

Chapter XX

Refugees and displaced persons

The year 1987 marked a series of successes in finding solutions to the plight of refugees, the advent of new and serious refugee situations and, in a number of instances, a deterioration in the treatment of refugees. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to co-operate actively with concerned Governments and the international community in efforts to meet the humanitarian needs of refugees throughout the world and sought to provide international protection to refugees to compensate for their lack or the denial of national protection.

The promotion of durable solutions, such as voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement, remained the primary and long-term objective of UNHCR's assistance programme. UNHCR responded to requests for emergency assistance for many new arrivals and continued to pursue care and maintenance programmes for refugees for whom no immediate solution could be found. More than a quarter of a million people shed their status as refugees in 1987 and started new lives through voluntary repatriation and resettlement in third countries.

The Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme condemned military and armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements and considered, among other things, international protection, the situation of refugee children, refugee aid and development and durable solutions.

In December, the General Assembly called on the Secretary-General to give all possible assistance to preparations for an international conference on the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa (resolution 42/106), as well as to the follow-up to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (42/107). It also called for assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons of Central America (42/110), emergency assistance to Chad (42/128), humanitarian assistance to Djibouti (42/126), and assistance to Ethiopia (42/139), Malawi (42/132), Somalia (42/127), the Sudan (42/129) and student refugees in southern Africa (42/138).

The Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1987/89 and decision 1987/158, requested the enlargement of the Executive Committee, as did the General Assembly by resolution 42/130. In addition, the Assembly urged States to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to achieve dura-

ble solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons and called on them to contribute to UNHCR's programmes with the aim of ensuring that the needs of refugees were met (42/109). It decided to continue UNHCR for a further period of five years from 1 January 1989 (42/108).

The Nansen Medal for 1987—awarded since 1954 in honour of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—went to King Juan Carlos I for developments in Spain, which spanned a decade and had had a profound impact on the world's refugee problem.

Topics related to this chapter. Asia and the Pacific: South-East Asia; Kampuchea situation; Western and south-western Asia; Afghanistan situation; Iran-Iraq armed conflict. Middle East: Palestine refugees. Human rights: Human rights violations.

UNHCR programme and finances

Programme policy

Executive Committee action. At its thirty-eighth session (Geneva, 5-12 October 1987), the Executive Committee of the UNHCR Programme, recognizing that the complexity of the refugee problem underscored the importance of the High Commissioner's international protection function, called for the strengthening of that function. The Committee appealed to Governments to promote conditions conducive to attaining durable solutions such as providing adequate resettlement quotas with flexible selection criteria, including a more liberal policy towards disabled and medically at risk refugees, and distinguishing between refugees and ordinary immigrants.

The Committee called on the international community and UNHCR, in co-operation with development agencies, to review and redefine refugee self-sufficiency and to devise a mechanism to provide financial support to host countries to meet the cost of refurbishing infrastructures located in organized rural settlements.

The Committee expressed concern regarding continued violation of the principle of non-refoulement—whereby refugees and asylum-seekers would not be forcibly returned to countries where

they faced persecution or other danger; the deteriorating situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in southern Africa; and lack of protection for groups of refugees, including a large number of Palestinians.

Regarding refugee children, the Committee expressed serious concern about human rights violations and called on the High Commissioner to develop further guidelines to promote co-operation between UNHCR and concerned organizations to improve their international protection, physical security and well-being.

The Committee called on States and concerned agencies to support the High Commissioner's efforts to improve protection and assistance programmes for refugee women.

The Committee condemned military and armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements and called on States and international organizations to provide assistance to victims. It welcomed a proposal to convene an international conference on the situation of refugees and war victims in southern Africa under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations Secretary-General and UNHCR.

Concerning development projects for refugees and returnees, the Committee urged the High Commissioner to intensify efforts to promote such activities in co-operation with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other organizations specialized in development assistance. It also requested Governments of asylum countries to consider formulating and implementing in their regional or national development plans, with the assistance of the international community, development-oriented programmes addressed to refugees and local populations. The Committee called on the international community and the United Nations system, particularly UNDP and UNHCR, to pursue the establishment of a link between refugee aid and development in follow-up action to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA II).⁽²⁾

The Committee acknowledged the adoption by several States of national administrative and legislative measures to implement the provisions of international refugee instruments, including the establishment of procedures to determine refugee status, and emphasized the need for States, inter-governmental, national and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to sensitize public opinion to the special circumstances and needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.

In meeting refugee needs, UNHCR continued co-operating with other United Nations organizations, in particular with the World Food Programme (WFP) in providing food aid, with the World Bank and the International Labour Organi-

sation in promoting self-reliance and income-generating or employment opportunities and with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in responding to primary health care, water supply and basic sanitation needs. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) worked with UNHCR to produce textbooks and educational programmes for refugees. Ways of incorporating a number of established refugee settlements into the normal development process were being studied by UNHCR and UNDP. UNHCR collaborated closely with the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, with the World Health Organization (WHO) on nutrition and guidelines on mental health in refugee camps, and with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in family planning programmes. It also co-operated with OAU, the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration, the Organization of American States (OAS), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, as well as liberation movements and NGOs.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 23 June 1987, by decision 1987/160, the Economic and Social Council transmitted the High Commissioner's report for 1986/87(3) to the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee, adopted resolution 42/109 without vote.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office, as well as the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner on the work of its thirty-eighth session, and having heard the statements made by the High Commissioner on 13 and 17 November 1987,

Recalling its resolution 41/124 of 4 December 1986, Reaffirming the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner, which are undertaken in the common interest of humanity,

Noting with satisfaction that, following recent accessions, at least one hundred States are now parties to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,

Deeply concerned that refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner continue to face, in certain situations, distressingly serious problems in various parts of the world,

Particularly concerned that in various regions the safety and welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers continue to be seriously jeopardized on account of military or armed attacks and other forms of violence, and noting that further efforts should be made in dealing with the problem of rescuing asylum-seekers in distress at sea,

Stressing the fundamental importance of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection, particularly in the context of the increasing complexity of the contemporary refugee problem, and the need for States to co-operate with the High Commissioner in the exercise of this essential function,

Noting the efforts of the High Commissioner to continue to address the special problems and needs of refugee and displaced women and children, who in many cases are exposed to a variety of difficult situations affecting their physical and legal protection as well as their psychological and material well-being,

Emphasizing the need for States to assist, on as wide a basis as possible, the efforts of the High Commissioner to promote speedy and durable solutions to the problems of refugees,

Realizing in this context that voluntary repatriation or return remains the most desirable solution to the problems facing refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner, and welcoming the fact that in various parts of the world it has been possible for significant numbers of them to return voluntarily to their countries of origin,

Commending States that, despite severe economic and development problems of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner into their territories, and emphasizing the need to share the burden of these States to the maximum extent possible through international assistance in accordance with the conclusions on refugee aid and development adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-eighth session,

Stressing the need for the international community to continue to provide adequate resettlement opportunities for those refugees for whom no other durable solution may be in sight, with particular attention given to refugees who have already spent an inordinately long time in camps,

Welcoming the valuable support extended by Governments to the High Commissioner in carrying out his humanitarian tasks, as well as the continuing and increasing co-operation between the Office of the High Commissioner and other bodies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Noting the High Commissioner's continuing efforts to reorganize and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office, particularly with respect to activities in the field,

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

1. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental nature of the function of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide international protection and the need for Governments to co-operate fully with his Office in order to facilitate the effective exercise of this function, in particular by acceding to and implementing the

relevant international and regional refugee instruments and by scrupulously observing the principles of asylum and non-refoulement;

2. Notes with particular concern the continued violation of the principle of non-refoulement in certain situations, and stresses the need to strengthen measures to protect refugees against such action;

3. Appeals to all States that have not yet become parties to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees to consider acceding to these instruments in order to enhance their universal character;

4. Condemns all violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular those perpetrated by military or armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements and other forms of violence;

5. Endorses the conclusions on military and armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-eighth session, and calls upon all States to observe these principles:

6. Endorses the conclusions on refugee children adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-eighth session, and urges States to extend their full co-operation to the High Commissioner so as to ensure that the special needs of refugee children are met;

7. Urges the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to identify and meet the special needs of refugee women;

8. Recognizes the importance of fair and expeditious procedures for determining refugee status and/or granting asylum in order, *inter alia*, to protect refugees and asylum-seekers from unjustified or unduly prolonged detention or stay in camps, and urges States to establish such procedures;

9. Recognizes the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and in particular the need to address in this process the causes that force refugees and asylum-seekers to flee their countries of origin, in the light of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on International Co-operation to Avert New Flows of Refugees;

10. Urges all States to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to achieve durable solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons of concern to his Office, primarily through voluntary repatriation or return, including assistance to returnees as appropriate or, wherever appropriate, through integration into countries of asylum or through resettlement in third countries;

11. Expresses deep appreciation for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular those developing countries which, despite limited resources, continue to admit, on a permanent or temporary basis, large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

12. Urges the international community, in accordance with the principle of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to assist the above-mentioned countries in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden that care for refugees and asylum-seekers represents;

13. Recognizes with appreciation the work done by the High Commissioner to put into practice the concept of development-oriented assistance to refugees and returnees, as initiated at the Second International Con-

ference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, and urges him to continue that process, wherever appropriate, in full co-operation with appropriate international agencies, and further urges Governments to support these efforts;

14. Emphasizes the essential role of development-oriented organizations and agencies in the implementation of programmes that benefit refugees and returnees and urges the High Commissioner and those organizations and agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, to strengthen their mutual co-operation towards the attainment of durable solution; and calls upon the High Commissioner to continue to promote such co-operation;

15. Calls upon all Governments to contribute, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing and in every way feasible, to the High Commissioner's programmes with the aim of ensuring that the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner are met.

