as well as their psychological and material well-being,

*Emphasizing* the need for States to assist the High Commissioner in her efforts to find durable and timely solutions to the problems of refugees based on new approaches that take into account the current size and characteristics of these problems and are built on respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights and internationally agreed protection principles and concerns,

*Welcoming* the commitment of the High Commissioner, bearing in mind her mandate and responsibilities, to explore and undertake activities aimed at preventing conditions that give rise to refugee outflows, as well as to strengthen emergency preparedness and response mechanisms and the concerted pursuit of voluntary repatriation,

*Commending* those States, particularly the least developed among them, which, despite severe economic and development challenges of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner into their territories, and emphasizing the need to share the burden of these States to the maximum extent possible through international assistance, including development-oriented assistance, and through promotion of durable solutions,

*Commending* the High Commissioner and her staff for the dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and paying special tribute to those staff members who have lost their lives in the course of their duties,

1. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental nature of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide international protection and the need for States to cooperate fully with the Office in fulfilling this function, in particular by acceding to and

fully and effectively implementing the relevant international and regional refugee instruments;

2. *Recognizes* the increasing magnitude and complexity of present refugee problems, the risk of further refugee outflows in certain countries or regions and the challenges confronting refugee protection;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to keep issues related to refugees, displaced persons, asylum-seekers and other migratory flows firmly on the international political agenda, especially the question of solution-oriented approaches to deal with such contemporary problems and their causes;

4. *Calls upon* all States to refrain from taking measures that jeopardize the institution of asylum, in particular by returning or expelling refugees contrary to the fundamental prohibitions against these practices, and urges States to ensure fair and efficient determination procedures for asylum-seekers and to continue to give humane treatment and to grant asylum to refugees;

5. *Expresses deep concern* regarding persistent problems in some countries or regions, which seriously jeopardize the security or well-being of refugees, including incidents of *refoulement*, expulsion, physical attacks and detention under unacceptable conditions, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection as well as humane treatment of asylum-seekers in accordance with internationally recognized human rights norms;

6. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of the Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women<sup>120</sup> and calls upon States, the High Commissioner and other parties concerned to cooperate in eliminating all forms of discrimination, sexual exploitation and violence against female refugees and asylum-seekers and in promoting their active involvement in decisions affecting their lives and communities;

7. *Welcomes* the appointment of a Senior Coordinator for Refugee Children, and reiterates the importance of promoting measures to ensure the protection and well-being of refugee children, in particular unaccompanied minors, in coordination with States and other international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations;

8. *Welcomes also* the proposal of the High Commissioner to appoint an environmental coordinator responsible for developing guidelines and taking other measures for incorporating environmental considerations into the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, especially in the least developed countries, in view of the impact on the environment of the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner;

9. *Reaffirms* the importance of attaining durable solutions to refugee problems, including voluntary repatriation, integration in the country of asylum and resettlement in third countries, as appropriate, and urges all States and relevant organizations to support the High Commissioner in her efforts to search for durable solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons, primarily through the preferred solution of voluntary repatriation;

10. *Underlines strongly* State responsibility, particularly as it relates to the countries of origin, including addressing root causes, facilitating voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return, in accordance with international practice, of their nationals who are not refugees;

11. *Notes* the significant organized voluntary repatriation movements that have taken place in 1992, and calls upon all States and relevant organizations to support the High Commissioner in continuing and further reinforcing her efforts to promote conditions conducive to voluntary return in safety and dignity;

12. *Urges* the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to involve international, national and intergovernmental development agencies, as well as non-governmental agencies, in the planning phases for voluntary repatriation, so as to ensure that basic reintegration assistance is complemented by broader development initiatives focused on the areas of return;

13. *Supports* the strengthened efforts by the High Commissioner to explore protection and assistance strategies that aim at preventing conditions that give rise to refugee outflows and at addressing their root causes, and urges her to pursue such efforts, bearing in mind fundamental protection principles and her mandate, in close coordination with the Governments concerned and within an inter-agency, intergovernmental and non-governmental framework as appropriate;

14. *Welcomes*, in this context, efforts by the High Commissioner, on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary-General or the competent principal organs of the United Nations and with the consent of the concerned State, to undertake activities in favour of internally displaced persons, taking into account the complementarities of the mandates and expertise of other relevant organizations;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of the promotion of refugee law as an element of emergency preparedness, as well as to facilitate prevention of and solutions to refugee problems, and calls upon the High Commissioner to continue to strengthen the training and promotion activities of her Office;

