

Chapter XXI

Refugees and displaced persons

In 1983, with some large-scale refugee situations showing relative stability, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to promote durable solutions and provide care and maintenance to refugees. Despite the absence of large new refugee influxes, however, more than \$5 million was obligated from the Emergency Fund on 12 occasions.

Major assistance programmes continued, notably in Pakistan, which remained host to the world's largest refugee population; the Horn of Africa, where programmes benefited returnees as well as refugees; South-East Asia, which saw a decrease of over 37,000 in camp populations during 1983; and Central America and Mexico, where emergency assistance was coupled with local integration initiatives. New programmes in 1983 included aid to Afghan refugees in Iran; repatriations to Argentina and Chile; and emergency relief for Angolans in Zaire, Mozambicans in Zimbabwe and Sudanese in Ethiopia.

As in previous years, assistance to Palestine refugees was provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The High Commissioner told the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme, at its thirty-fourth session (Geneva, 10-20 October), that there were currently some 10 million refugees, as against 1.5 million when UNHCR started its activities in 1951.

In his annual report to the General Assembly on the work of the Organization (p. 3), the Secretary-General stressed that the refugee problem could be resolved only with a settlement of the root political causes; the means available to the United Nations to help alleviate the problem were grossly inadequate.

In December, the Assembly called on all States to promote durable solutions and to contribute generously to the High Commissioner's humanitarian programmes in order to assist refugees, displaced persons and returnees in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing (resolution 38/121).

The Assembly approved the arrangements for the Second (1984) International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and appealed to the international community to make it a success (38/120). It also called for assistance to refugees in Djibouti (38/89), Somalia (38/88) and the Sudan (38/90) as well as to displaced persons in Ethiopia (38/91) and student refugees in southern Africa (38/95).

The Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of

Refugees met for the first time in 1983, and the Assembly asked it to continue working towards developing recommendations to that end (38/84).

The Nansen Medal for the year—awarded since 1955 in honour of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—went to President Julius Nyerere of the United Republic of Tanzania in recognition of his personal contribution and that of his country to the cause of refugees. The President announced that the \$50,000 prize accompanying the award would be used to build schools for refugee children in his country.

Topics related to this chapter. Middle East: Palestine refugees. Economic assistance, disasters and emergency relief.

Programme and finances of UNHCR**Programme policy**

Executive Committee action. In 1983, the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme⁽¹⁾ while noting as a positive development the absence of new large-scale refugee outflows, expressed concern at the continued severity of refugee problems, notably in Africa, Asia and Central America, and requested UNHCR to continue providing assistance and international protection. It reaffirmed the principle of international solidarity and burden-sharing as well as the fundamental humanitarian character of UNHCR activities, and drew attention to the vital need for the international community to deal in appropriate forums with the root causes of refugee flows (see below).

The Committee noted with satisfaction the High Commissioner's renewed efforts, and progress made, in reorienting many major assistance activities from emergency or relief phase to the promotion of self-reliance and durable solutions through voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. It welcomed the workshops and seminars held to further these objectives as well as the Commissioner's support of the international refugee integration resource centre.

However, the Committee expressed concern at decreasing resettlement rates and urged Governments, in accordance with the principle of international burden-sharing, to meet the needs of those refugees with no other durable solution immedi-

ately in prospect; it requested the Commissioner to co-ordinate and facilitate the planning of resettlement programmes by Governments through updated assessments of needs and priorities.

The Committee recommended that States seriously consider supporting UNHCR efforts to promote the Rescue at Sea Resettlement Offers scheme and providing the necessary quotas and other undertakings to enable UNHCR to initiate the scheme on a trial basis; welcomed the support given to the Disembarkation Resettlement Offers scheme; and commended the initiatives taken by UNHCR and the International Maritime Organization, including an October joint appeal, for facilitating the rescue of asylum-seekers in distress at sea.

UNHCR continued to co-operate with other United Nations organizations in its programme implementation. Such co-operation included the International Labour Organisation (ILO) promoting vocational training and income-generating activities in refugee settlements, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) providing care and maintenance and supporting community development. Agreement was reached with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on future co-operation in situations requiring longer-term assistance to refugees and involving development projects. The World Food Programme (WFP) continued to meet most of the basic food needs of refugees and displaced persons in many affected areas.

UNHCR also co-operated with other intergovernmental organizations, liberation movements and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As a result of NGO interest in greater involvement in the annual meeting of the Executive Committee, the Commissioner convened in October 1983 the first pre-Executive Committee meeting for NGOs, which was attended by the representatives of 66 agencies.

The Executive Committee welcomed the Commissioner's co-operation with other members of the United Nations system, in particular with WFP in providing relief assistance and with the World Bank and ILO in promoting self-sufficiency and income-generating or employment opportunities.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

By decision 1983/101 of 4 February 1983, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit, without debate, the UNHCR report⁽²⁾ to the General Assembly.

Therefore, it did not consider the item at its second regular session of 1983, but adopted decision 1983/172 on 28 July, thereby taking note of the High Commissioner's oral report in the Council on assistance to refugees in Djibouti and Somalia, to displaced persons in Ethiopia, and to student refugees in southern Africa.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

In the General Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, High Commissioner Poul Hartling reviewed the activities of his Office and pointed out that the presence of a large number of refugees in a country could create social, economic or political difficulties which were compounded if there was little prospect for refugees to become an asset and not a burden. UNHCR could act only as a catalyst; it was up to Governments to create conditions leading to solutions.

On 16 December 1983, the General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 38/121 without vote.

Report 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 Office, as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-fourth session, and having heard the statement made by the High Commissioner on 14 November 1983,

Recalling its resolution 37/195 of 18 December 1982,

Reaffirming the eminently humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Noting with deep concern that problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner remain acute in all parts of the world, notably in Africa, Asia and Latin America,

Stressing the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's international protection function and the need for States to co-operate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this essential function,

Expressing serious concern over the difficulties encountered by the High Commissioner in the exercise of his international protection function in the face of continued violations of the basic rights of persons of concern to his Office,

Deeply concerned that in various regions the safety and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers have been seriously jeopardized on account of military or armed attacks, acts of piracy and other forms of brutality,

Acknowledging with appreciation the note of the Executive Committee on the strengthening of the management policy of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, submitted by the High Commissioner, and the High Commissioner's efforts to strengthen the management of his Office,

Noting that the Executive Committee has requested the High Commissioner to undertake a comprehensive study of the full financial and practical implications of the inclusion of Arabic, Chinese and Spanish among the official and working languages of the Executive Committee,

Noting with deep appreciation the valuable support extended by many Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out his duties,

Welcoming the increasing number of accessions by States to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,

Emphasizing that voluntary repatriation is the most desirable and durable solution to problems of refugees

and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

1. Commends the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the valuable work they perform on behalf of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner;
2. Reaffirms the fundamental nature of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection and the need for Governments to co-operate fully with him to facilitate the effective exercise of this essential function, in particular by acceding to and fully implementing the relevant international and regional instruments and by scrupulously observing the principles of asylum and non-refoulement;
3. Deplores all violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular through military or armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements, other forms of brutality and failure to rescue asylum-seekers in distress at sea;
4. Urges States, in co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner and other competent international bodies, to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of refugees and asylum-seekers;
5. Reaffirms the principle of international solidarity and burden-sharing in responding to the refugee problem, particularly in view of the heavy burden borne by receiving countries on account of the presence of large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;
6. Expresses its deep appreciation for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular of many developing countries that give asylum to or accept on a temporary basis large numbers of refugees;
7. Commends all States that facilitate the attainment of durable solutions, accept refugees for resettlement and contribute generously to the High Commissioner's programmes;
8. Urges all States to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to find durable solutions to refugee problems, primarily through voluntary repatriation, including assistance to returnees, as appropriate, or, wherever appropriate, through integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in third countries;
9. Notes with appreciation the continuing support given to the High Commissioner by organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in carrying out his humanitarian task and requests the High Commissioner to continue to co-ordinate his efforts with those agencies and organizations;
10. Calls upon all States to promote durable solutions and to contribute generously to the High Commissioner's humanitarian programmes in order to assist refugees, displaced persons and returnees in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing.

General Assembly resolution 38/121

16 December 1983 Meeting 100 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/38/688) without vote, 30 November (meeting 57); 39-nation draft (A/C.3/38/L.34); agenda item 98 (a).

Sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, Congo, Costa Rica, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Lesotho, Madagascar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Thailand, United States, Venezuela, Zaire.

Meeting numbers. GA 38th session: 3rd Committee 42-46, 54, 56, 57, 59; plenary 100.

In a related action, the Assembly, by resolution 38/16 on the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, deplored the plight of refugees and displaced persons and reaffirmed their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honour (see Chapter XVIII of this section).

Financial and administrative questions

UNHCR'S overall voluntary funds expenditure in 1983 amounted to \$398 million, including \$316.2 million under General Programmes and \$81.5 million under Special Programmes. Additional expenditure of \$13.5 million represented administrative costs under the United Nations regular budget.

Total income for 1983 was \$377.8 million.

Contributions

Contributions from governmental and private sources totalled some \$312 million in 1983. In addition to Governments, intergovernmental organizations provided contributions amounting to \$31.2 million, principally in food, and NGOs contributed in cash and kind valued at \$5.3 million.

The establishment of a programme for voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees in Djibouti required a special appeal in June, and later in the year it became necessary to reiterate the need for additional funding for the Programme of Orderly Departures from Viet Nam. In August, a special appeal was issued to promote contributions for a major income-generating project established by the World Bank for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, for which \$1.6 million was received by year's end. (See below, for specific projects.)

At its October 1983 session, the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme⁽¹⁾ approved a target of \$368,460,000 for General Programmes in 1984. At the same time, it thanked donor Governments and NGOs for their generosity, reaffirmed the need for more equitable and widespread financial support within the international community for UNHCR programmes, and urged Governments to make early contributions and payments to the 1984 General Programmes so as to ensure early availability of funds and effective implementation of programmes.

Governmental contributions were announced at the 18 November 1983 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the 1984 Programme of UNHCR.⁽³⁾

Contributions paid or pledged in 1983, were as follows:

CONTRIBUTIONS PAID OR PLEDGED TO UNHCR ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES, 1983
(as at 31 December 1983; in US dollar equivalent)

Country	1983 payment or pledge	Country	1983 payment or pledge	Country	1983 payment or pledge
Algeria	50,000	Italy	2,302,129	Sudan	2,344
Argentina	70,900	Ivory Coast	2,296	Swaziland	1,330
Australia	12,616,154	Jamaica	550	Sweden	12,272,667
Austria	233,416	Japan	47,855,960	Switzerland	4,693,763
Bahamas	4,500	Kuwait	60,000	Syrian Arab Republic	1,000
Barbados	500	Lao People's Democratic Republic	6,000	Thailand	10,000
Belgium	982,225	Lebanon	10,000	Togo	3,737
Benin	2,000	Liechtenstein	9,615	Trinidad and Tobago	2,073
Brazil	15,000	Luxembourg	7,957	Tunisia	19,069
Burma	10,000	Malawi	260	Turkey	11,000
Burundi	1,675	Malaysia	20,000	Uganda	2,500
Canada	12,432,548	Malta	892	United Arab Emirates	50,000
Chile	20,000	Mexico	40,000	United Kingdom	17,699,773
China	350,505	Monaco	1,142	United Republic of Cameroon	4,843
Colombia	18,015	Morocco	20,000	United Republic of Tanzania	3,287
Cyprus	3,685	Netherlands	8,033,340	United States	107,696,787
Denmark	9,566,124	New Zealand	143,180	Upper Volta	3,613
Djibouti	2,000	Nigeria	276,109	Venezuela	19,965
El Salvador	1,000	Norway	12,203,371	Viet Nam	1,000
Finland	1,938,473	Oman	6,000	Yugoslavia	30,000
France	1,300,905	Pakistan	3,906	Zimbabwe	26,042
Gambia	333	Panama	500		
Germany, Federal Republic of	19,409,645	Philippines	6,000	Subtotal	273,268,974
Greece	90,000	Portugal	97,960		
Guyana	833	Qatar	35,000	Intergovernmental contributions	
Holy See	2,500	Republic of Korea	10,000	European Economic Community	31,011,201
Iceland	30,200	Rwanda	2,548	United Nations Trust Fund for Southern Africans	200,000
India	10,493	San Marino	11,968		
Indonesia	25,000	Saudi Arabia	10,000	Subtotal	31,211,201
Iran	80,000	Senegal	3,000		
Ireland	235,869	Spain	30,000	Total	304,480,175

SOURCE: A/39/5Add.5.

Accounts of voluntary funds for 1982

The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1982 on the voluntary funds administered by UNHCR showed a total expenditure of \$407 million, and total income of \$444 million.

After examining the financial statements, the Board of Auditors recommended in its report⁽⁴⁾ to the General Assembly that administrative budget monitoring and cash management of UNHCR field offices should be improved. It noted lack of adequate control in some cases over project implementation, particularly as regards expenditures in relation to allotments, and observed that inadequate feasibility studies, insufficient project budgets, or lack of control over the non-expendable property of projects, among other things, had resulted in cost overruns or substantial losses. Moreover, monitoring of some project activities was unsatisfactory due either to non-submission of periodic reports by the implementing agencies or to lack of co-ordination between them and the UNHCR field offices. Accordingly, it called for improved procurement planning and incorporation in agreements of specific penalty/liquidated damage clauses, as well as establishment of appropriate reporting procedures between headquarters and field offices, in order to protect the interests of UNHCR.

The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), commenting

on the Board's audit in a September report⁽⁵⁾ stressed the importance of proper planning and of careful examination of procurement agreements in keeping losses to a minimum. It expected that UNHCR would introduce procedures for better financial control, and that the experience gained to date would lead to further improvements in project management.

The Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme, in October⁽¹⁾ took note of the 1982 financial accounts and the reports of the Board and ACABQ, as well as the report of its Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters (see below).

In November, the General Assembly, by resolution 38/30, accepted the financial reports, audited financial statements and the audit opinion of the Board of Auditors; concurred with the ACABQ observations; and requested the High Commissioner to take remedial action as called for by the Board.

Administrative and organizational questions

The Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters of the Executive Committee, at its third meeting (Geneva, October 1983),⁽⁶⁾ discussed the strengthening of UNHCR's management policy as well as personnel issues such as the geographical composition of UNHCR staff, recruit-

ment policies, career development, promotion, staff rotation and training.

Taking note of the Sub-Committee's report, the Executive Committee⁽¹⁾ in October, urged continued efforts towards improved management of the UNHCR Office—particularly regarding devolution of authority, staffing policy and effective programme delivery—and asked the High Commissioner to report periodically on the question. Among a series of personnel questions, it commended the Commissioner for the proposed net zero growth in the established staffing level of his Office in 1984, and stressed the importance of continuing efforts to meet additional needs through redeployment of posts. The Committee also noted that the proposed voluntary funds programmes and budget for 1984 reflected part of the reapportionment of UNHCR's administrative costs between the United Nations regular programme budget and voluntary funds which were subject to General Assembly approval in 1983.

Noting the absence of consensus on a proposal made at the session by the Sudan on behalf of a number of other countries, the Executive Committee requested the High Commissioner to study the full financial and practical implications of including Arabic, Chinese and Spanish among its official and working languages—an action subsequently noted by the General Assembly in resolution 38/121.

REFERENCES

WA/SSm/Add.1. ⁽²⁾A/38/12. ⁽³⁾A/AC.221/SR.1 & Corr.1. ⁽⁴⁾A/38/5/Add.5. ⁽⁵⁾A/38/433. ⁽⁶⁾A/AC.96/628.

Activities for refugees

Assistance

Because of the relative stabilization of major refugee situations and the absence of massive new movements, UNHCR expenditure in assistance programmes continued to fall for the third consecutive year, totalling \$398 million in 1983 as compared with \$497 million in 1980. The higher proportion of expenditures under General Programmes—\$316.2 million as against \$81.5 million under Special Programmes—reflected the trend away from purely emergency operations.

While the promotion of durable solutions—through voluntary repatriation, local integration in the country of first asylum or resettlement in a third country—remained the long-term goal, UNHCR responded to requests for emergency assistance to new arrivals and continued to pursue

care and maintenance programmes (food, shelter, water, health services, education) for refugees for whom no immediate solution could be implemented. Whenever possible, relief programmes also included measures aimed at promoting self-reliance among refugees.

The largest single care and maintenance programme continued to be for Afghan refugees in Pakistan (\$83.9 million), followed by Indo-Chinese refugees in South-East Asia pending a more durable solution (\$58 million). Intermediate care and maintenance assistance amounted to some 55 per cent of total UNHCR 1983 General Programmes expenditure.