General Assembly resolution 42/109

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/808) without vote, 23 November (meeting 56); 28-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.78), orally revised; agenda item 103. Sponsors: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 45, 47-50, 52, 54, 56; plenary 93.

The United States said it would join the consensus on the understanding that paragraph 4 would be read in the light of the conclusions on armed attacks adopted by the UNHCR Executive Committee (see p. 898), which were endorsed in paragraph 5 and were consistent with international law. Its support of the text should not be construed as support for the view that it was unlawful under any circumstances to use force against a refugee camp or settlement, even if it was being used in a manner inconsistent with its civilian purpose.

Malaysia said it had joined the consensus but questioned the use of the term "asylum-seekers" in the sixth preambular paragraph as it appeared to include all those who were rescued at sea; a growing number of people leaving their countries of origin were not refugees but were seeking a better life abroad.

In a related action, the General Assembly, in the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond (resolution 42/186), recommended that countries hosting large numbers of refugees receive more assistance through UNHCR and other bodies to improve environmental conditions in refugee settlements.

Continuation of UNHCR

In accordance with a 1982 General Assembly resolution,(4) the Assembly reviewed the arrangements for UNHCR to determine whether the Office should continue beyond 31 December 1988.

On 7 December 1987, the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/108 without vote.

Continuation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 37/196 of 18 December 1982, in which it decided to review, not later than at its forty-second session, the arrangements for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1988,

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

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

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

1. Decides to continue the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for a further period of five years from 1 January 1989;

2. Decides to review, not later than at its forty-seventh session, the arrangements for the Office of the High Commissioner with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1993.

General Assembly resolution 42/108

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/808) without vote, 23 November (meeting 56); 25-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.77); agenda item 103.

Sponsors: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iceland, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Rwanda, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States. Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 45, 47-50, 52, 54, 56; plenary 93.

Financial and administrative questions

UNHCR voluntary funds expenditure in 1987(5) amounted to \$461.4 million compared with \$441.5 million in 1986. Of the total, some \$335.6 million was spent on General Programmes and \$125.8 on Special Programmes and other trust funds. Total income for 1987 was \$475.6 million compared with \$449.9 million in 1986.

In October, the UNHCR Executive Committee called on Governments to make additional funds available to cover a shortfall of \$51 million under the General Programmes as at October 1987, to meet fully 1987 projected requirements and possibly prepare for an adequate carry-over of funds to 1988.

The Committee noted the allocations made by UNHCR from its Emergency Fund during the period 1 June 1986 to 31 May 1987, and the observations made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).(6)

It adopted conclusions proposed by its Subcommittee on Administrative and Financial Matters concerning the issues of management, programme support and administration.

Contributions

Contributions in cash and kind in 1987 totalled \$428 million. Paid contributions in cash totalled \$330.5 million, while outstanding pledges amounted to \$41 million. Contributions in kind were \$43 million with an additional \$13 million in outstanding pledges. In addition, \$746,269 was received from Canada, \$298,507 from Norway, \$782,473 from Sweden, and \$3 million from the United States for a World Bank project for refugees in Pakistan. Contributions in cash and kind from government sources totalled some \$376 million in 1987. Intergovernmental organizations provided \$44 million, and NGOs and private sources made donations valued at \$7.7 million.

At its 1987 session(1) the UNHCR Executive Committee approved a target of \$368 million (not including the \$10 million for the Emergency Fund) for 1988 General Programmes and called on Governments to contribute generously.

Government pledges of \$121 million were announced at a 19 November 1987 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the 1988 Programme of UNHCR.

Accounts

1986 accounts

The audited financial statements on funds administered by UNHCR for the year ended 31 December 1986 showed a total expenditure of \$441.5 million and total income of \$449.9 million.(7)

In July 1987,(8) the Secretary-General transmitted to the General Assembly a synthesis of the main observations of the Board of Auditors on the audit of various United Nations funds; comments relating to UNHCR concerned, among other things, delivery and distribution of food aid items, programme evaluation and procurement and accounting records.

Concurring with the Board's findings, ACABQ in a September report,(9) recommended improving management, procurement and accounting methods.

In October,(1) the UNHCR Executive Committee took note of the accounts and reports, and recognized further current efforts to improve financial and programme management, in particular in the areas of food aid and programme evaluation.

In December, the General Assembly, in resolution 42/206, accepted the financial report and the Board's audit opinions, concurred with

ACABQ's observations and requested the High Commissioner to take the required remedial action.

Special programme audit examination

As requested by ACABQ the Board of Auditors conducted a special programme audit examination of the voluntary funds administered by UNHCR in order to evaluate the effectiveness of UNHCR and the efficiency of its operations in the field. The report on the results of the examination, which was annexed to an ACABQ report to the General Assembly,(9) covered UNHCR field operations in two countries. A representative sample of the 31 organizations assisting refugees in one of the countries was selected to review the working relationships with such organizations.

The Board found UNHCR succeeding in providing protection for refugees and making regular efforts towards finding durable solutions. It noted that UNHCR was prevented from achieving the highest level of efficiency in delivering immediate assistance owing to major physical, geographical and infrastructural obstacles and its inability always to select its implementing partners. Under those circumstances, it was felt that UNHCR was achieving an acceptable minimum level of effectiveness.

Six key areas for special attention were identified: improving working relationships with implementing partners; simplifying and standardizing operating structures and procedures in field offices; matching staff postings with field operations requirements; enhancing the responsiveness of the UNHCR planning cycle; improving procurement procedures; and reviewing purchasing policy.

Commenting on the Board's findings, ACABQ stated that of the six areas identified by the Board, that of improving working relationships with implementing partners, particularly ensuring more support for partners who were weak in technical and management skills, and closer monitoring of their performance was regarded as being the most important. ACABQ requested UNHCR to submit in 1988, a comprehensive report on its implementation of the Board's recommendations.

In October, UNHCR's Executive Committee(1) noted the ACABQ report on the special programme audit examination.

Administrative and personnel issues

UNHCR's Executive Committee(1) authorized an increase in the working capital of the Revolving Fund for Field Staff Housing and Basic Amenities from the 1987 General Programmes up to a ceiling of \$3.5 million, while confirming that the Fund's resources should be used strictly for hardship duty stations. It supported the High

Commissioner's efforts to reorganize and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Office, and urged him to take special measures to increase the number of women in the Professional and higher categories, especially in policy-making and senior management positions, and to report to the Committee on progress made. The Committee expressed support for the practice of staff rotation and for the High Commissioner's efforts to improve conditions for staff at difficult field duty stations.

Executive Committee

Enlargement of the Executive Committee

On 26 May, (10) Somalia requested that the Economic and Social Council consider enlarging UNHCR's Executive Committee. Citing the excessive number of African and Asian countries shouldering the burden of UNHCR work by hosting the largest refugee population in the world and which therefore had a paramount interest in the Committee, Somalia hoped the Council would recommend enlarging the Committee to allow at least two more members from Africa and Asia to participate in its work.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

By decision 1987/158 of 29 May, the Economic and Social Council decided to consider at its second regular session the question of enlarging the Executive Committee. On 9 July, the Council adopted resolution 1987/89 by roll-call vote.

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of
the Programme of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 1166(XII) of 26 November 1957, in which the Assembly provided for the establishment of an Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as Assembly resolutions 1958(XVIII) of 12 December 1963 and 2294(XXII) of 11 December 1967, in which it provided for subsequent increases in the membership of the Executive Committee,

Noting the note verbale dated 26 May 1987 from the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

1. Recommends the General Assembly to take a decision at its forty-second session on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from forty-one to forty-three;

2. Recommends the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to consider ways and means of improving the possibilities for observers to participate effectively in its work

Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/89

9 July 1987 Meeting 37 30-0-19 (roll-call vote)

4-nation draft (E/1987/L.48), orally amended by India, sub-amended by Denmark; agenda item 5.

Sponsors: Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic.

Meeting numbers. ESC 20, 36, 37.

Vote in Council as follows:

In favour: Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Djibouti, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Guinea, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Spain, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Colombia, Egypt, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, USSR, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

Prior to adopting the text, Ethiopia had moved that no action be taken at that session on the draft. The motion was rejected by 22 votes to 6, with 21 abstentions.

Colombia noted that an entire regional group had abstained, which, it said, was an indication of the importance they attached to avoiding any disturbance of the balance established in the Executive Committee. It believed that the Committee should continue to make its decisions by consensus. Egypt said it had abstained to maintain its neutrality as Vice-President in charge of informal consultations.

Although Japan voted for the resolution, it regretted that it had not been possible to adopt it by consensus and hoped that this would not set a precedent for the Executive Committee, which should maintain its tradition of taking decisions by consensus. Denmark expressed similar views.

Executive Committee action. In October, (1) the Executive Committee established a working group to consider ways to improve possibilities for observer delegations to participate in its work and asked the group to make proposals to be considered at the Committee's 1988 session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/130 without vote.

Enlargement of the Executive Committee of
the Programme of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/89 of 9 July 1987 on the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

1. Decides to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from forty-one to forty-three;

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to elect the two additional members at its first regular session of 1988;

3. Notes with satisfaction that the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner has begun to consider ways and means of improving the possibilities for observers to participate effectively in its work.

General Assembly resolution 42/130

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/803) without vote, 24 November (meeting 58); 35-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.73/Rev.1); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Indonesia, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen. Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 51-53, 55-58; plenary 93.

Ethiopia believed that increasing the Committee's membership by only two was not commensurate with actual needs.

In-depth study of the UN intergovernmental structure

By decision 1987/112 of 6 February 1987, the Economic and Social Council established a Special Commission, open to all United Nations Member States, to carry out an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields in accordance with recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (Group of 18).⁽¹¹⁾ The Group of 18 had recommended that the study should, among other things, identify measures to rationalize and simplify the structure and consider consolidating overlapping activities and merging existing bodies in order to make the structure more responsive to current needs. The study also aimed to improve the system of reporting by reducing the number of reports.