16. *Strongly deplores* ethnic and other forms of intolerance as one of the major causes of forced migratory movements, and urges States to take all necessary steps to ensure respect for human rights, especially the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

17. *Notes* the relationship between situations giving rise to refugee flows and lack of respect for human rights, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to increase cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and relevant organizations;

18. *Expresses concern* regarding xenophobia and racist attitudes in segments of the population in a number of countries receiving refugees and asylum-seekers, which expose them to considerable danger, and, therefore, calls upon States and the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work actively to promote broader understanding throughout national communities of the plight of refugees and asylum-seekers;

19. *Welcomes* the progress made by the High Commissioner in her efforts to enhance the capacity of her Office to respond to emergencies, and encourages her to continue to work closely with the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, as well as with United Nations organizations and governmental, intergovernmental or non-governmental bodies, to assure a coordinated and effective response to complex, humanitarian emergency situations;

20. *Expresses deep concern* at conditions, in a number of countries or regions, which seriously endanger the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the security of the staff of the High Commissioner and other relief workers, deplores the recent loss of lives among the staff involved in humanitarian operations, and calls upon States to take all necessary measures to ensure the safe and timely access for humanitarian assistance and the security of international and local staff undertaking humanitarian work in their countries;

21. *Expresses deep appreciation* for the generous humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular those developing countries that, despite limited resources, continue to admit large numbers of refugees;

22. *Urges* the international community, including non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the principle of international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, to continue to assist the countries referred to in paragraph 21 above and the High Commissioner in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden that the care of refugees and asylum-seekers represents;

23. *Calls upon* all Governments and other donors to contribute to the programmes of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the need to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner are met.

*89th plenary meeting  
16 December 1992*

#### 47/106. New international humanitarian order

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 36/136 of 14 December 1981, 37/201 of 18 December 1982, 38/125 of 16 December 1983, 40/126 of 13 December 1985, 42/120 of 7 December 1987, 43/129 of 8 December 1988 and 45/101 of 14 December 1990 relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 42/121 of 7 December 1987, 43/130 of 8 December 1988 and 45/102 of 14 December 1990 relating to the promotion of international cooperation in the humanitarian field,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General<sup>121</sup> and the comments made by various Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations,

*Noting* the actions being taken by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system with regard to humanitarian issues, examined by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, that fall within their respective mandates,

*Convinced* that solving humanitarian problems requires international cooperation and harmonization of actions taken by Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as individuals,

*Recognizing with concern* the continuing need further to strengthen international responses to growing humanitarian challenges, and to undertake creative humanitarian ac-

tion at the international, regional and national levels to alleviate human suffering and to promote durable solutions to humanitarian problems,

*Recognizing further* the need for active follow-up to the recommendations and suggestions made by the Independent Commission and the role being played in this regard by the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues, set up for the purpose,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his continuing active support to the efforts to promote a new international humanitarian order;

2. *Urges* Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to provide their comments and expertise to the Secretary-General regarding the humanitarian order and the report of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues;

3. *Invites* Governments to make available to the Secretary-General, on a voluntary basis, information and expertise on humanitarian issues of concern to them in order to identify opportunities for future action;

4. *Calls upon* Governments, the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations further to develop international cooperation in the humanitarian field;

5. *Reiterates* that international cooperation in the humanitarian field will facilitate better understanding, mutual respect, confidence and tolerance among countries and peoples, thus contributing to a more just and non-violent world;

6. *Invites* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and further strengthen its essential role in following up the work of the Independent Commission;

7. *Encourages* the international community to contribute substantially and regularly to the international humanitarian activities required to promote a new humanitarian order;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations and the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues and to report on the progress made by them to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

9. *Decides* to review at its forty-ninth session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

*89th plenary meeting  
16 December 1992*

#### 47/107. Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 46/108 of 16 December 1991,

*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General<sup>122</sup> and that of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,<sup>115</sup>

*Bearing in mind* that most of the affected countries are least developed countries,

*Convinced* of the necessity to strengthen the capacity within the United Nations system for the implementation and overall coordination of relief programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons,