

2. *Urges* all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in particular by increasing voluntary contributions to the Programme, to enable it to expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities;

3. *Invites* Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to consider ways and means of improving the coordination of United Nations drug control-related activities;

4. *Welcomes* the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its reconvened thirty-sixth session on the programme budget of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, in accordance with the mandate contained in section XVI, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme to comply with the approved format and methodology of the programme budget of the Fund, in accordance with relevant resolutions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and encourages the Executive Director to continue his efforts to improve the presentation and transparency of the budget;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the meetings of heads of national law enforcement agencies, and encourages them to consider ways to improve their functioning and to strengthen their impact so as to enhance cooperation in the fight against drugs at the regional level;

## VI

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted under the item entitled "International drug control";<sup>94</sup>

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General:

(a) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session an updated report on the status of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances;

(b) To include in his annual report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action recommendations on ways and means to improve implementation and provision of information by Member States.

*94th plenary meeting  
23 December 1994*

### 49/169. 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>95</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its forty-fifth session,<sup>96</sup> and taking note of the statement made by the High Commissioner on 9 November 1994,<sup>97</sup>

*Recalling* its resolution 48/116 of 20 December 1993,

*Expressing deep concern* at the immense human suffering and loss of life which have accompanied recent crises involving refugee flows and other forced displacements, as well as the magnitude and complexity of current refugee problems, which have made more difficult the accomplishment of the High Commissioner's crucial functions of ensuring international protection for refugees and achieving timely and durable solutions to their plight,

*Reaffirming* the importance of the 1951 Convention<sup>98</sup> and the 1967 Protocol<sup>99</sup> relating to the Status of Refugees as the cornerstone of the international system for the protection of refugees, and noting with satisfaction that one hundred and twenty-seven States are now parties to one or both instruments,

*Reaffirming also* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the crucial importance of the High Commissioner's functions of providing international protection to refugees and seeking solutions to refugee problems,

*Welcoming* the continuing strong commitment of States to providing protection and assistance to refugees and the valuable support extended by Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out her humanitarian tasks,

*Welcoming also* the strong commitment made by States in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,<sup>42</sup> held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, to the institution of asylum and to refugees and displaced persons,

*Emphasizing* the need for States to assist the High Commissioner in seeking durable and timely solutions to the problems of refugees, to take part in efforts to prevent conditions that might give rise to the flight of refugees and to address the root causes of refugee outflows, and underlining, in this connection, State responsibility, particularly as it relates to countries of origin,

*Commending* the High Commissioner and her staff for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, paying tribute to those staff members who have endangered their lives in the course of their duties, and noting with profound regret the deaths of staff members as a consequence of violent events in several countries around the world,

*Commending also* those States, particularly the least developed and those hosting millions of refugees over long periods of time, which, despite severe economic, development and environmental challenges of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees into their territories, and emphasizing the need to share the burden of those States to the maximum extent possible through international assistance, including development-oriented assistance and assistance related to the impact on the environment of the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner,

*Noting with concern* that the number of refugees and other persons to whom the Office of the High Commissioner is called upon to provide assistance and protection has continued to increase and that their protection continues to be seriously jeopardized in many situations as a result of denial of admission, unlawful expulsion, refoulement, unjustified detention, other threats to their personal security, dignity and well-being and failure to respect and ensure their fundamental freedoms and human rights,

<sup>94</sup> A/49/139-E/1994/57, A/49/317, A/49/345 and A/49/369.

<sup>95</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/49/12).*

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*, Supplement No. 12A (A/49/12/Add.1).

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*, Forty-ninth Session, Third Committee, 23rd meeting, and corrigendum.