In response, the UNHCR Executive Committee in October⁽¹²⁾ outlined its structure, agenda, calendar of meetings and work programme, and described UNHCR'S co-ordination of assistance activities with other United Nations bodies. The Executive Committee said it had already taken steps to rationalize its work, including reducing the duration of its meetings and documentation and streamlining its agenda. It did stress, however, that despite efforts by UNHCR, the Committee's work was seriously affected by late receipt of documents in five United Nations official languages (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

The Committee had decided to maintain its summary records and had communicated that decision to the Chairman of the United Nations Committee on Conferences.

REFERENCES

- (1)A/42/12/Add.1. (2)YUN 1984, p. 942. (3) A/42/12. (4)YUN 1982, p. 1195, GA res. 37/196, 18 Dec. 1982. (5)A/43/5/Add.5. (6)A/AC.96/698. (7)A/42/5/Add.5. (8)A/42/372 and Corr.1. (9)A/42/579. (10)E/1987/105. (11)YUN 1986, p. 1022. (12)A/AC.96/703.

Refugee assistance and protection

Assistance

During 1987,⁽¹⁾ UNHCR continued to cooperate with concerned Governments and the international community in efforts to meet the humanitarian needs of refugees throughout the world. The promotion of durable solutions, namely, voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement, remained the primary and long-term objectives of 3 UNHCR assistance programmes. UNHCR responded to requests for emergency assistance for many new arrivals and continued to pursue care and maintenance programmes for refugees for whom no immediate solution could be found. Relief-oriented programmes also included measures to promote basic self-sufficiency activities among refugees.

Total UNHCR expenditure in 1987 amounted to \$461.4 million, an increase of some \$20 million over 1986, which reflected additional requirements due to the emergence of new refugee situations, changes in programme content and a higher rate of programme delivery. In 1987, General Programmes expenditure totalled \$335.6 million, including \$6.3 million obligated from the Emergency Fund. Of that \$6.3 million, the largest amounts included \$678,631 for assistance to Mozambican refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania, \$1.9 million for relief to returnees and displaced persons in Sri Lanka, \$540,000 for emergency relief supplies for newly arrived Iraqi refugees in Iran, \$475,000 for assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan and almost \$1 million to Yemen to assist refugees from Democratic Yemen.

Pending the identification and implementation of durable solutions, UNHCR continued to provide intermediate assistance in the form of care and maintenance (food, water, shelter, health services, sanitation, education). In 1987, the largest single care and maintenance programme was for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, for which \$51.3 million was obligated under General Programmes. Ethiopia, Somalia and Thailand also received major care programmes, as did Mozambican refugees in several neighbouring countries, particularly Malawi.

UNHCR'S primary objective remained the promotion of durable solutions through voluntary repatriation, local integration in a country of first asylum or resettlement in a third country. In 1987, over \$110.6 million was obligated under General Programmes and some \$19.9 million was made available under Special Programmes for rehabilitation assistance to returnees in their

countries of origin. Voluntary repatriation movements in 1987 included the return of 81,000 Ugandan refugees, 47,000 Mozambicans, 37,000 Ethiopians and some 10,000 Chadians. In addition, 5,000 Zairean refugees registered for voluntary repatriation, of whom some 900 returned to Zaire. Over 13,000 Nicaraguans, Salvadorians, Guatemalans and Haitians returned to their countries, while repatriation of Argentinian and Uruguayans continued. Resettlement remained the principal durable solution for Indo-Chinese refugees—some 45,800 Indo-Chinese were resettled in 1987, as were an additional 12,961 Vietnamese under the Orderly Departure Programme. Over 19,000 Europeans, about 3,000 Africans, 5,300 from the Middle East and some 700 from the Americas also benefited from resettlement, as did 2,400 persons under assistance programmes for disabled refugees and their families. Expenditure on local integration activities in 1987 totalled some \$88.8 million, while resettlement assistance amounted to approximately \$16.5 million.

Elementary education continued to be provided mainly in local government schools or in specially established settlement schools. UNHCR had 108 projects in post-primary, vocational/technical and academic education. Some \$10.2 million was spent to enable 18,800 refugee students to study at secondary and tertiary levels—31 per cent of them took technical training courses, 58 per cent attended secondary schools and 11 per cent were enrolled in universities.

Of the 42 counselling activities carried out in the field by UNHCR's operational partners, 22 were in Africa for an amount of \$3.3 million. An additional 26 counselling projects totalling \$4.1 million were implemented by UNHCR through its professional social services staff. Both types of projects facilitated the provision of case management assistance to refugees. Assistance to handicapped refugees continued with the provision of medical facilities and services in asylum countries. In 1987, the needs of some 10,000 refugees were met at a cost of \$1 million. In addition, 24 refugees were evacuated from one country to another for medical treatment, and another 9 refugees were treated in their country of asylum at a cost of \$100,000.

The annual amount of food aid to refugees, including that from WFP, totalled about \$200 million; some \$59.2 million in food aid was channelled through UNHCR.

In October, the UNHCR Executive Committee(2) urged the High Commissioner to intensify efforts to promote activities benefiting refugees and returnees, in co-operation with the World Bank, UNDP, the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD), the European Economic Community and other organizations specializing in development assistance.

In 1987, UNHCR's assistance activities in Africa totalled \$171.6 million, of which \$112 million was spent on local settlement activities, \$1.2 million on resettlement, \$17.7 million on voluntary repatriation and \$40.6 million on relief and other assistance. Somalia and the Sudan received the most assistance, \$48 million and \$42 million, respectively.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, \$36.8 million went for assistance activities, of which \$15.4 million was spent on local settlement, \$261,500 on resettlement, \$4 million on voluntary repatriation and \$17 million on relief and other assistance. Honduras and Mexico received the highest amounts—\$15 million and \$2.6 million, respectively.

In Europe and North America, UNHCR expenditures totalled \$13.7 million, of which \$2.5 million was spent on local settlement, \$4 million on resettlement, \$676,000 on voluntary repatriation and \$6.6 million on relief and other assistance. Turkey and Italy received the most assistance with allocations of \$2.8 million each, and Yugoslavia received \$2.1 million.

In Asia and Oceania, assistance expenditures amounted to \$66.3 million, of which \$7 million was spent on local settlements, \$11.8 million on resettlement, \$2.7 million on voluntary repatriation and \$44.7 million on relief and other assistance. Thailand and the Philippines received the most assistance, with allocations totalling \$27 million and \$6.5 million, respectively.

In South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, expenditures amounted to \$111 million, of which \$72 million was spent on local settlement, \$441,600 on resettlement, \$3,600 on voluntary repatriation and \$38.5 million on relief and other assistance. Pakistan, Iran and Algeria received the most assistance with totals of \$79.4 million, \$16.1 million and \$6.9 million, respectively.

UNHCR promoted greater public awareness of the refugee problem by producing and distributing a variety of written and audio-visual materials, arranging for journalists' visits to refugee settlements and organizing a number of special events. Special events included a major exhibition in Paris entitled "Refugees in the World", two benefit concerts hosted by the Federal Republic of Germany and Switzerland, and a round-table on the protection of refugees: humanitarian action and political considerations. The magazine *Refugees* continued to be published monthly in English, French and Spanish, with special editions in Arabic, German, Italian and Japanese. New language versions of a booklet produced for schoolchildren were published in French, German, Italian and Spanish, as were posters, a world refugee map and a calendar. A series of country fact sheets was produced and updated on a quarterly basis to provide in-

formation on UNHCR's main programmes around the world.

Refugee aid and development assistance

In an August 1987 report to the Executive Committee,⁽³⁾ the High Commissioner stated that he had augmented his efforts to promote development activities benefiting refugees and returnees in co-operation with the World Bank, UNDP and other international, regional and governmental and non-governmental organizations. He described UNHCR's activities in that regard in Pakistan, Somalia and the Sudan and in connection with follow-up action to ICARA II (see below). In March, an agreement was reached to foster collaboration between UNHCR and IFAD.

In October 1987,⁽²⁾ the Executive Committee, stressing the essential role of development-oriented organizations and agencies in implementing programmes benefiting refugees and returnees, urged them to strengthen their co-operation with the High Commissioner. It requested Governments of countries of asylum to consider formulating and implementing, in co-ordination with UNHCR, development-oriented programmes for refugees and local populations in their regional and national development plans.

Assistance to refugees in Africa

In 1987, the already substantial portion of the refugee population in Africa witnessed an increase of well over half a million refugees, bringing the total refugee population to 3.5 million. At the same time, close to 150,000 refugees returned voluntarily to their respective countries of origin.

Continuing insecurity and conflict within Mozambique led over 300,000 Mozambicans to seek asylum in neighbouring countries. The largest influx was in Malawi where the numbers rose from 150,000 to 452,000. The UNHCR emergency programme for Mozambique was characterized by rapidly increasing needs, with a number of technical missions revising and updating requirements to ensure a rapid response. Some 72,000 Mozambican refugees were living near the Tanzanian border, of whom 15,000 received UNHCR emergency assistance. In addition, 30,000 remained in Zambia, 65,000 in Zimbabwe and 20,000 in Swaziland, and several thousands sought asylum in South Africa. Another major exodus was that of southern Sudanese fleeing the effects of civil strife, exacerbated by drought in some regions; they sought asylum in Ethiopia. The number of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia was reported at 140,000 in April 1987 but by year's end this rose to 250,000.