Some \$5,455,000 was obligated from the Emergency Fund, of which \$1.1 million was allocated to help 10,000 Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and \$1 million for the purchase and airlift of 5,000 family-size tents for an influx of Afghan refugees in Iran. Allocation of \$1.2 million from the Fund assisted persons of concern to UNHCR in Lebanon as well as needy Lebanese who, due to events in their country, were unable to return and needed temporary assistance; of that amount, \$685,000 was for assistance inside Lebanon, \$250,000 for assistance to Lebanese displaced persons in the Syrian Arab Republic, \$135,000 for Lebanese in Cyprus and \$173,000 for those in various European countries. Further, \$600,000 from the Fund was used to meet emergency needs of a new influx of Angolans in Zambia, \$350,000 to assist illegal immigrants expelled from Nigeria, \$675,000 for Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica, and \$500,000 to assist a group of refugees and displaced persons in Uganda.

Various social services continued in the form of community services and counselling, education and aid to handicapped refugees. Disabled refugees and their families, totalling about 1,000 persons, were admitted to new countries of asylum under special resettlement programmes. Scholarship assistance programmes worth \$12.7 million helped nearly 14,300 refugee students to study at the secondary and tertiary levels, an increase of 12 per cent over 1982; approximately 66 per cent of the students were in secondary school, 19 per cent in technical training courses and 15 per cent at universities.

A number of assistance projects, as in the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire, were phased out and responsibilities for further assistance transferred to host Governments.

The UNHCR Handbook for Emergencies, published in English in 1982, was issued in French in 1983, and managerial and technical innovations as well as practical lessons learned in the field were being collated for the second edition.

The following table shows 1983 programme expenditure by country or area.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN 1983 BY COUNTRY OR AREA*
(in thousands of US dollars)

Country or area	Local settlement	Resettlement	Voluntary repatriation	Relief /and other assistance	Total
AFRICA					
Algeria	3,179.0	0.4	—	13.0	3,192.4
Angola	5,087.8	1.1	1.0	558.4	5,648.3
Botswana	831.7	4.0	32.0	92.7	960.4
Burundi	871.8	—	25.0	83.5	980.3
Djibouti	3,281.6	10.1	353.1	169.7	3,814.5
Egypt	2,234.4	227.6	0.7	133.0	2,595.7
Ethiopia	1,630.1	100.5	3,556.9	5,347.9	10,635.4
Kenya	1,663.8	30.7	5.3	515.5	2,215.3
Lesotho	586.3	26.7	0.5	145.2	758.7
Nigeria	86.1	—	0.7	382.5	1,248.3
Rwanda	3,445.1	4.7	—	368.5	3,818.3
Senegal	547.6	148.5	—	88.0	784.1
Somalia	28,625.1	4.1	—	16,563.8	45,193.0
Sudan	28,436.5	224.7	110.0	1,189.6	29,960.8
Swaziland	1,092.6	12.0	—	81.7	1,186.3
Uganda	1,895.5	3.6	512.9	1,878.6	4,290.6
United Republic of Cameroon	630.0	2.8	0.4	—	633.2
United Republic of Tanzania	5,801.8	—	0.3	159.2	5,961.3
Zaire	12,392.9	22.3	310.2	9.0	12,734.4
Zambia	1,595.5	2.6	0.5	1,104.1	2,702.7
Zimbabwe	231.1	—	—	58.8	289.9
Other	3,329.1	9.1	1,302.4	521.6	5,162.2
Follow-up on recommendations of Pan-African Conference on Refugees	—	—	—	120.5	120.5
Subtotal	108,254.4	835.5	6,211.9	29,584.8	144,886.6
AMERICAS					
Argentina	1,794.8	91.6	30.0	575.2	2,491.6
Costa Rica	1,334.1	10.0	55.0	2,922.7	4,321.8
Honduras	3,536.4	—	10.0	8,127.7	11,674.1
Mexico	454.4	10.0	154.7	4,499.3	5,118.4
Nicaragua	885.8	—	—	1,170.0	2,055.8
Peru	374.0	12.0	3.3	58.0	447.3
Other northern Latin America	1,341.4	115.0	90.3	302.0	1,848.7
Other north-western South America	398.9	—	11.8	159.5	570.2
Other southern Latin America	508.3	345.0	41.7	802.8	1,697.8
North America	2.7	4.8	4.3	80.4	92.2
Subtotal	10,630.8	588.4	401.1	18,697.6	30,317.9
EAST AND SOUTH ASIA AND OCEANIA					
Australia	0.1	—	3.0	—	3.1
China	6,532.9	70.8	—	1.1	6,604.8
Hong Kong	—	746.2	0.3	3,613.8	4,360.3
Indonesia	—	2,174.6	—	4,251.5	6,426.1
Lao People's Democratic Republic	208.6	1.5	1,164.8	—	1,374.9
Malaysia	1,146.6	618.3	—	5,451.5	7,216.4
Philippines	78.6	743.0	—	7,536.2	8,357.8
Thailand	109.1	2,526.3	0.9	28,919.8	31,556.1
Viet Nam	1,020.0	2,800.0	—	—	3,820.0
Other	586.4	606.7	—	8,249.4	9,442.5
Subtotal	9,682.3	10,287.4	1,169.0	58,023.3	79,162.0
EUROPE					
Austria	234.6	83.2	8.0	90.9	416.7
Belgium	216.6	7.5	17.5	77.6	319.2
France	250.0	57.7	33.0	110.0	450.7
Germany, Federal Republic of	162.6	0.6	11.3	1,801.4	1,975.9
Greece	258.3	36.4	2.1	310.0	606.8
Italy	316.1	99.8	1.3	783.0	1,200.2
Portugal	539.3	3.3	4.0	122.0	668.6
Spain	1,107.9	2.0	76.3	555.0	1,741.2
Turkey	61.5	397.6	—	24.9	484.0
United Kingdom	65.6	4.4	11.1	198.1	280.2
Yugoslavia	15.0	130.1	—	900.4	1,045.5
Other	110.9	18.0	28.2	131.3	288.4
Subtotal	3,338.4	840.6	192.8	5,105.6	9,477.4
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH-WEST AS/A					
Cyprus	4,666.0	—	—	581.7	5,247.7
Iran	2,500.0	6.9	—	1,050.0	3,556.9
Lebanon	751.5	8.8	—	15.0	775.3

Country or area	Local settlement		Voluntary repatriation	Relieff/and other assistance	Total
MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH-WEST ASIA (cont.)					
Pakistan	243.9	240.3		83,940.9	84,425.1
Western Asia	182.6	81.4		267.0	531.0
Subtotal	8,344.0	337.4		85,854.6	94,536.0
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL					
Total	724.9	288.3	44.3	701.1	1,758.6
Total	140,974.8	13,177.6	8,019.1	197,967.0	360,138.5

*Not including expenditure for programme support and administration,

†including donations in kind, such as food.

SOURCE: A/39/12.

Africa

In 1983, preparations were made for the Second (1984) International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (see below), and joint technical teams—comprising UNDP, UNHCR and, in some cases, the Organization of African Unity (OAU)—visited 14 countries to help them prepare requests for assistance to meet additional needs and the increased infrastructural requirements caused by the refugees' presence.

The 1983 UNHCR expenditures in Africa totalled over \$153 million, of which some \$114.8 million was obligated under General Programmes and \$38 million under Special Programmes. Activities in the region featured formulating comprehensive plans of action for refugee self-sufficiency, income generation, education, and phasing-out of activities upon attainment of self-sufficiency.

In Chad, the repatriation operation which had started in 1981 was virtually completed by year's end, as remaining groups from the Central African Republic, Nigeria, the Sudan and the United Republic of Cameroon returned home; some 200,000 persons received UNHCR assistance under the operation. In order to complete UNHCR activities in Chad, a six-month agreement was concluded with UNDP in N'Djamena to phase out rehabilitation assistance.

A tripartite agreement on voluntary repatriation, reached in April between Djibouti, Ethiopia and UNHCR, led to the return of some 12,000 Ethiopian refugees from Djibouti. The Special Programme of Assistance to Ethiopian Returnees, originally scheduled for completion by June 1983, had to be extended owing to delays in various programme sectors; half of the total programme valued at \$20 million had been obligated in cash, and \$6.3 million in kind, by year's end. A new influx of some 21,000 refugees into south-western Ethiopia in the latter half of 1983 necessitated an emergency response, and a UNHCR review mission in October/November recommended some programme modifications.

The Sudan saw new refugee arrivals in its southern and eastern regions, due partly to the se-

vere drought. WFP assisted in improving food transportation in the south, while ILO, which concluded in April a study with UNHCR on income-generating activities for refugees in eastern and central Sudan, developed activities to benefit some 10,000 families. Discussions began with UNDP to examine the longer-term needs of the refugee-affected area in the south.

Somalia continued to host a large number of refugees, where insufficient availability of food continued to pose difficulties; self-sufficiency schemes were implemented in most of the 35 refugee camps with the co-operation of voluntary agencies. With the Government's consent, agreement was reached on setting up a Steering Committee—chaired by the National Refugee Commission and comprising the Ministry of Planning, UNDP and UNHCR—to co-ordinate the local settlement programme for those refugees not wishing to repatriate; a specialist mission was undertaken in October/November to study the proposed settlements.