<sup>98</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>99</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

*Recognizing* that, in certain regions, the misuse by individuals of asylum procedures jeopardizes the institution of asylum and adversely affects the prompt and effective protection of refugees,

*Noting* that the involuntary displacement of persons within their own countries remains a problem of grave humanitarian concern, and that the many and varied underlying causes of involuntary internal displacement and of refugee movements are similar in numerous cases,

*Recognizing* that actions by the international community, in consultation and coordination with the State concerned, on behalf of the internally displaced may contribute to the easing of tensions and the resolution of problems resulting in displacement, and constitute important components of a comprehensive approach to the prevention and solution of refugee problems,

*Noting* that, in a number of instances, the internally displaced are present alongside refugees, returnees or a vulnerable local population, in situations where it is neither reasonable nor feasible to treat the categories differently in responding to their needs for assistance and protection,

*Welcoming* the continuing efforts of the High Commissioner to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugee women and children, who constitute the majority of the world's refugee population and who are often exposed to serious threats to their safety and well-being,

*Noting with concern* the persistent problems of stateless persons in various regions and the emergence of new situations of statelessness,

1. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance of the function of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of providing international protection to refugees and the need for States to cooperate fully with her Office in order to facilitate the effective exercise of that function;

2. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to accede or declare succession to and to implement fully the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and relevant regional instruments for the protection of refugees;

3. *Deplores* the fact that in certain situations refugees and returnees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner have been subjected to armed attack, murder, rape and other violations of or threats to their personal security and other fundamental rights and that incidents of refoulement and denial of access to safety have occurred, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and the humane treatment of asylum-seekers in accordance with internationally recognized human rights norms;

4. *Calls upon* all States to uphold asylum as an indispensable instrument for the international protection of refugees and to respect scrupulously the fundamental principle of non-refoulement;

5. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring access, for all persons seeking international protection, to fair and efficient procedures for the determination of refugee status or, as appropriate, to other mechanisms to ensure that persons in need of international protection are identified and granted such protection, while not diminishing the protection afforded to refugees under the terms of the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol and relevant regional instruments;

6. *Calls upon* all States to assist and support the High Commissioner's efforts to continue to provide international protection and assistance, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions, to persons who have been forced to flee or to remain outside their countries of origin as a result of danger to

their life or freedom owing to situations of conflict, and to seek solutions to the problems arising from their forced displacement;

7. *Recognizes* the desirability of exploring further measures to ensure international protection to all who need it, including temporary protection and other forms of asylum oriented towards repatriation, in situations of conflict or persecution involving large-scale outflows and in which return home is considered the most appropriate durable solution, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue to promote international cooperation and to engage in further consultations and discussions concerning measures to achieve this objective, acknowledging the value of regional arrangements in this regard;

8. *Stresses* the importance of international solidarity and burden-sharing in reinforcing the international protection of refugees, and urges all States and relevant non-governmental organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, to cooperate in efforts to lighten the burden borne by States that have received large numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees;

9. *Reiterates* that voluntary repatriation, when it is feasible, is the ideal solution to refugee problems, calls upon countries of origin, countries of asylum, the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community as a whole to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise freely their right to return home in safety and dignity, ensuring that international protection continues to be extended until that time, and assisting, where needed, the return and reintegration of repatriating refugees, and further calls upon the High Commissioner, in cooperation with States concerned, to promote, facilitate and coordinate the voluntary repatriation of refugees, including the monitoring of their safety and well-being on return;

10. *Calls* for a more concerted response by the international community to the needs of internally displaced persons and, in accordance with its resolution 48/116, reaffirms its support for the High Commissioner's efforts, 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 State concerned, and taking into account the complementarities of the mandates and expertise of other relevant organizations, to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to such persons, emphasizing that activities on behalf of internally displaced persons must not undermine the institution of asylum, including the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to provide timely and speedy humanitarian assistance and support to countries affected by internal displacement to help them fulfil their responsibility towards the displaced;

12. *Calls*, likewise, upon States and all parties to conflicts to take all possible necessary measures to ensure impartial, safe and timely humanitarian access to persons in need of protection and assistance;

13. *Acknowledges* the continuing close cooperation between the High Commissioner and the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons in the exercise of his mandate, and recognizes the importance of their close cooperation, and of cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, with respect to prevention, protection, humanitarian assistance and solutions;

14. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to continue to support the coordination role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator, especially in major and complex emergencies;

15. *Underlines* the need for further progress by the United Nations system in addressing in a coherent and mutually supportive manner humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation and development

activities, especially in countries to which refugees are returning voluntarily, and calls upon the Economic and Social Council to review the complementarities of relevant United Nations organizations in this regard;

16. *Emphasizes* the need, particularly in complex emergencies that include humanitarian and peace-keeping operations, to ensure respect for the High Commissioner's protection mandate and to preserve the impartial and purely humanitarian nature of the activities of the Office;

17. *Expresses profound concern* at conditions in a number of countries and regions that seriously endanger the security of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner and other relief workers, deplores the loss of lives among such personnel, urges support for initiatives taken by the High Commissioner and within the General Assembly and the Security Council concerning the safety of United Nations and associated personnel, in particular the consideration of new measures to enhance the safety of such personnel, and calls upon States and all parties to conflicts to take all necessary measures to ensure the security of international and local staff undertaking humanitarian work in the countries concerned;

18. *Urges* the High Commissioner, Governments and other relevant organizations to intensify efforts to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugee children, particularly those of unaccompanied minors, and calls upon States to safeguard the security of refugee children and to ensure that they are not recruited into the military or other armed groups;

19. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to continue to undertake initiatives for refugee women in the areas of leadership and skills training, legal awareness and education and, in particular, in the area of reproductive health, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the refugees, in conformity with universally recognized human rights;

20. *Calls upon* States to assist the High Commissioner to fulfil her responsibilities, under General Assembly resolution 3274 (XXIX) of 10 December 1974, with respect to the reduction of statelessness, including the promotion of accessions to and full implementation of international instruments relating to statelessness;

21. *Notes* the relationship between safeguarding human rights and preventing refugee situations, and welcomes the High Commissioner's growing cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and her continued cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat and the Commission on Human Rights;

22. *Reaffirms* the importance of incorporating environmental considerations into the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, especially in the least developed and developing countries which have hosted refugees over long periods of time, in view of the impact on the environment of the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner;

23. *Welcomes* efforts to strengthen collaboration among Governments, the Office of the High Commissioner and non-governmental organizations, including through the Partnership in Action process, and encourages non-governmental organizations, Governments and the Office of the High Commissioner to identify areas for further cooperation;

24. *Calls upon* all Governments and other donors to contribute to the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the effect on host countries of the increasing requirements of large refugee populations and the need to widen the donor base and to achieve greater burden-sharing among donors, to assist the High Commissioner in securing additional and timely income from traditional governmental sources, other

Governments and the private sector in order to ensure that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are met.

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#### 49/170. New international humanitarian order

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 47/106 of 16 December 1992 and other pertinent resolutions<sup>100</sup> relating to the promotion of a new international humanitarian order and of international cooperation in the humanitarian field,

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General<sup>101</sup> and the previous reports<sup>102</sup> containing the comments and views of Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations,

*Noting* that a number of Governments have not yet submitted their comments in regard to the above-mentioned resolutions,

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

2. *Urges* Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations that have not yet done so to provide their comments and views to the Secretary-General regarding the promotion of the new international humanitarian order;

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

4. *Invites* the Independent Bureau for Humanitarian Issues to continue and further strengthen its activities in cooperation with the Governments and the governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to remain in contact with Governments and non-governmental organizations and the Humanitarian Issues in order to report on the progress made by them to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

6. *Decides* to review at its fifty-first session the question of a new international humanitarian order.

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#### 49/171. Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council decision 1994/235 of 21 July 1994 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

<sup>100</sup> 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 and 42/121 of 7 December 1987, 43/129 and 43/130 of 8 December 1988 and 45/101 and 45/102 of 14 December 1990.

<sup>101</sup> A/49/577 and Corr.1.

<sup>102</sup> A/37/145, A/38/450, A/40/358 and Add.1 and 2, A/41/472, A/43/734 and Add.1, A/45/524 and A/47/352.