However, progress was recorded in several areas. The organized repatriation of Ethiopian refugees from Djibouti and Somalia benefited 4,450 persons. Some 65,000 Ugandans were repatriated

from the Sudan, as were 7,000 from Zaire. Repatriation efforts continued for Chadians, thus UNHCR was assisting only 20,000 in western Sudan, some 8,500 in Cameroon, and much smaller numbers elsewhere in the region. During the year, some 42,000 South African refugees were reported to be living in various countries of asylum in southern Africa; 31,000 of them received UNHCR assistance. The majority of 75,000 Namibian refugees were assisted in Angola and Zambia. In addition, progress was made in promoting measures to address the needs of areas affected by the presence of refugees in an integrated manner, and within the framework of national development plans, and in encouraging national and international development institutions to take the lead in their area of competence.

Concerning the deteriorating conditions particularly within South Africa, and southern Africa in general, UNHCR was directly involved with the United Nations, OAU and UNDP in organizing an international conference on the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa (see p. 886).

In a September report to the General Assembly,⁽⁴⁾ the Secretary-General described major developments in the situation of refugees in Africa since July 1986. He stated that durable solutions, particularly voluntary repatriation, should be actively pursued. There was a need for closer co-operative arrangements, covering returnee and refugee programmes. While giving UNDP primary responsibility for assistance to refugee-related development projects, UNHCR would continue to assist host countries in Africa with the task of caring for and maintaining refugees.

During 1987, total UNHCR expenditure in Africa amounted to \$183.4 million, of which \$120.2 million was obligated under General Programmes and \$63.2 million under Special Programmes.

Communication. In July,⁽⁵⁾ Burundi transmitted the text of an article which had appeared in a June 1987 newspaper in that country, reflecting Burundi's position on refugees.

Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

At the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa in 1984,⁽⁶⁾ the international community in a spirit of solidarity had sought to launch a process of burden-sharing on a strategy for solving the problems of refugees in Africa.

In a September report,⁽⁴⁾ the Secretary-General discussed the follow-up to ICARA II taken since July 1986. A steering committee initially set up for the preparatory work for the Conference had encouraged the integration of refugee assistance into development. Action continued to be

taken by the Secretary-General, UNHCR and UNDP to that end. UNDP continued to give due consideration to refugee-related development needs and to assist in co-ordinating refugee-related development activities. Donor resources earmarked for ICARA II projects were spent in part on emergency relief programmes, thus modifying or delaying implementation of refugee programmes. UNDP estimated that the international community had met 45 per cent of the project needs presented at ICARA II. Since 1984, UNDP had received a total of \$7.6 million for refugee-related development activities. Among UNDP activities were four review missions in Chad, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia and an additional mission to Ethiopia to prepare a rehabilitation and recovery programme for the repatriation of Ethiopian refugees from Djibouti and Somalia.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/107 without vote.

Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its resolutions, particularly resolution 41/122 of 4 December 1986, relating to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees in Africa,

Mindful that the fundamental purpose of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva from 9 to 11 July 1984, was to launch collective action by the international community aimed at achieving lasting solutions,

Gravely concerned at the persistent and serious problem of large numbers of refugees on the African continent,

Aware of the heavy burden borne by African countries of asylum on account of the presence of these refugees and its consequences for their economic and social development, and of the great sacrifices made by them, despite their limited resources,

Deeply concerned that the refugee situation has been severely affected by the critical economic situation in Africa, as well as by drought and other natural disasters,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, adopted by the General Assembly at its thirteenth special session, devoted to the critical economic situation in Africa, which refers in particular to the need for the speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa,

Recognizing that the efforts of the countries of asylum require the concerted support of the international community to meet the needs for emergency relief, and for medium-term and long-term development aid,

Taking note of the declarations, decisions and resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and

Government of the Organization of African Unity at its twenty-third ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 July 1987, and of the resolutions adopted by the Council of Ministers of that organization at its forty-sixth ordinary session, held at Addis Ababa from 20 to 25 July 1987, on the situation of refugees in Africa,

Emphasizing the collective responsibility of sharing the urgent and overwhelming burden of the problem of African refugees through effective mobilization of additional 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 rehabilitating voluntary returnees,

Reiterating once again the vital importance of the complementarity between refugee aid and development assistance,

Noting once again with deep concern that many of the projects submitted to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa have yet to be funded and implemented,

Desirous of ensuring the speedy implementation of the recommendations and pledges made at the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa,

Noting the initiative taken by the Secretary-General to promote increased and effective co-operation between the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees through the signing of an agreement on co-operation, as well as the measures he has taken to revitalize the Trust Fund of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa,

1. Expresses its deep appreciation to African host countries, which are the biggest donors, for their generous contribution and continuous efforts to alleviate the plight of refugees in spite of their critical economic situation;

2. Reiterates its appreciation to all donor countries, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their initial support and response to the projects submitted to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;

3. Urges the international community to maintain the momentum created by the Conference and to translate into reality the projects submitted as well as the principles of the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference;

4. Emphasizes the vital importance of the complementarity of refugee aid and development assistance and of achieving durable solutions to the problem of refugees in Africa and the necessity of providing assistance for the strengthening of the social and economic infrastructures of African countries receiving refugees and returnees;

5. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for their concerted action aimed at revitalizing and further strengthening the mechanisms of implementation of the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa;

6. Requests the High Commissioner to continue to keep the situation of refugees in Africa under constant review so as to ensure that adequate assistance is avail-

able for care and maintenance and for bringing about durable solutions;

7. **Requests** the United Nations Development Programme to increase its efforts to mobilize additional resources for refugee-related development projects and, in general, to promote and co-ordinate with the host countries and the donor community the integration of refugee-related activities into national development planning;

8. Calls upon all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system concerned, as well as relevant regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to intensify their support for the speedy implementation of the recommendations and pledges made at the Conference;

9. **Again** requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the Conference, to monitor, in consultation and close co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme, the effective follow-up to the Conference;

10. Further **requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/107

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/808) without vote, 20 November (meeting 54); draft by Senegal for African Group (A/C.3/42/L.68); agenda item 103. **Meeting numbers.** GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 45, 47-50, 52, 54; plenary 93.

Refugees in southern Africa

1988 international conference

In October,⁽¹⁾ Madagascar submitted resolutions adopted by the OAU Council of Ministers (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 20-25 July 1987). Among other things, the Council commended the OAU Secretary-General for steps he had taken to convene an international conference on the situation of refugees and displaced persons in southern Africa and asked him to enlist the support of the international community, particularly UNHCR, the United Nations and the secretariat of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference.

Also in October,⁽²⁾ the UNHCR Executive Committee welcomed the proposal to convene an international conference on the situation of refugees and war victims in southern Africa, under the auspices of OAU, the United Nations Secretary-General and UNHCR.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted **resolution 42/106** without vote.

International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa

The General Assembly,

Gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in southern Africa arising from the continued domination and op-

pression of the peoples of South Africa and Namibia by the minority racist régime of South Africa,

Conscious of the need to provide increased assistance to the peoples of the region and the liberation movements of South Africa and Namibia in their struggle against colonialism, racial discrimination and the policies of **apartheid**,

Conscious also of its responsibility to provide economic, material and humanitarian assistance to independent States in southern Africa in order to assist them in coping with the situation resulting from the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the **apartheid** régime of South Africa,

Aware that **apartheid** in South Africa, the illegal occupation of Namibia and acts of destabilization carried out by South Africa and its surrogate elements continue to be the main causes of refugee flows and the displacement of persons in the southern region of Africa,

Taking note of the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its forty-sixth session, held at Addis Ababa from 20 to 25 July 1987, to convene an International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa and to enlist the active support of the international community, in particular the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference, to that end,

Taking note also of the decision by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to endorse the proposal for the convening of an international conference to address the specific situation of refugees and displaced persons in southern Africa,

Appreciating the current efforts of the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and other persons displaced by armed conflict in the countries of southern Africa,

Recognizing that the task of caring for refugees is a matter of international concern and solidarity in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations, international and regional instruments, in particular the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, as well as the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, of 1969,

Convinced that there is an urgent need for the international community to extend maximum and concerted assistance to southern African countries sheltering refugees, returnees and displaced persons and also to highlight the plight of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in southern Africa,

1. Welcomes the decision of the Organization of African Unity to convene in September 1988 an International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa;

2. **Reiterates** its **appreciation** to the Secretary-General for his efforts, on behalf of the international community, to organize and mobilize special programmes of economic assistance for those African States facing grave economic difficulties, the front-line States and other independent States of southern Africa to help them to withstand the effects of the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the **apartheid** régime of South Africa;

3. Welcomes the decision by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees on the convening of the Conference;

4. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to give all possible assistance to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity in the preparation and organization of the Conference;

5. Appeals to all Member States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide all the necessary support and resources needed for the convening and success of the Conference;

6. Calls upon the international community to provide increased assistance to the countries of southern Africa to enable them to strengthen their capacity to provide the necessary facilities and services for the care and well-being of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their countries;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988 and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/106

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/808) without vote, 20 November (meeting 54); draft by Senegal for African Group (A/C.3/42/L.67), orally revised; agenda item 103.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 45, 47-50, 52, 54; plenary 93.

Explaining their positions, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States emphasized that their support for the draft did not imply support for armed struggle.

Southern African student refugees

In response to a 1986 General Assembly request,⁽⁸⁾ the High Commissioner reported in August 1987 on assistance to student refugees in southern Africa—Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe—from 1 July 1986 to 30 June 1987.⁽⁹⁾ During that period, there was no substantial increase in the number of South African or Namibian refugees and asylum-seekers, despite the escalation of violence in both countries.

The number of South African refugees remained stable (some 1,000 urban refugees and 130 in Dukwe) in Botswana, but the number of Namibians receiving UNHCR assistance had increased from 63 to 106. UNHCR sponsored five South African refugees at the primary level and 22 at the lower secondary level, as well as eight Namibian students at the lower secondary level. In addition, 89 South Africans and 65 Namibians received educational assistance from various inter-governmental organizations and NGOs, with more than half studying outside Botswana, their country of asylum.