There were signs that Ugandan refugees were prepared to repatriate from the Sudan and Zaire, and frequent homeward movements, particularly to the West Nile region, had been observed. The programme in that region was implemented under a tripartite agreement between the Government, the Lutheran World Federation and UNHCR, with WFP, UNICEF and Médecins sans frontières co-operating in the effort. Other developments included a programme mission in September, and the appointment of a liaison officer to the UNHCR African Bureau to ensure co-ordinated action in the countries of asylum and origin.

The United Republic of Tanzania expressed its willingness to grant nationality to a large group of Burundi refugees once a programme to naturalize some 36,000 Rwandese refugees was completed. In Uganda, the right to citizenship was recognized for a group of long-time residents internally displaced during the previous year.

The situation remained largely unchanged for more than 27,000 South African refugees in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique,

Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, where UNHCR assistance continued to comprise subsistence allowances, scholarships and the promotion of self-sufficiency either in rural settlements or through individual income-generating activities. UNHCR continued to assist some 75,000 Namibian refugees in Angola, Zambia and other African countries. At the United Nations, the question of Namibian refugees was taken up by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (see TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION, Chapter III).

At its October 1983 session, the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme⁽¹⁾ noted increased assistance needs in Africa, welcomed UNHCR efforts in preparing for the 1984 International Conference and invited the Office to collaborate with other organizations for its success.

In October, the Assembly, in resolution 38/5 on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, urged Member States and various organizations to continue their support of African refugee programmes and to assist host countries in coping with the burden imposed on their limited resources and weak infrastructures (see POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, Chapter V). The Assembly also adopted, at its 1983 session, resolutions dealing with: the 1984 Conference; refugee situations in Djibouti, Somalia and the Sudan; the situation of displaced persons in Ethiopia; and South African student refugees (see below).

Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

Preparations were under way during 1983 for the Second (1984) International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, which the General Assembly in 1982⁽²⁾ had decided to convene for the purpose of: reviewing the results of the first (1981) Conference⁽³⁾ considering the assistance needs for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees and returnees; and assessing the need for strengthening the economic and social infrastructure of the affected countries to cope with the problem. The 1981 Conference, while resulting in pledges and contributions amounting to some \$570 million, could not meet the additional assistance needs of the affected countries.

Report of the Secretary-General. In his October report⁽⁴⁾ submitted in response to a December 1982 Assembly request⁽⁵⁾ the Secretary-General noted that most African countries affected by refugee situations were among the least developed in the world and, despite generous international assistance given to meet the emergency requirements of refugees, more resources were needed for the authorities concerned to implement durable solutions, such as land settlement

schemes, strengthening the relevant infrastructure of the affected countries, and the creation of income-generating activities.

Recommending that the Assembly convene the Second Conference at Geneva from 9 to 11 July 1984, the Secretary-General stated that a Steering Committee—composed of his representative, as well as those of the OAU Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and the UNDP Administrator—had been established to maintain liaison with African Governments and to direct preparatory work, along with a United Nations Technical Team to assist in preparing country reports. Inclusion of UNDP in the Steering Committee underscored the emphasis of the Conference on the role of development in support of ongoing programmes and in the search for durable solutions. A public information campaign took place in 1983 to publicize the objectives of the Conference (see below).

The Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme, at its October 1983 session⁽¹⁾ recognized the importance and timeliness of the Second Conference in pursuing durable solutions to refugee problems in Africa, and reiterated the need for carefully prepared and realistic project submissions so as to help ensure the Conference's success. It also welcomed UNHCR efforts in its preparations and invited the Office to collaborate in that regard with other organizations.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 38/120 without vote.

Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General concerning preparations for the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa and the sections on Africa contained in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recalling its resolutions 37/197 of 18 December 1982, entitled "International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa", and 38/5 of 28 October 1983 on co-operation between the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity,

Bearing in mind resolution AHG/Res.114(XIX) on the Second Conference, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its nineteenth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 6 to 12 June 1983,

Gravely concerned at the persistent and serious problem of large numbers of refugees on the African continent, Aware of the economic and social burden borne by African countries of asylum on account of the presence of these refugees and its consequences for their national development and of the heavy sacrifices made by them, despite their limited resources,

Recognizing the universal collective responsibility of sharing the urgent and overwhelming burden of the

problem of African refugees through effective mobilization of resources to meet the urgent and long-term needs of the refugees and to strengthen the capacity of countries of asylum to provide adequately for the refugees while they remain in those countries, as well as to assist the countries of origin in the rehabilitation of voluntary returnees,

Recognizing that the achievement of durable solutions to refugee problems, in particular voluntary repatriation and local integration, calls for generous humanitarian and developmental assistance to the affected countries, as well as for efforts to address the causes of refugee situations,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General concerning preparations for the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;

2. Approves the proposed Conference arrangements contained in paragraph 17 of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to invite all States to participate in the Conference at the ministerial level and to invite also the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the Conference at a high level;

4. Appeals to the international community, all States, specialized agencies and regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide the utmost support for the Conference with a view to offering maximum financial and material assistance to refugees in Africa and to ensuring the success of the Conference;

5. Expresses its deep appreciation to the countries of asylum for the generous contribution and the sacrifices that they are making to alleviate the plight of refugees;

6. Commends those countries that are supporting programmes for refugees and returnees for their continued assistance and calls upon them, as well as other States and international organizations, to assist and co-operate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the promotion of durable solutions;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to ensure that, in the period leading up to the Conference, all appropriate measures are taken so that Member States, in particular principal donors, are kept fully informed of the priority needs of the affected countries and that contacts are established in the capitals concerned to mobilize the necessary support and resources;

8. Notes with satisfaction the action taken by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to initiate public information programmes to increase public awareness of the refugee situation in Africa and the objectives of the Conference;

9. Requests the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and other competent bodies of the United Nations system to co-operate closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure that the maximum amount of publicity is given to the refugee situation in Africa, as well as to the Conference and its objectives;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 38/120

16 December 1983 Meeting 100 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/38/688) without vote, 30 November (meeting 57); draft by Sierra Leone, for African Group (A/C.3/38/L24), orally revised; agenda item 98 (b).

Meeting numbers. GA 38th session; 3rd Committee 42-46, 54, 56, 57, 59; plenary 100.

In a related action, the General Assembly, in resolution 38/5 on co-operation between the United Nations and OAU, invited Member States and various organizations to participate actively in the 1984 Conference and to contribute generously to ensure its success.

Djibouti

In view of developments in the refugee situation in Djibouti during 1983, especially the tripartite agreement on voluntary repatriation by the Governments of Djibouti and Ethiopia, and UNHCR, an inter-agency mission concentrating on relief and rehabilitation, as requested by the General Assembly in 1982,⁽⁵⁾ was deemed inopportune. Instead, an internal UNHCR mission was undertaken in February 1983 to review with the Government an assistance programme for 1983 and 1984.

In a September 1983 report to the Assembly⁽⁶⁾ the Secretary-General observed that voluntary repatriation appeared to be the only viable durable solution for refugees in Djibouti, in view of the country's arid climate, sparse natural resources and lack of infrastructure. The refugee population in 1982 was estimated at 35,000—half of them children under the age of 15 and most with pastoral background—which represented more than 10 per cent of the local population. Under the voluntary repatriation programme, some 1,500 refugees had returned spontaneously to Ethiopia by the end of June 1983, and as many as 10,000 refugees were expected to repatriate by year's end. The UNHCR branch office in Djibouti was strengthened through the assignment of two repatriation officers.

In June, the High Commissioner appealed to the international community to support an additional special programme of immediate relief and assistance in Ethiopia to voluntary repatriates from Djibouti (see also below, under ETHIOPIA).

At its October 1983 session, the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme⁽⁷⁾ commended the High Commissioner's efforts, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, to launch the voluntary repatriation programme.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December, the General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 38/89 without vote.

Humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/182 of 15 December 1980, 36/156 of 16 December 1981 and 37/176 of 17 December 1982 on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti,

Having heard the statement made on 14 November 1983 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Having considered with satisfaction the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti,

Appreciating the determined efforts made by the Government of Djibouti, despite its limited economic resources, to cope with the pressing needs of the refugees,

Aware of the social and economic burden placed on the Government and people of Djibouti as a result of the presence of refugees and of the consequent impact on the development and infrastructure of the country,

Deeply concerned about the continuing plight of the refugees and displaced persons in the country, which has been aggravated by the devastating effects of the prolonged drought,

Noting with appreciation the steps taken by the Government of Djibouti, in close co-operation with the High Commissioner, to achieve adequate, appropriate and lasting solutions in respect of the refugees,

Also noting with appreciation the concern and unremitting efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the voluntary agencies which have worked closely with the Government of Djibouti in the relief and rehabilitation programme for the refugees in that country,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti;

2. Appreciates the efforts made by the High Commissioner to keep the situation of the refugees in Djibouti under constant review;

3. Welcomes the steps taken by the Government of Djibouti, in close co-operation with the High Commissioner, to achieve adequate, appropriate and lasting solutions in respect of the refugees in Djibouti;

4. Calls upon the High Commissioner to mobilize the necessary resources to implement lasting solutions in respect of the refugees in Djibouti;

5. Urges the High Commissioner to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that adequate, appropriate and lasting solutions are achieved in respect of the refugees in Djibouti and to maintain close contact with the Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies concerned with a view to mobilizing the necessary assistance to enable the Government of Djibouti to cope effectively with the refugee situation, which has been aggravated by the debilitating effects of the prolonged drought;

6. Appreciates the assistance provided thus far by Member States, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and volun-

tary agencies to the relief and rehabilitation programmes for the refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti;

7. Calls upon all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies to continue to support the efforts being made by the Government of Djibouti to cope with the current needs of the refugee population and the other victims of drought in that country;

8. Requests the High Commissioner, in close co-operation with the Secretary-General, to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 38/89

16 December 1983 Meeting 100 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/38/680) without vote, 7 December (meeting 67); 60-nation draft (A/C.3/38/L.43/Rev.2); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers. GA 38th session: 3rd Committee 6, 67; plenary 100.

Ethiopia

In an October 1983 report⁽⁷⁾ submitted in pursuance of a December 1982 General Assembly request⁽⁸⁾ the Secretary-General noted that the Government of Ethiopia had extended its 1980 amnesty proclamation to the end of 1983, that the tripartite commission had agreed on principles governing voluntary repatriation, and that refugees wishing to remain in Djibouti would be permitted to do so while durable solutions were explored by Djibouti and UNHCR in co-operation with the international community (see above). The UNHCR regional liaison office had been expanded to include a protection officer and a logistics officer.

In June, the High Commissioner appealed for international support for a special programme—estimated to require some \$8 million for the 12-month period beginning on 15 August 1983—aimed at providing voluntary repatriates from Djibouti with basic relief assistance as well as improving two irrigated agricultural sites. This organized voluntary repatriation programme differed in target population and geographic coverage from the separate ongoing returnees programme in the Eritrea and Harargeh regions for an estimated 110,000 to 126,000 persons of Ethiopian origin returning mainly from Somalia and the Sudan (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 38/91 without vote.

Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/91 of 5 December 1980, 36/161 of 16 December 1981 and 37/175 of 17 December 1982 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1980/54 of 24 July 1980 and 1982/2 of 27 April 1982,

Recalling also the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia, prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/8 of 28 April 1980,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia,

Recalling further the appeal of the Secretary-General contained in his note verbale of 11 November 1980 as well as those of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council,

Having heard the statement made on 14 November 1983 by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recognizing the number of voluntary returnees in Ethiopia,

Deeply concerned that the repeated appeals of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council have yet to receive an adequate response,

Aware of the heavy burden placed on the Government of Ethiopia in caring for displaced persons and victims of natural disasters,

1. Endorses once again the appeals of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council concerning assistance to displaced persons and voluntary returnees in Ethiopia;

2. Commends the efforts made by various organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in mobilizing humanitarian assistance to the displaced persons and voluntary returnees in Ethiopia;

3. Appeals once again to the Governments of Member States and to intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and all voluntary agencies to contribute generously to assist the Government of Ethiopia in its efforts to provide relief and rehabilitation to the displaced persons and voluntary returnees in Ethiopia;

4. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to intensify his efforts in mobilizing humanitarian assistance for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of numbers of voluntary returnees, as well as for displaced persons;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1984, of the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session.

General Assembly resolution 38/91

16 December 1983 Meeting 100 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/38/680) without vote, 7 December (meeting 67); 34-nation draft (A/C.3/38/L.51/Rev.D; agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Congo, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers. GA 38th session: 3rd Committee 67; plenary 100.

Lesotho

Following a December 1982 attack by South African forces on Lesotho,⁽⁹⁾ the Secretary-General had been requested by the Security Council⁽¹⁰⁾ to consult

with Lesotho and United Nations agencies to ensure the welfare and security of refugees there. In February 1983, he reported to the Council⁽¹¹⁾ the conclusions of a mission sent to the country in January (see POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, Chapter V, and Chapter III of this section).

While the Government of Lesotho had not established verifiable refugee statistics, 2,000 were formally registered as refugees and some 9,000 persons concentrated in the national primary and secondary schools were believed to be eligible for refugee status.

On the basis of consultations with the Government and UNHCR, the mission was satisfied that current refugee programmes adequately met the needs of identified refugees, and that the policy of local integration offered the best arrangement for their security. However, the mission felt that the Government should process expeditiously the large number of unregistered refugees, so as to provide them with legal protection and qualify them for assistance.

Somalia

The High Commissioner⁽¹²⁾ in pursuance of a December 1982 General Assembly request⁽¹³⁾ reported in September 1983 on the findings of a mission—led by UNHCR and including a representative of WFP—which had visited Somalia from 12 to 28 March to review the refugee situation. Due to difficulties in conducting a census in the 35 refugee camps spread over four different regions, the mission recommended, for programme planning purposes, the use of 700,000 as a camp population, as had been agreed in 1982.⁽¹⁴⁾ About 50 per cent were estimated to be children.

While an organized programme of voluntary repatriation was viewed as the best durable solution for Ethiopian refugees in the country, there was a need to give greater emphasis to self-help activities and land settlement, as refugees were likely to remain in Somalia for the time being. In 1983, Somalia developed a local settlement programme for those unable to attain self-sufficiency under prevailing camp conditions, and reviewed the programme with a United Nations technical inter-agency mission (19 October-9 November); pending the outcome of the mission, a provision of \$12 million had been made to establish the settlements, with the initial aim of accommodating up to 40,000 refugees. Considerable material and financial assistance was required to sustain and strengthen Somalia's fragile economic infrastructure, particularly in refugee-affected areas, to enable it to support the increased population, the report stated.

Most of the refugees' basic care and maintenance needs were being met with external assistance, and some 30 voluntary agencies from Western Europe and North America operated in the camps. As-

sistance requirements for 1983 were estimated at \$124 million, including \$94.5 million for 150,000 metric tons of food.

In October, the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme(1) welcomed the initiatives of Somalia and the High Commissioner in implementing the rural settlement schemes.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

Acting on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly, on 16 December, adopted resolution 38/88 without vote.

Assistance to refugees in Somalia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/180 of 15 December 1980, 36/153 of 16 December 1981 and 37/174 of 17 December 1982 on the question of assistance to refugees in Somalia,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/31 of 6 May 1981 and 1982/4 of 27 April 1982,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the conditions of the refugees in Somalia, particularly paragraph 6 of the report,

Deeply concerned that the refugee problem in Somalia has not yet been resolved,

Recognizing from the recommendations contained in the report of the High Commissioner that there remains an urgent need for increased assistance in the provision of food, water and medicines, the strengthening of health and educational facilities in the refugee camps, and the expansion of the number of self-help schemes and small-scale farming and fruit-growing projects necessary for the promotion of self-reliance among the refugees,

Noting the decision of the Government of Somalia to facilitate a programme of local settlement of the refugees,

Aware of the consequences of the social and economic burden placed on the Government and people of Somalia as a result of the continued presence of refugees and the consequent impact on the national development and the infrastructure of the country,

1. Takes note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the High Commissioner for his continued efforts to mobilize international assistance on behalf of the refugees in Somalia;

3. Takes note with satisfaction of the assistance rendered to refugees in Somalia by various Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and other concerned inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations;

4. Appeals to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to render maximum material, financial and technical assistance to the Government of Somalia in its efforts to provide all necessary assistance to the refugees;

5. Notes with satisfaction the visit of the United Nations technical inter-agency mission to Somalia from 19 October to 9 November 1983 to review with the Government a comprehensive settlement programme for refugees who wish to be settled in the country;

6. Notes that the Government of Somalia will indicate to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, to be held at Geneva in July 1984, its additional needs for material and financial help to assist the refugees in that country;

7. Requests the High Commissioner to make a further comprehensive review of the overall needs of the refugees, taking into account those aspects relating to their rehabilitation and settlement;

8. Also requests the High Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1984, of the proposed review of the refugee situation in Somalia;

9. Further requests the High Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 33/88

16 December 1983 Meeting 100 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/38/6801 without vote, 7 December (meeting 67); 35-nation draft (A/C.3/38/L.37/Rev.2); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Cape Verde, China, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, United States, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia.