In Lesotho, the number of persons in a refugee-like situation remained stable at 11,500. Of these, 274 were registered as refugees and some 242

received assistance from UNHCR. Seventy-one South Africans were sponsored in primary schools, 49 of them by UNESCO and 22 by UNHCR. Of the 378 South Africans and five Namibians sponsored, 96 students were at the secondary level and 130 at the university level. Eleven students were sponsored for agricultural and technical/vocational studies, and 65 for business. Another 10 students were sponsored at the university level in the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Registered refugees in Swaziland numbered some 13,000, with an estimated equivalent number having spontaneously settled in border areas. The official case-load, comprising 6,500 South Africans, 5,500 Mozambicans and others of various nationalities, represented an increase of some 30 per cent since 1984. South Africans receiving educational assistance from UNHCR rose from 193 to 274; of these, 44 were at the primary school level and 230 at the secondary level. Other United Nations, governmental and non-governmental agencies sponsored 378 South African refugee students at the secondary and post-secondary levels and in vocational schools.

The number of South African refugees in Zambia increased as a result of young refugees being evacuated there from Lesotho. The majority of those 3,400 refugees were affiliated with the African National Congress of South Africa. Namibian refugees, mainly affiliates of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), remained unchanged at about 7,400. The urban case-load consisted of some 430 South Africans and non-affiliated refugees. For Namibian refugees, UNHCR funded the construction of two primary school classroom blocks and one girls' dormitory and provided textbooks and other school materials at the SWAPO Health and Education Centre at Nyongo. UNHCR sponsored two Namibian students, one at the secondary and one at the post-secondary level. The United Nations Institute for Namibia sponsored 500 Namibian students at the post-secondary level. Other United Nations, governmental and non-governmental agencies sponsored 76 South African and 164 Namibian students at all educational levels.

In Zimbabwe, the number of refugees had greatly increased due to an influx of some 60,000 displaced Mozambicans. Urban refugees, mainly South Africans, declined from nearly 470 to 266, either through local integration or resettlement in other countries. Educational programmes for South Africans focused on formal education and on vocational and technical training. UNHCR sponsored 24 student refugees (22 South Africans and 2 Namibians), 3 at the primary level, 8 at the secondary level and 13 in vocational training. A further 249 students (230 South Africans and 19

Namibians) were sponsored by other United Nations, governmental or non-governmental agencies.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/138 without vote.

Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa
The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/136 of 4 December 1986, 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 South Africa and Namibia who have been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia,

Having considered the report of the High Commissioner on the assistance programme to 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 continue to be successfully implemented,

Noting with concern that the discriminatory and repressive policies that continue to be applied in South Africa and Namibia cause a continued and increasing influx of student refugees into Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia,

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

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 that 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 that they have extended to the High Commissioner on matters concerning the welfare of the 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 High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue to organize and implement an effective programme of educational and other appropriate assistance for student refugees from South Africa and Namibia who have been granted 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 programme for

student refugees, through financial support of the regular programmes of the High Commissioner and of the projects and programmes, including unfunded projects, that were submitted to the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, held at Geneva from 9 to 11 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 all other competent United Nations bodies, as well as other international and non-governmental organizations, to continue providing humanitarian and development assistance so as to facilitate and expedite the settlement of student refugees from South Africa and Namibia who have been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia;

9. Calls upon 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 1988, of the current status of the programmes and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/138

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/803/Add.1) without vote, 27 November (meeting 61); 44-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.70); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 51-53, 55-61; plenary 93.

Refugees in other African countries

Chad

Pursuant to a 1986 General Assembly request,(10) the Secretary-General submitted in August 1987 a report(11) on emergency assistance to returnees and displaced persons in Chad. He reported that a November 1985 national reconciliation policy and improved climatic conditions had resulted in the return of over 120,000 Chadian refugees early in the year. During the first half of 1987, 17,000 people returned from the Central African Republic and 15,000 from the Sudan, while smaller numbers continued to return from Cameroon, Nigeria and other countries. Under a joint UNHCR/Chad special programme of assistance to returnees, some 70,000 persons who returned to the south after the 1986 planting season received limited relief assistance. Immediate assistance was provided to those returning from

Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Sudan. Basic food needs were covered by WFP. The UNHCR programme provided non-food items such as blankets, household utensils, seeds, agricultural tools and funds for transportation, including the transportation of food within Chad. Support was also provided to assist in rehabilitating and developing a rural water supply in the home areas of returnees in southern Chad.

Concerning the population of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti prefecture, displaced as a result of a conflict in northern Chad, about half of the 120,000 people moved south into other prefectures. Initial assistance to that new group of displaced people was provided by Chad, the Federal Republic of Germany, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the League of Red Cross Societies. An additional 10,000 to 15,000 people left the combat zones and moved south in early 1987. When Chad assumed control over large parts of the prefecture at the end of March 1987, more emergency assistance became necessary as no crops had been planted for the duration of the conflict. Bilateral aid was provided by Japan and channelled through WFP. Health, housing, agricultural recovery, education and transportation efforts for repatriation were made by France, Médecins du Monde (a French NGO), ICRC, WHO, CARE-Chad and the United States Agency for International Development.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/128 without vote.

Emergency assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/140 of 4 December 1986 on emergency assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad, as well as all its previous resolutions on this question,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on emergency humanitarian assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the drought and the invasion of locusts and predators, which are compounding the already precarious food and health situation in Chad,

Conscious that the large number of voluntary returnees and displaced persons resulting from the war and the drought in Chad poses a serious problem of integrating them into society,

Considering the mass return to their home villages of persons displaced as a result of war and drought in the northern region of Chad,

Bearing in mind the many appeals made by the Government of Chad for international emergency assistance to the voluntary returnees and displaced per-

sons in Chad, who are victims of the war and of natural disasters,

1. Endorses the appeals made by the Government of Chad for emergency assistance to the voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad;

2. Reiterates its appeal to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support, by generous contributions, the efforts being made by the Government of Chad to assist and resettle the voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad;

3. Takes note with satisfaction of the action undertaken by the various organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies with a view to mobilizing emergency humanitarian assistance to the voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad;

4. Again requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator to mobilize emergency humanitarian assistance to the voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize special humanitarian assistance for the resettlement of displaced persons in the northern region of Chad;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/128

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/803) without vote, 24 November (meeting 58); 31-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.64); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Kampuchea, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Zaïre.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 51-53, 55-58; plenary 93.

Djibouti

In an August 1987 report on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti,⁽¹²⁾ submitted in response to a 1986 Assembly request,⁽¹³⁾ the Secretary-General reported that the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees had continued and by mid-year 3,223 persons had returned home. Djibouti's commitment to an asylum policy also continued with 292 new asylum-seekers entering the country. A multi-purpose assistance programme provided improvements in preventive health and nutrition and primary education, vocational training and library facilities for new asylum-seekers.

In terms of durable solutions, physical and economic obstacles to successful local integration through self-reliance continued throughout the country. Resettlement remained a durable solution for only a small percentage of the refugee population—for cases of family reunion or for security reasons.

At the end of the year, the Government estimated that there were 11,356 refugees in Djibouti.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/126 without vote.

Humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/137 of 4 December 1986 on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti, as well as all its previous resolutions on this question,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti,

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

Aware of the heavy economic and social 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,

Appreciating the determined and sustained efforts made by the Government of Djibouti, despite its modest economic resources and limited means, to cope with the growing needs of the refugees,

Noting with appreciation the steps taken by the Government of Djibouti, in close co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to implement appropriate and lasting solutions in respect of the refugees in Djibouti,

Appreciating the assistance provided by Member States, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies to the relief and rehabilitation programmes for the refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on humanitarian assistance to refugees in Djibouti and appreciates the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to keep their situation under constant review;

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

3. Expresses its appreciation to Member States, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and voluntary agencies for their assistance to the relief and rehabilitation programmes for the refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti;

4. Urges the High Commissioner to intensify his efforts to mobilize, on an emergency basis, the necessary resources to implement lasting solutions in respect of the refugees in Djibouti;

5. Calls upon all Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to support the determined and constant efforts made by the Government of Djibouti to cope with the urgent needs of the refugees and to implement lasting solutions in respect of their situation;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/126

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/803) without vote, 24 November (meeting 58); 88-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.50); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central Africa Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 51-53, 55-58; plenary 93.

Ethiopia

In response to a 1986 General Assembly request,(14) the Secretary-General, in an August 1987 report on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia,(15) noted that UNHCR continued to provide emergency assistance to Sudanese refugees. By July 1987, 136,700 persons had been recorded at the Itang Settlement, 31,000 at Dimma, almost 20,000 at As-sosa town and some 400 of various origins at Addis Ababa. In addition, relief was requested for some 6,000 Somali refugees in the Hararghe region.

Activity in 1987 concentrated on settling some 1,000 refugee families under a horticulture project in Itang; establishing new refugee sites at Dimma; improving road, logistical, water and environmental sanitation systems; and providing shelter, health, food and domestic needs.

In April, UNHCR launched a special appeal for \$10.5 million for rehabilitation assistance to Ethiopian returnees from neighbouring countries. By July, some 3,170 persons repatriated voluntarily from the Gedo region of Somalia to the Sidamo region. That repatriation operation was suspended in June because of heavy rains and flooding of the Dawa and Genale rivers. Some 6,830 refugees had returned from the Sudan to Eritrea and over 3,220 refugees had returned home from Djibouti. According to Government estimates, there were 310,500 refugees in Ethiopia at the end of the year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/139 by recorded vote.

Assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its resolutions, in particular resolution 41/141 of 4 December 1986, as well as all those of the Economic and Social Council, on assistance to displaced persons in Ethiopia,

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

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recognizing the increasing number of voluntary returnees and refugees in Ethiopia,

Deeply concerned at the situation of displaced persons and voluntary returnees in the country, which has been aggravated by the devastating effect of the prolonged drought,

Aware of the heavy burden placed on the Government of Ethiopia and of the need for adequate assistance to displaced persons and victims of natural disasters, as well as to voluntary returnees and refugees,

1. Commends the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and international organizations and voluntary agencies for their assistance to refugees and voluntary returnees in Ethiopia;

2. Appeals to Member States and to international organizations and voluntary agencies to provide Ethiopia with adequate material, financial and technical assistance in order to carry out relief and rehabilitation programmes for displaced persons, voluntary returnees and refugees;

3. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue his efforts in mobilizing humanitarian assistance for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of voluntary returnees and refugees in Ethiopia;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner, to apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its second regular session of 1988, of the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-third session.

General Assembly resolution 42/139

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 153-0-2 (recorded vote)

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/803/Add.1) by recorded vote (137-0-2), 27 November (meeting 61); 64-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.72); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Austria, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 51-53, 55-61; plenary 93.

Recorded vote in Assembly as follows:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burma, Burundi, Byelorussian SSR, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Malaysia,^a United States.

^aLater advised the Secretariat it had intended to vote in favour.

In the Committee, the United States had introduced an amendment(16) to the text, calling for humanitarian assistance to displaced persons, refugees, victims of natural disasters and all civilians in need, without distinction. Ethiopia's subsequent motion that no action be taken on the amendment was adopted by a recorded vote of 57 to 31, with 32 abstentions.

Malawi

The High Commissioner, in a September report,(17) stated that in mid-June 1987, an estimated 235,000 refugees from Mozambique had entered Malawi, and by August the figure had risen to 280,000. By year's end that figure had risen to 401,600. The two most severely affected areas, Nsanje and Ntcheu/Dedza were each supporting more than 150,000 refugees.

During 1987, UNHCR provided food supplies with a commercial value of about \$4 million to Mozambican refugees. In March, it launched an appeal for \$2.3 million to provide relief for some 100,000 persons to the end of 1987.

A United Nations inter-agency mission visiting Malawi from September to December found that the rural subsistence economy was under severe strain and food production and water resources in the affected areas were insufficient to satisfy the needs of the Malawi population and the refugees. The mission recommended that UNDP and UNHCR work together on programmes linking emergency aid to refugees with long-term development assistance of benefit to all concerned. It called for a series of actions to relieve Malawi's situation and foster long-term development and economic growth.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/132 without vote.

Assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi

The General Assembly,

Having heard the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees regarding the refugee situation in Malawi,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the Government of Malawi in providing shelter and asylum to thousands of refugees and displaced persons,

Recognizing the consequences of the social and economic burden placed on the Government and people of Malawi as a result of the influx of refugees and displaced persons and the subsequent impact on national development and the infrastructure of that country,

Noting with appreciation the action already taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other international humanitarian organi-

zations in establishing a programme of emergency assistance to the refugees and displaced persons in Malawi,

Noting that a United Nations inter-agency team is currently visiting Malawi to discuss with the Government ways and means of strengthening its capacity to cope with the burden imposed on its economy, vital resources and public services by the presence of refugees and displaced persons and to prepare a comprehensive programme of assistance, which will respond both to refugee-related humanitarian and to development needs for eventual submission to the international community,

1. Commends the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme for their timely action in sending an inter-agency mission to Malawi to ascertain the needs of the refugees and displaced persons in Malawi and the magnitude of assistance required;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to give the report of the inter-agency mission the widest possible circulation to all States, all pertinent international organizations and voluntary agencies;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize international assistance and to launch an international appeal for generous contributions to the projects and programmes recommended in the report of the inter-agency mission;

4. Appeals to Member States, the High Commissioner, the organizations concerned within the United Nations system and voluntary agencies to render maximum financial and material assistance to the Government of Malawi in its efforts to provide shelter, food and other services to the growing number of refugees and displaced persons in that country;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its first regular session of 1988 and to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/132

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/803) without vote, 24 November (meeting 58); 30-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.75); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Rwanda, Philippines, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 51-53, 55-58; plenary 93.

Somalia

In response to a 1986 General Assembly request,(18) the High Commissioner submitted in August 1987 a report on assistance to refugees in Somalia.(19) He stated that an umbrella agreement was concluded on 17 March with the Government covering the re-enumeration of the refugee population in Somalia, and it was decided, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to send a high-level inter-agency mission to review existing refugee programmes and to prepare a comprehensive assistance programme.

A large proportion of refugees were women and children being accommodated in 41 centres located in four regions. Following discussions between the Governments of Ethiopia and Somalia, voluntary repatriation of refugees began in the Gedo region in December 1986. At mid-July 1987, 2,753 of the 7,000 initial applicants had returned to Sidamo. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the World Bank on 29 May, under which the Bank agreed to appraise and implement a local settlement project for 500 to 1,000 refugee families in the Furjano area, while UNHCR would finance the project on a grant basis. WFP and other donors continued to provide basic food supplies. The material assistance programme continued to focus on health services, water supply systems, shelter and domestic needs, transport and logistics, education, construction, community development and income-generating and agricultural projects. Little progress was made towards local settlement or self-sufficiency because of the limitations of Somalia's natural resources.

Report of the Secretary-General. In an October 1987 report,(20) the Secretary-General stated that an inter-agency mission, made up of representatives from UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNESCO, WFP and UNHCR, had visited Somalia from 13 to 20 September. The report of the mission, annexed to the Secretary-General's report, reviewed the refugee situation and the burden it imposed on Somalia. It described the assistance required to strengthen services and infrastructures to meet refugee needs and proposed a comprehensive programme of action. The greater part of the proposed programme of action was directed towards meeting the needs of refugees in established camps and settlements. Since there was no means of identifying the number of unregistered refugees, the mission recommended strengthening communal services that would benefit both that group and the local population. The mission concluded that in the light of the tremendous pressure created by the refugee presence, the situation called for a structured and co-ordinated approach in formulating the programme and mobilizing resources. As Somalia was among the poorest of the least developed countries, the mission recommended that assistance needed to cope with the refugee situation should be sought over and above the resources provided under regular assistance programmes. The mission emphasized UNDP's leading role in refugee-related development projects and stated that the mobilization of financial and technical means required should be assumed by UNDP, in close co-operation with the World Bank.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/127 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, 37/174 of 17 December 1982, 38/88 of 16 December 1983, 39/104 of 14 November 1984, 40/132 of 13 December 1985 and 41/138 of 4 December 1986 on the question of assistance to refugees in Somalia,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on assistance to refugees in Somalia,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the refugee situation in Somalia and the comprehensive programme of assistance required to enable Somalia to cope with the situation,

Deeply concerned about the heavy burden that has been placed on the fragile economy of Somalia by the continuing presence of large numbers of refugees,

Aware of the additional burden imposed by the continued influx of refugees and the consequent urgent need for additional international assistance,

Concerned about the continuing and serious shortfalls in the provision of food assistance, which have resulted in severe ration restrictions, malnutrition and extreme hardship in refugee camps in Somalia,

Conscious of the pressure that the refugee presence continues to impose on the public services, in particular education, health, transport and communications, and water supplies,

Noting with concern the deleterious effect of the refugee presence on the environment, which has resulted in widespread deforestation, soil erosion and the threat of destruction to an already fragile ecological balance,

1. Commends the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for their reports;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Somalia for the measures it is taking to provide material and humanitarian assistance to refugees, in spite of its own limited resources and fragile economy;

3. Appeals to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to render maximum and timely material, financial and technical assistance to enable the Government of Somalia to carry out the projects and activities described in the report of the Secretary-General;

4. Endorses for urgent and favourable consideration the list of projects contained in the report of the Secretary-General as the basis for a comprehensive programme of action;

5. Recommends for urgent and favourable consideration by the Government of Somalia, as well as by the United Nations system and the international donor community, the suggestions proposed in paragraphs 67 to 69 of the report of the Secretary-General, which would facilitate the implementation of the programme of action recommended in the report;

6. Calls upon the High Commissioner to ensure, as appropriate, that the care, maintenance and rehabilitation needs of the refugees are adequately covered;

7. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme to assume the leading role, as required by the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, in the conceptualization, implementation and monitoring of refugee-related projects, and to be involved in the mobilization of the financial and technical means required, in close co-operation with the High Commissioner and the World Bank;

8. Requests the pertinent organizations of the United Nations system, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund, as well as the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Food Programme, to prepare, in consultation with the Government of Somalia, detailed project documentation for the implementation of those projects and activities identified in the report of the Secretary-General as priority endeavours for a comprehensive programme of action;

9. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consult with the Government of Somalia on how best the international community can assist Somalia in protecting and rehabilitating its damaged environment;

10. Recognizes the important role that non-governmental organizations are playing with regard to programmes for the care, maintenance and rehabilitation of refugees, particularly in activities related to small-scale development projects, and in the fields of health and agriculture;

11. Calls upon the international community to support the activities of non-governmental organizations, both local and international, in Somalia, in the planning and implementation of refugee projects and refugee-related development activities;

12. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to apprise the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1988 of the progress made in their respective fields of responsibility with regard to those provisions of the present resolution which concern them;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner and United Nations Development Programme, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/127

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/803) without vote, 24 November (meeting 58); 83-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.61), orally revised; agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Gambia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 51-53, 55-58; plenary 93.

Sudan

In response to a 1986 General Assembly request, (21) the Secretary-General submitted in October 1987 a report on the situation of refugees in the Sudan. (22) During 1987, he arranged for a review mission to visit the Sudan from 22 to 30 Sep-

tember to define an operational approach for immediate implementation. The report of the mission, annexed to the Secretary-General's report, described the refugee situation, the burden it imposed on the Sudan, and assistance required to strengthen services and infrastructures to meet the needs of refugees.