Meeting numbers. GA 38th session: 3rd Committee 65, 67; plenary 100.

Sudan

The Secretary-General, in a September 1983 report⁽¹⁵⁾ submitted in response to a December 1982 General Assembly request⁽¹⁶⁾ stated that the Sudan hosted an estimated refugee population of 670,000—of whom 465,000 were from Ethiopia, 200,000 from Uganda and 5,000 from Zaire. Some 22,000 Chad refugees had repatriated, either with UNHCR assistance or spontaneously.

A continuing refugee influx was noted, however, with a monthly average of 1,000 to 1,500 arriving in the east, and some 4,500 in the southern border area. As at August 1983, 22 settlements in eastern Sudan accommodated 100,000 refugees and 25 in southern Sudan sheltered as many as 140,000; in addition, the transit centres in the south held 21,150 people as at July.

During a mission undertaken in February, UNHCR arranged with the Sudan's Office of the Commissioner for Refugees for implementation of the recommendations made by an inter-agency review mission in November 1982.⁽¹⁷⁾ Major follow-up action being taken included international protection, co-ordination of assistance, delivery of social and technical services, access, to land and water, housing, wage-earning settlements, refugee participation, and the phasing-out of UNHCR activities. In order to ensure improved co-ordination of assistance provided from various sources, an advisory body comprising the Sudan's Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, WFP and several voluntary agencies had been established.

In view of the uncertain general situation in the region, a contingency plan was being worked out by UNHCR for possible large-scale emergency assistance. It was suggested that, in addition to the participation of WFP and ILO, consideration should be given to further UNDP involvement in refugee-affected areas of the Sudan and in developmental initiatives involving refugee settlements.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

Acting on the recommendation of the Third Committee, the General Assembly adopted resolution 38/90 without vote on 16 December.

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 35/181 of 15 December 1980, 36/158 of 16 December 1981 and 37/173 of 17 December 1982 on the situation of refugees in the Sudan,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of refugees in the Sudan,

Taking note of the ever-increasing number of refugees arriving in the Sudan,

Recognizing the heavy burden placed on the Government of the Sudan and the sacrifices it is making in caring for the refugees and the need for adequate international assistance to enable it to continue its efforts to provide assistance to the refugees,

Expressing its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Sudan by Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of refugee programmes,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations of the inter-agency technical follow-up missions contained therein;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, donor countries and voluntary agencies for their efforts to assist the refugees in the Sudan;

3. Commends the efforts of the High Commissioner and the International Labour Office to create income-generating activities for refugees in the Sudan;

4. Appreciates the measures which the Government of the Sudan is taking to provide shelter, food, education and health and other services to the refugees;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance for the full implementation of the recommendations of the various inter-agency missions;

6. Appeals to Member States, the appropriate organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international financial institutions to provide the Government of the Sudan with the necessary resources for the implementation of development assistance projects in regions affected by the presence of refugees, as envisaged in the reports of the various inter-agency missions, and to strengthen its social and economic infrastructure so that essential services and facilities for refugees can be strengthened and expanded;

7. Requests the High Commissioner to continue co-ordination with the appropriate specialized agencies in order to consolidate and ensure the continuation of essential services to the refugees in their settlements;

8. Also requests the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the inter-agency technical follow-up missions as well as on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 38/90

16 December 1983 Meeting 100 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/38/680) without vote, 7 December (meeting 67); 54-nation draft (A/C.3/38/L47); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Canada, Cape Verde, China, Comoros, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers. GA 38th session: 3rd Committee 67; plenary 100.

Student refugees in southern Africa

In a September 1983 report⁽¹⁸⁾ submitted in pursuance of a December 1982 General Assembly request⁽¹⁹⁾ the Secretary-General noted that all of the originally proposed projects designed to alleviate the burden which the presence of Namibian and South African student refugees posed on asylum countries had been completed, and that ongoing assistance to such refugees in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe had been fully incorporated into the UNHCR regular programme.

Government contributions received by July 1983, in response to the High Commissioner's 1977 appeal and earmarked for Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia, amounted to some \$16 million, with various other contributions of \$8.7 million and additional scholarships.

At different times during the year, the number of South African student refugees or school-age refugees were reported as: 154 in Botswana; 11,500 in Lesotho; 728 in Swaziland; 68 in Zambia; and 32 in Zimbabwe. The Namibian counterparts were estimated at: 121 in Botswana; one in Swaziland; and 3,500 in Zambia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 16 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 38/95 without vote.

Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/177 of 17 December 1982, in which it, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to continue to organize and implement an effective programme of educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees from Namibia and South Africa who had taken asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing the review by the High Commissioner of as-

sistance programmes for student refugees from South Africa and Namibia,

Noting with appreciation that some of the projects recommended in the report on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa have been successfully completed,

Noting with concern the continued influx into Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia of student refugees from South Africa, as well as from Namibia,

Convinced that the discriminatory policies and repressive measures being applied in South Africa and Namibia will lead to a further exodus of student refugees from those countries,

Conscious of the burden placed on the limited financial, material and administrative resources of the host countries by the increasing number of student refugees,

Appreciating the efforts of the host countries to deal with their student refugee populations, with the assistance of the international community,

1. Endorses the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General and commends him and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for their efforts to mobilize resources and organize the programme of assistance for student refugees in the host countries of southern Africa;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia for granting asylum and making educational and other facilities available to the student refugees, in spite of the pressure which the continuing influx of those refugees exerts on facilities in their countries;

3. Also expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia for the co-operation which they have extended to the Secretary-General and to the High Commissioner on matters concerning the welfare of those refugees;

4. Notes with appreciation the financial and material support provided for the student refugees by Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, other bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to continue to organize and implement an effective programme of educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees from Namibia and South Africa who have taken asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia;

6. Urges all Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue contributing generously to the assistance programmes for student refugees, through financial support of the regular programmes of the High Commissioner, of the projects identified in the report of the Secretary-General and of the projects and programmes, including unfunded projects, which will be submitted to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, to be held at Geneva in July 1984;

7. Also urges all Member States and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to assist the countries of asylum materially and otherwise to enable them to continue to discharge their humanitarian obligations towards refugees;

8. Appeals to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as

other international and non-governmental organizations, to continue providing humanitarian and development assistance to expedite the settlement of student refugees from South Africa who have been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia;

9. Calls upon all agencies and programmes of the United Nations system to continue co-operating with the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner in the implementation of humanitarian programmes of assistance for the student refugees in southern Africa;

10. Requests the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue to keep the matter under review, to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1984, of the current status of the programmes and to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 38/95

16 December 1983 Meeting 100 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/38/680) without vote, 7 December (meeting 67); 30-nation draft (A/C.3/38/L.54), orally revised; agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, China, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Meeting numbers. GA 38th session: 3rd Committee 64, 65, 67, 69; plenary 100.

The Americas and Europe

UNHCR obligations in the Americas and Europe totalled \$44 million in 1983, of which \$40 million was under General Programmes and \$4 million under Special Programmes.

The Americas

A major development in Latin America in 1983 included a continued increase in the number of refugees in Central America and Mexico—from some 312,000 to over 330,000, due mainly to new influxes of Nicaraguan and Salvadorian refugees in Costa Rica and Honduras and of Guatemalan refugees in Mexico. There was a proportional increase in the number of refugees assisted by UNHCR, which totalled some 96,500 by year's end.

The year also marked the beginning of significant voluntary repatriation movements to Argentina, Bolivia and Chile—following developments in the respective countries, including publication by the Chilean authorities in September 1983 of lists of exiles authorized to return. In response to a request by Bolivia, UNHCR used its good offices to solicit contributions to a rehabilitation fund for needy returnees facing difficulties in their economic and social reintegration; \$200,000 was made available in May to assist up to 1,250 returnees.

In Honduras, some 17,500 Salvadorian and 500 Guatemalan refugees were regrouped in camps near the western border. Approximately 15,000 Nicaraguan refugees of Miskito origin, who began arriving in Honduras in 1982, were placed in rural villages where self-sufficiency projects were started;

some 2,800 other Nicaraguan refugees had benefited from UNHCR assistance since the latter part of 1982. In Mexico, nearly 43,000 Guatemalan refugees, settled in 89 sites along the border, continued to receive care and maintenance assistance.