The Government estimates the refugee population at nearly 1 million, more than half of whom were assisted by UNHCR through the Sudanese Commissioner for Refugees. Although these figures reflected a downward trend, it was feared that the imminence of another drought in the region might cause a large influx of refugees.

The mission recommended technical missions and activities to draw up concrete projects in priority sectors, including food, agriculture and livestock, water, health, education, transport and communications, and training, employment and income-generation. It stated that there was an urgent need for sectoral follow-up missions, but the preparatory work would have to be carried out by Government ministries.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/129 without vote.

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 41/139 of 4 December 1986 and its other previous resolutions on the situation of refugees in the Sudan,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of refugees in the Sudan and the report of the inter-agency mission annexed thereto,

Appreciating the important measures that the Government of the Sudan is taking in order to provide shelter, protection, food, education and health and other humanitarian services to a very large and persistent number of refugees in the Sudan,

Recognizing the heavy burden placed on the people and Government of the Sudan and the sacrifices they are making in caring for the refugees and the need for adequate international assistance to enable them to continue their efforts to provide assistance to the refugees,

Gravely concerned at the continuing serious social and economic impact of the massive presence of refugees, as well as its far-reaching consequences for the country's development, security and stability,

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

Bearing in mind the findings and recommendations of the inter-agency mission to the Sudan reported to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, particularly the suggestion that the international community should explore new and effective approaches to ensure that the burden of dealing with refugees is shared more equitably,

Recognizing the need to view refugee-related development projects within local and national development plans.

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 41/139 and welcomes the report of the inter-agency mission annexed thereto;

2. Commends the measures that the Government of the Sudan is taking to provide material and humanitarian assistance to refugees, in spite of the effects of the drought and the serious economic situation it faces, and stresses the need for additional resources to lessen the impact of the presence of refugees on the economy of this least developed country;

3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, donor countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their efforts to assist the refugees in the Sudan;

4. Expresses grave concern at the serious and far-reaching consequences of the massive presence of refugees in the country for its security, stability and development, as reflected in the reports of the inter-agency missions;

5. Also expresses grave concern at the shrinking resources available for refugee programmes in the Sudan and the serious consequences of this situation for the country's ability to continue to act as host and provide assistance to refugees;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in following up on the reports of the inter-agency missions and furthering the integration of developmental and refugee aid, to take concrete steps, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for the early implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the 1987 inter-agency mission;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in the areas affected by the presence of refugees;

8. Appeals to Member States, the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, 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;

9. 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;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/129

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/803) without vote, 24 November (meeting 58); 72-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.65); agenda item 12.

Sponsors: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cyprus, Democratic Kampuchea, Democratic Yemen, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, Federal Republic of, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zaire, Zambia.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 51-53, 55-58; plenary 93.

Asia and Oceania

UNHCR activities in Asia and Oceania continued to focus on Indo-Chinese asylum-seekers. Frustrations resulting from the unabated influx of Indo-Chinese led to an aggravation of protection problems in East and South-East Asia. During the year, UNHCR confronted the most serious infringements on humanitarian norms since 1979, including the principle of non-refoulement, despite a 5 per cent decrease in the refugee population since 1986, the result of a large resettlement. At year's end, the refugee population stood at 138,248.

A total of 45,836 Indo-Chinese, of whom 51 per cent were Vietnamese, 36 per cent Lao and 13 per cent Kampuchians, were resettled in 1987. Under the Orderly Departure Programme, 12,961 persons left Viet Nam for family reunion abroad. A total of 2,429 refugees were rescued at sea, of whom 793 benefited from the Rescue at Sea Resettlement Offers (RASRO) scheme, while 586 persons were disembarked and resettled under the Disembarkation Resettlement Offers (DISERO) scheme.

Thailand allowed some 7,000 Kampuchians, previously denied access to resettlement screening, to be processed for resettlement in third countries. It also agreed to regularize the status of 10,000 Hilltribe Laotian asylum-seekers.

UNHCR stepped up its efforts to promote voluntary repatriation through closer consultations with Governments of countries of origin. The number of Irian Jayans in Papua New Guinea at the end of 1987 decreased to about 9,600, of whom over 7,000 continued to receive UNHCR assistance. After the voluntary repatriation of 1,325 persons to Irian Jaya under UNHCR auspices in 1987, total repatriates numbered 2,700.

Following the signing of an Indo-Sri Lankan Peace Accord in July, UNHCR, at the request of Sri Lanka, initiated a programme of assistance to promote the return of Sri Lankan Tamils from India. After the opening of a UNHCR office in Colombo in November 1987, the organized repatriation movement started with a group of 252 repatriates from the State of Tamil Nadu in India in December. With UNHCR assistance, 112 Afghans, 12 Iranians and one Somali were voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin. In addition, 960 refugees departed for resettlement in third countries.

In November, a joint China/UNHCR mission reviewed the impact of UNHCR assistance projects in that country to assess their effectiveness concerning local settlement and refugee self-sufficiency. The mission reported certain continuing problems in bringing the refugee case-load to full self-sufficiency.

In October,(2) the Executive Committee of UNHCR expressed concern about the number of so-called long-stayers among the Indo-Chinese

refugees in camps in South-East Asia and, for humanitarian reasons, called on Governments that were not doing so to participate in resettlement efforts on a regular basis by applying criteria which allowed the admission of refugees who did not have links in any third country.

In 1987, UNHCR expenditure in the region stood at \$61.8 million under General Programmes and \$9.9 under Special Programmes.

Communication. On 13 August,(23) Thailand transmitted various documents issued at the Twentieth Ministerial Meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Singapore, 15 and 16 June 1987). The ASEAN Foreign Ministers noted that since the invasion of Kampuchea in 1978, hundreds of thousands of Indo-Chinese refugees had fled their countries and had taken temporary refuge in ASEAN countries. They expressed concern that while resettlement in third countries was waning, the influx of Vietnamese refugees and illegal immigrants by sea to the ASEAN countries, especially Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, had continued unabated.

Europe and North America

In Europe, the number of asylum-seekers decreased from 204,000 in 1986 to 183,000 in 1987, with over two thirds originating from countries outside Europe. The largest number of arrivals was 57,400 recorded in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In North America, Canada and the United States continued to act as resettlement countries, registering asylum claims by 26,000 persons. In addition, persons who might otherwise have qualified for admission as refugees were admitted under categories such as family reunion. During 1987, 6,000 and 28,000 refugees were admitted for resettlement in Canada and the United States, respectively.

UNHCR expenditures in the region for 1987 totalled \$18 million, of which \$16.4 million was under General Programmes and \$1.6 million under Special Programmes.

Latin America and the Caribbean

By the end of 1987, 119,400 refugees had received UNHCR assistance in the Central American/Mexican region. For the first time in the last several years, the total refugee population reflected a decreasing trend, as voluntary repatriates outnumbered new arrivals. In Costa Rica, 23,100 refugees were assisted, and a labour insertion programme enabled 500 to obtain official work permits. In Honduras, 40,400 remained at the end of 1987, 15,150 of whom were Salvadorians, 24,865 Nicaraguans and 416 Guatemalans. There were also over 40,990 Guatemalans in Mexico.

The number of repatriates increased considerably in 1987, with 5,595 Salvadorians repatriated

and 3,737 Miskitos and Sumos from the Honduran Mosquitia. About 2,050 Haitians were repatriated from the Dominican Republic. Smaller repatriation movements took place from Mexico (853 Guatemalans) and Costa Rica (267 Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Nicaraguans). The total number of repatriates in the region during the year was 12,937.

In southern Latin America, the estimated refugee population stood at 25,000, of whom 6,739 received UNHCR assistance. While new Chilean asylum-seekers were registered, approximately 670 refugees were assisted to repatriate.

During 1987, UNHCR expenditures in Latin America and the Caribbean totalled \$40.1 million, of which \$35.5 million was under General Programmes and \$3.8 million under Special Programmes.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 7 December 1987, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee, adopted resolution 42/110 without vote.

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons of Central America

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind its resolution 42/1 of 7 October 1987 on the current peace initiatives undertaken in connection with the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America", signed at Guatemala City on 7 August 1987 by the Central American Presidents, at the Esquipulas II summit meeting, and in particular point 8 thereof concerning refugees and displaced persons in the region,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the decision taken by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its thirty-eighth session concerning refugees in Central America, in which the Executive Committee, *inter alia*, reaffirmed the importance of continuing to apply regional approaches for the consideration of this problem and the initiative to organize a conference on this question in 1988,

Bearing in mind further the principles contained in the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on refugees and the conclusions and recommendations of the colloquium held in Mexico in 1981 on asylum and international protection of refugees in Latin America,

Recognizing the generous efforts made by the countries receiving Central American refugees despite the enormous difficulties facing them, especially the present economic crisis,

Aware of the complexity and seriousness of the situation of the refugees and displaced persons in the Central American region and its effects on the social and economic development of the area,

Considering that voluntary repatriation is the most appropriate solution to the problem of refugees, provided that it is on the basis of individual volition and with the collaboration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and that it is carried out under conditions of complete safety, preferably to the country of origin,

Bearing in mind the means of co-operation established in the region through the setting up of tripartite commissions, composed of representatives of the country of origin, the country of asylum and the Office of the High Commissioner, to facilitate and co-ordinate activities relating to the repatriation of refugees,

Recognizing the urgent need for co-operation with the countries of Central America and Mexico in the various phases involved in the repatriation, relocation, local integration and resettlement of refugees within the framework of lasting solutions,

Aware of the adverse situation of persons displaced within their own country and of the need for assistance in order to reintegrate them in their places of origin,

Underlining the paramount importance of humanitarian and apolitical considerations in dealing with the problem of refugees and displaced persons, and the need to ensure that this approach is strictly observed by the authorities of the countries of origin and of asylum, and of all participating agencies,

Noting that the Executive Commission established pursuant to the agreement concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting decided to establish a sub-commission on refugees and displaced persons, composed of representatives of the Central American countries, in order to study and propose formulas for promoting and facilitating voluntary repatriation and to propose machinery for regional co-operation as well as joint activities with the international community,

1. Expresses its satisfaction at the commitments made by the Presidents of the Central American countries to protect and aid refugees and displaced persons, as stated in point 8 of the agreement concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting;

2. Commends the valuable humanitarian work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, governmental and non-governmental organizations and countries of asylum as well as the important contribution of the donor countries in solving the most critical problems involved in rendering assistance to Central American refugees and displaced persons;

3. Also commends the important initiative taken by the Central American countries, the Contadora Group and the Support Group on the refugee question as part of the efforts made to restore peace in the region;

4. Appeals to the international community and governmental and non-governmental organizations, drawing upon their humanitarian and apolitical character, to provide and increase co-operation and assistance to Central American refugees, returnees and displaced persons;

5. Invites Member States to co-operate with the countries of the region in solving the social and economic problems arising from the flows of refugees and displaced persons;

6. Appeals to the international community to intensify its co-operation in the process of voluntary repatriation and rehabilitation of returnees in their country of origin, and urges it to facilitate the resettlement or transfer of refugees within the framework of lasting solutions and, while that process is taking place, to continue international humanitarian assistance for the benefit of the refugees;

7. Stresses the need to co-ordinate humanitarian assistance projects with the national development plans

of the countries of the region and emphasizes that the assistance provided for refugee-related projects must be considered special and independent of co-operation for the development of the countries of the region;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the competent organizations of the United Nations system, to take the necessary measures to prepare programmes of assistance to persons displaced in their own country and facilitate the reintegration and rehabilitation of returnees;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the High Commissioner and competent bodies, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 42/110

7 December 1987 Meeting 93 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/42/808) without vote, 23 November (meeting 56); 24-nation draft (A/C.3/42/L.80), orally revised; agenda item 103. Sponsors: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Meeting numbers. GA 42nd session: 3rd Committee 45, 47-50, 52, 54, 56; plenary 93.

South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East

During 1987, UNHCR obligated a total of \$114.2 million, \$72.8 million under General Programmes and \$41.5 under Special Programmes, to assist over 5 million refugees in South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East.

Afghan refugees in Pakistan, estimated at 2.9 million, continued to be the world's largest single concentration. In 1987, UNHCR increased efforts to promote self-reliance among Afghan refugees, providing primary and secondary education, veterinary services for Afghan-owned livestock, vocational training and income-generating projects. Another 2.2 million Afghans living in Iran received UNHCR assistance amounting to \$14 million for health, water supply, agriculture and vocational training. Also in Iran, some 10,000 Kurds from Iraq received emergency assistance of \$500,000.

Some 5,900 refugees living in Lebanon continued to receive UNHCR assistance. A regional office at Manama, Bahrain, became operational during 1987, monitoring UNHCR activities in that area.

In Yemen, 2,400 refugees of Eritrean origin received assistance for health, education, shelter, community development and income-generating activities.

UNHCR continued to co-ordinate humanitarian assistance for Cyprus, providing aid to persons displaced as a result of the 1974 events (see also p. 246).

Also in 1987, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continued to assist over 2.2 million Palestinian refugees (see p. 325).

Refugee protection

During 1987, the magnitude and complexity of the refugee problem demonstrated that concerted international action was the sole means of creating conditions to solve refugee problems, thereby facilitating the High Commissioner's task of providing international protection. As in previous years, UNHCR continued to provide refugees and asylum-seekers with various measures of protection, against a growing trend among countries to be restrictive in granting asylum.

Most States continued to adhere to the principle of non-refoulement. Nevertheless, some countries continued to push back asylum-seekers. Others occasionally resorted to the refoulement of larger groups of asylum-seekers and even some recognized refugees. The number of people subjected to refoulement exceeded several thousand, higher than in recent years. Many hundreds of refugees and asylum-seekers were detained, and in several instances detention was enforced to discourage further arrival or was part of a deliberate government policy to deny asylum to persons coming from certain countries or regions.

In South-East Asia where several refugee flows had lasted for over 13 years, further restrictive measures were taken to stem the flow of asylum-seekers. Africa continued its policy of hospitality towards refugees, although their reception often entailed great sacrifices for receiving countries. Central America continued to be the main source of concern for UNHCR in the Americas where the refugee problem was part of a larger political, social and economic situation that rendered the task of providing international protection extremely difficult. In Europe, the High Commissioner continued to hold consultations with countries to reach humane solutions to the problems of refugees and asylum-seekers.

A UNHCR/Thai Government Anti-Piracy Programme continued to deal with piracy attacks against asylum-seekers at sea. Similarly, the RASRO and DISERO schemes benefited large numbers of asylum-seekers in distress at sea.

The Sub-Committee of the Whole on International Protection(24) of the UNHCR Executive Committee, at its twelfth meeting (Geneva, 29 September-1 October 1987), discussed refugee children, military and armed attacks on refugee settlements, and travel documents for refugees, and recommended draft conclusions on these issues for adoption by the Executive Committee (see below).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

In November 1987, the General Assembly had before it a draft text on international procedures for the protection of refugees,(25) on which action had been deferred in 1986.(26)

By that draft, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General, with UNHCR's co-operation, to draw up a report evaluating the costs involved in setting up enough United Nations refugee-processing centres to deal with the existing flow of refugees and indicating the number of refugees that each Member State, according to its population, population density and gross national product, might be able to receive. Introducing the draft in the Third Committee, Denmark said, in its view, it contained the elements of a comprehensive approach to the refugee problem. The Third Committee decided to take no action on the draft.

Refugee law

International instruments

As of 31 December 1987, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees(27) had been ratified or acceded to by 100 States as a result of the 1987 accession by Malawi and Mauritania. The 1967 Protocol(28) to the Convention had 101 States parties as a result of the 1987 accession by Cape Verde, Malawi and Mauritania.(29) While the majority were parties to both instruments, some were parties to only one; the number of parties to one or both instruments, therefore, totalled 101.

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, Cost Rica.

As at 31 December 1987, there were 34 States parties to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons(30) (Madagascar had acceded to the Convention in 1962, but denounced it in 1965) and 14 States parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.(31)

By 1987, over 50 countries had established procedures with respect to the determination of refugee status. UNHCR continued to emphasize the need for such procedures to ensure that all claims to refugee status were dealt with in an efficient, expeditious, fair and humane manner.

Promotion and dissemination of refugee law

In 1987, UNHCR intensified efforts to promote respect for refugee law and protection. Some activities were undertaken in co-operation with UNESCO, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, others with regional organizations

such as OAU, OAS, the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe and various NGOs, universities and research centres.

UNHCR organized regional refugee law seminars and training courses for government and NGO officials in South America and southern Africa. Field offices around the world also organized courses for operational-level governmental and NGO officials. Training of UNHCR staff in refugee law and protection was improved. In addition, UNHCR strengthened its Centre for Documentation on Refugees, expanding both holdings and services. The Centre published a bibliography on refugee children, initiated work on a multilingual thesaurus of refugee-related terms, and continued to publish the quarterly *Refugee Abstracts*. In co-operation with Oxford University Press, UNHCR planned and prepared for the first issue of the *International Journal of Refugee Law*, to be published in 1989.

Travel documents for refugees

In October,(2) the UNHCR Executive Committee expressed satisfaction that the majority of countries parties to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and/or the 1967 Protocol had met or exceeded the provisions regarding travel documents for refugees. It noted, however, that problems continued to exist concerning arrangements for their issue, geographical and temporal validity, extension or renewal, a return clause, transfer of responsibility for their issue and obtaining visas.

The Committee urged States which had not done so to take legislative or administrative measures to implement the provisions of the Convention and Protocol.

Protection of refugee camps

In October,(2) the UNHCR Executive Committee condemned violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly military or armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements, and urged States to abstain from such violations against the principles of international law. It also called on States and international organizations to provide all necessary assistance to victims of these attacks. The Committee set forth a number of considerations to enhance protection of refugee camps and settlements and urged States and other parties to be guided by them.

Protection of refugee women and children

Although specific measures had been adopted in a number of refugee situations, refugee women and girls continued to suffer physical violence, sexual abuse and discrimination. Refugee children were exposed to physical violence, exploitation,

forced recruitment and detention and also faced problems concerning registration, determination of their refugee status and nationality,

In October,(2) the Executive Committee, reiterating the necessity to give particular attention to refugee women's needs and to improve protection and assistance programmes, called on all States and concerned agencies to support the High Commissioner's efforts in that regard. It recognized the need to collect reliable information and statistics about refugee women, to increase awareness of their situation and to incorporate information concerning their needs in UNHCR training programmes, and called on the High Commissioner to report in 1989 on the protection and assistance problems and needs of refugee women and on measures taken to meet them.

Also in October, the Committee noted with concern the human rights violations of refugee children and their special needs as well as their vulnerability within the broader refugee population. It also urged States to register the births of refugee children born in countries of asylum and recommended that children who were accompanied by their parents be treated as refugees if either parent was determined to be a refugee. The

Committee reaffirmed their right to education and called on States to intensify efforts to ensure that all refugee children benefited from quality primary education while respecting their cultural identity. It also asked host countries to develop and support programmes to address nutritional and health risks. The Committee called on the High Commissioner to maintain and strengthen the UNHCR Working Group on Refugee Children at Risk as his focal point on refugee children and to keep members of the Committee apprised of its work.

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