In Central America and the Caribbean, there were some 85,500 refugees—mostly Salvadorians, with the balance from Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua and other countries—in Belize (7,000), Cuba (2,000), the Dominican Republic (5,000), Guatemala (70,000) and Panama (1,500). Those receiving UNHCR assistance totalled some 3,700 in the region.

Many refugees and displaced persons continued to benefit from resettlement in Canada and the United States, where over 12,000 and 62,000 persons, respectively, were resettled, the majority being from South-East Asia and Europe, with the rest from Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. As in previous years, most assistance in North America was provided by voluntary agencies and government sources, with special help available from UNHCR on a case-by-case basis.

The Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme, at its October 1983 session⁽¹⁾ expressed concern over the refugee situation in Central America and appealed to Governments in the region to support the High Commissioner in implementing self-sufficiency projects and durable solutions.

Europe

In Europe in 1983, the total number of refugees was estimated at 600,000. The flow of asylum-seekers continued unabated, particularly from developing countries, with the number reaching 100,000. The countries receiving the most asylum-seekers continued to be France and the Federal Republic of Germany, although the latter's intake was greatly reduced in 1983. In relation to its population, Switzerland received the highest percentage of refugees in Europe; increases were also registered in Austria, Italy, Sweden and Turkey.

Many European Governments, preoccupied by economic recession and the heavy financial burden posed by asylum-seekers, indicated a growing reluctance to accept such applicants, while traditional resettlement countries also decreased their refugee intake; UNHCR was called on to increase its contribution to a number of projects, particularly in legal assistance. Some Governments introduced deterrents to discourage economic migrants from utilizing the asylum procedure, such as a ban on employment and a reduction in social benefits during examination of applications. As a result of such measures, accumulation of cases was noted in first-asylum countries such as Austria, Greece, Italy, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

UNHCR assistance was also given to needy Lebanese stranded in Europe.

The Executive Committee, at its October 1983 session⁽¹⁾ noted the increased assistance requirements in Europe, welcomed the High Commissioner's initiative in convening a seminar on the integration of refugees in Europe (Geneva, September)—attended by 19 Governments and by non-governmental organizations—and expressed the hope that there would be an appropriate follow-up to the seminar's conclusions.

East and South Asia and Oceania

In 1983, refugees of Indo-Chinese origin remained the largest refugee group in East and South Asia and Oceania. By year's end, those awaiting durable solutions in camps and centres in the region's asylum countries numbered some 167,000, of whom 42,237 were so-called boat people. In addition, there were 276,000 Indo-Chinese refugees settled on 257 state farms in China and some 26,000 Kampuchean refugees in Viet Nam, the majority of whom also benefited from UNHCR assistance.

Among the first-asylum countries in the region, Thailand accommodated the largest number of Indo-Chinese refugees—some 133,000, including 68,000 Lao, 56,300 Kampucheans and 8,600 Vietnamese. Other countries and areas providing temporary asylum to significant numbers of Indo-Chinese refugees included Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. In addition, there were two refugee processing centres—one each in Indonesia and the Philippines—which provided temporary accommodation to some 21,000 Indo-Chinese who had already been accepted for resettlement by third countries.

During the year, some 68,000 Indo-Chinese refugees—35,000 Vietnamese, 27,000 Kampucheans and 6,000 Lao—were resettled in third countries, and an additional 19,000 Vietnamese, departing directly from Viet Nam under the Orderly Departure Programme, joined family members abroad. Over 16,400 refugees, mostly Indo-Chinese, were accepted for resettlement by Australia.

Voluntary repatriation candidates and groups of spontaneous returnees to countries of origin also benefited from UNHCR assistance, including provision of resettlement kits and, when appropriate, rice. Beneficiaries included 2,236 Kampuchean repatriates from the Lao People's Democratic Republic under a bilateral arrangement, and 2,397 Lao refugees from Thailand, who had repatriated voluntarily with UNHCR assistance since the programme's inception in 1980. While negotiations continued regarding the voluntary return of Kampuchean refugees in Thailand, 1,200 Kam-

pucheans in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and 21,000 more in Viet Nam benefited from UNHCR assistance.

Other groups of concern to UNHCR in the region included some 8,000 Afghans and Iranians in India; asylum-seekers from Irian Jaya, Indonesia, in Papua New Guinea; and other individual refugees, mostly Iranians, in several other countries.

The High Commissioner told the Executive Committee in October(1) that new initiatives must be provided to cope with the special problem of some 4,000 unaccompanied minors in refugee camps in the region, many of whom had no relatives in third countries and might not qualify for current resettlement programmes.

During 1983, \$74.2 million was obligated for assistance to refugees in East and South Asia and Oceania under General Programmes and \$9.5 million under Special Programmes. Of this amount, \$58 million was spent on multi-purpose assistance for Indo-Chinese refugees in the region.

At its October 1983 session, the Executive Committee drew attention to the difficulties that the ongoing refugee problems entailed for the affected countries in South-East Asia, noted with concern that the size of the Indo-Chinese refugee camp population remained stable despite a significant reduction in arrivals, and called on the High Commissioner to promote durable solutions to those problems. It welcomed the continuing co-operation between Governments concerned and UNHCR, which had facilitated the operation of the Orderly Departure Programme from Viet Nam. In addition, the Executive Committee commended the High Commissioner for his efforts to secure the disembarkation and resettlement of refugees rescued at sea, called on Governments of both coastal and flag States to facilitate disembarkation, and appealed to the latter to give guarantees for the resettlement of those rescued at sea by ships flying their flags.

Middle East and South-west Asia

The largest single UNHCR assistance programme continued in 1983 for an estimated caseload of 2.3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, where a \$20 million joint project with the World Bank was finalized in the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan for income-generating activities through repairing damage to forest areas and improving irrigation systems and roads, all of which had been adversely affected by refugees and their livestock. UNHCR programmes incorporated some of the employment-generating and skills-training projects recommended by ILO after a mission to the country in late 1982; a vocational training project, funded by UNHCR and implemented by ILO, was started in Baluchistan. Under Pakistan's ongoing refugee relocation pro-

gramme, some 40,000 refugees were transferred out of the North-West Frontier Province.

On top of its traditional assistance for refugees in the Middle East, events in Lebanon necessitated UNHCR emergency assistance to some 98,000 persons including displaced Lebanese and refugees, in addition to 38,000 Lebanese and Palestinians (not registered with UNRWA) who had taken refuge in the Syrian Arab Republic (see POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, Chapter IX). UNHCR also provided monthly subsistence grants to some 200 needy Lebanese in Cyprus.

Elsewhere in the region, UNHCR continued discussions with Iran on local integration of Afghan refugees, and co-ordinated the United Nations humanitarian assistance for Cyprus for the displaced and needy there (see POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, Chapter VIII). It obligated a total of \$96 million for these programmes, of which \$68.8 million was under General Programmes and \$27.2 million under Special Programmes. Of this amount, \$3.5 million was for an initial programme of assistance to Afghan refugees in Iran, including \$1 million made available from the Emergency Fund to provide some 5,000 family-size tents to meet the urgent needs of new arrivals.

The Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme, at its October 1983 session⁽¹⁾ noted and encouraged the continued efforts of Pakistan and the High Commissioner in promoting employment and self-sufficiency activities for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

In November, the General Assembly, in resolution 38/29 on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, called on all parties concerned to create the necessary conditions for Afghan refugees to return voluntarily to their homes in safety and honour, and renewed its appeal for humanitarian relief assistance (see POLITICAL AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, Chapter VI).

Public information

UNHCR's public information activities in 1983 were aimed at promoting greater public awareness of the plight of refugees and of the objectives of the Second (1984) International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (see above).

In addition to the monthly newspaper *Refugees*, its quarterly supplement, *Refugees magazine*, focused on Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Indo-Chinese refugees, attacks on refugee camps, and refugees in Africa; the newspaper was published in English and French, with one special issue in German, while the magazine was published in English and French, with special issues in Arabic, Italian and Spanish. Other publications included a catalogue of information materials, posters, a refugee map and calendar, and country fact sheets.

The UNHCR photo library distributed some 45,000 photographs to the media, schools and NGOs. The film department prepared three documentary films: "The Camp on Lantau Island" (boat people in Hong Kong), "The Lost Tribes" (Afghan refugees in Pakistan) and "Beyond Emergency" (Ethiopian refugees in Somalia). UNHCR also continued film co-productions with major television networks on refugee situations around the world.

In the course of the year, journalists, television crews and photographers participated in itinerant media seminars, one of which visited South-East Asia and another the refugee asylum countries of Central America. Two other seminars travelled through a number of African countries on information-gathering programmes for the 1984 International Conference.

In resolution 38/120, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the UNHCR public information programmes aimed at increasing public awareness of the refugee situation in Africa and the objectives of the 1984 Conference, and requested the United Nations Department of Public Information and other United Nations bodies to co-operate closely with the High Commissioner in ensuring maximum publicity.

Refugee protection

UNHCR continued to provide various measures of protection to refugees, who often lived in insecurity, fearful even of their lives and basic safety. Despite almost universal respect in recent years for the principle of non-refoulement—whereby asylum-seekers were not forcibly returned to countries where they faced persecution or death—cases of expulsion had been reported and large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers everywhere were subjected to various forms, and harsh conditions, of detention.

In addition, States showed an increasing unwillingness to recognize the distinction between refugees and ordinary migrants, as well as a tendency to regard as temporary the predicament, and admission, of refugees for the reason that most of them were fleeing armed conflicts or internal disturbances in their home country.

The climate of economic austerity in various parts of the world had an adverse effect on the range of economic and social rights granted to refugees and asylum-seekers. The fact that most of them were found in countries with a high unemployment rate among local populations also compounded their difficulties in seeking economic independence.

In May, UNHCR hosted a two-day seminar on international protection, attended by legal experts from NGOs and academic institutions. A Meeting

of Experts on Refugee Aid and Development, held in August, called for a review of policies for refugee assistance in low-income countries with a major refugee problem and for a new approach to solving such problems. Government officials from some 30 countries attended the Second Refugee Law Course, organized jointly by UNHCR and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, Italy; the Institute also organized a Round Table on Movements of Populations (Florence, Italy, June). In Asia, a Seminar on Refugee Law (Colombo, Sri Lanka, June), held jointly by UNHCR and the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, enabled government officials from southern and central Asian countries to discuss principles of international protection and problems relating to their practical application in the region.

The Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, at its October 1983 session⁽¹⁾ noted the restrictive trends relating to the granting of asylum and the determination of refugee status, the burden that the problem of manifestly unfounded or abusive applications for refugee status or asylum placed on the affected countries as well as its detrimental effect on the interests of legitimate applicants, and recommended procedures for safeguarding the interests of both parties.

The Executive Committee also noted with profound concern the violation of the physical safety of refugees and asylum-seekers through military or armed attacks, acts of piracy and other forms of brutality and the failure to rescue asylum-seekers in distress at sea, and began consideration of a draft statement of principles on the prohibition of military attacks on refugee camps and settlements, taking into account a report by former High Commissioner Felix Schnyder (Switzerland) and the proposals made by its Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection (eighth meeting, Geneva, 3-6 and 11 October).⁽²⁰⁾

In 1983, UNHCR furnished Governments with some 9,500 Convention Travel Documents, provided for under the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees⁽²¹⁾ printed 250,000 refugee identity cards at the request of various Governments; and contributed to the cost of providing cards in several other countries.

In resolution 38/121, the General Assembly reaffirmed as fundamental the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection and the need for Governments to co-operate in the effective exercise of that function, deplored violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, and urged States to ensure their safety.

International refugee instruments

As at 31 December 1983, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees⁽²¹⁾ and the 1967

Protocol⁽²²⁾ had been ratified or acceded to by 94 and 93 States, respectively, as a result of 1983 accession to the Convention by El Salvador, Guatemala and Mozambique, and to the Protocol by El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru.⁽²³⁾ Bolivia and Kiribati adhered to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, as well as to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, bringing to 34 and 12, respectively, the number of States parties to those instruments⁽²³⁾

The 1951 Convention, which described the various rights and obligations of refugees, was complemented by the 1950 UNHCR statute⁽²⁴⁾ which defined the persons of concern to the High Commissioner and the action he was required to take on their behalf.

Other intergovernmental legal instruments of benefit to refugees included: the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the 1957 Agreement relating to Refugee Seamen and its 1973 Protocol, the 1959 European Agreement on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees, the 1980 European Agreement on Transfer of Responsibility for Refugees, and the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights Pact of San José, Costa Rica.

UNHCR expressed concern that, in two regions of the world where large-scale refugee problems existed and continued to arise, the international refugee instruments had been accepted by only a small number of States. The Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme⁽¹⁾ in October, stressed the importance for further States to accede to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.

In resolution 38/121 on the report of UNHCR, the General Assembly reaffirmed the need for Governments to facilitate the effective exercise of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection, in particular by acceding to and fully implementing the relevant international and regional instruments and by scrupulously observing the principles of asylum and non-refoulement.

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International co-operation to avert new refugee flows

In 1983, the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, established by the General Assembly in 1981⁽¹⁾ to review the problem and develop recommendations, held its first two sessions in New York (12-15 April and 6-10 June). In its report, transmitted by a July note of the Secretary-General⁽²⁾ the Group informed the Assembly that it had agreed on a programme of work, to be conducted, as a general rule, in closed meetings. The work programme covered, among other things, examination of circumstances causing new massive flows of refugees, both natural (catastrophes, emergencies) and man-made (political, economic, other); analysis of existing relevant international instruments, machinery and practices; and consideration of political, juridical, economic and other means for improved international co-operation to avert refugee flows.

The Group requested that the Assembly renew its mandate, adding that, in view of the magnitude and complexity of the task, it would require two 2-week sessions in 1984, with one session meeting in New York and the other elsewhere. The Group recognized the need to have all experts present at its future sessions.

The Secretary-General, in a September report⁽³⁾ submitted to the Assembly the observations received from Canada and Colombia in response to the Assembly's renewed request in 1982 for comments on the topic.⁽⁴⁾

By a letter of 5 January 1983 addressed to the Secretary-General⁽⁵⁾ China termed it essential that the Assembly analyse cases of massive refugee flows, rather than speak in generalities; and deal with, and eradicate, the political and ethnic causes that had created the problems.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

Acting on the recommendation of the Special Political Committee, the General Assembly, on 15 December, adopted resolution 38/84 without vote.

International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 36/148 of 16 December 1981 and 37/121 of 16 December 1982 on international co-operation to avert new flows of refugees,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General containing observations received from Governments and the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees,

Considering the urgency, magnitude and complexity of the task before the Group of Governmental Experts,

Recognizing the necessity of having all the experts participate in the future sessions of the Group, and concerned that, due to financial constraints, experts from least developed countries have been unable to attend,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General containing observations received from Governments;
2. Welcomes the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees, including its programme of work and recommendations, as a constructive step in the fulfilment of its mandate;
3. Reaffirms and extends the mandate of the Group of Governmental Experts as defined in General Assembly resolutions 36/148 and 37/121;
4. Calls upon the Secretary-General, without prejudice to the rule contained in resolution 36/148, to assist, as far as possible and by way of exception, the experts coming from least developed countries, appointed by the Secretary-General, to participate fully in the work of the Group of Governmental Experts, in order to fulfil its mandate;
5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a compilation of the comments and suggestions he may receive from Member States on this item;
6. Calls upon the Group of Governmental Experts to continue its work in two sessions of two weeks' duration each during 1984, in order to fulfil its mandate;
7. Requests the Group of Governmental Experts to submit a report on its work in time for consideration by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session;
8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "International co-operation to avert new flows of refugees".

General Assembly resolution 38/84

15 December 1983 Meeting 98 Adopted without vote

Approved by SPC (A/38/5931 without vote, 15 November (meeting 29): 34-nation draft (A/SPC/38/L6/Rev.1), orally revised; agenda item 74.
Sponsors: Austria, Comoros, Costa Rica, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, United Republic of Cameroon, Upper Volta, Zaire.
Financial implications. 5th Committee, A/38/657; S-G, A/C.5/38/51/Rev.1, A/SPC/38/L.11, A/SPC/38/L.12.
Meeting numbers. GA 38th session: SPC 8,9,17, 29; 5th Committee 54; plenary 98.

Prior to its approval by the Special Political Committee, the draft had been orally revised, taking into account amendments submitted, and later withdrawn, by Cuba and Mexico.⁽⁶⁾ The proposed amendments concerned the deletion, in paragraph 4, of a phrase qualifying the experts eligible for assistance as those coming from countries "which provide asylum or other significant services to refugees, including returning refugees"; the words "least developed countries", in the same paragraph and in the fourth preambular paragraph, would also have been replaced by "developing countries".

In a related action, the Assembly, in resolution 38/103 on human rights and mass exoduses, recalled having invited the Group of Governmental Experts in 1981(1) to consider the relevant recommendations made on the topic by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights (see Chapter XVIII of this section).

REFERENCES

- (1)YUN 1981, p. 1053, GA res. 36/148, 16 Dec. 1981.
(²)A/38/273. (3)A/38/274. (⁴)YUN 1982, p. 1220, GA res. 37/121, 16 Dec. 1982. (³)A/38/66. (⁶)A/SPC/38/L.9.