

Chapter XV

Refugees and displaced persons

The year 1990 marked an unprecedented deterioration in the global refugee situation—with a staggering 15 million world wide—due in large part to developments in the Horn of Africa and western Africa. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued its humanitarian activities on behalf of refugees and internally displaced persons throughout the world, despite the financial constraints under which it was operating. In addition to responding to increased requests for emergency assistance to new refugees, UNHCR, in co-operation with concerned Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, continued to seek durable solutions to refugee problems through programmes of voluntary repatriation, local integration in the country of asylum or resettlement in another country.

There were, however, many positive developments during the year. The number of new arrivals of Vietnamese “boat people” declined dramatically, and Central America’s long-standing refugee problem appeared to be diminishing, thanks to the concerted efforts of countries in the region.

Voluntary repatriations took place in a number of countries, notably in Central America, where, following a favourable political climate created by elections, some 55,000 Nicaraguans returned to their country. The Comprehensive Plan of Action, following the 1989 International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees, brought hope for a solution to the 16-year-old refugee situation in that area of the world. In Africa, encouraging political developments brightened prospects with regard to Angola, South Africa and Western Sahara.

In October 1990, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme considered refugee protection, refugee women and children, UNHCR policy on refugee women, Indo-Chinese refugees, repatriation of refugees to Cambodia, Central American refugees and the situation of refugees in Africa.

The Nansen medal—since 1954 bestowed in honour of Fridtjof Nansen, the first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—was not awarded in 1990.

Thorvald Stoltenberg assumed his functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees on 1 January 1990. He resigned from that position with effect from 2 November. On 21 December, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, elected Sadako Ogata (Japan) as his successor, for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1991 (decision 45/319).

Regional developments

Africa

The number of refugees in Africa continued to rise, mainly due to influxes from Mozambique to Malawi, from Liberia to Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone, and from Somalia to Ethiopia. Similarly, civil disturbances in Chad, Rwanda and the Sudan created new waves of refugees seeking asylum in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Niger, Uganda and Zaire. The increase in numbers necessitated the launching of new emergency operations as well as the strengthening of UNHCR’s field presence. The large numbers of refugees made it difficult to continue a generous tradition of asylum-granting by African countries. Moreover, the great majority of the refugees found asylum in countries which themselves faced political or economic problems, and, in many cases, were unable to provide adequate services to their own nationals.

During 1990, expenditure in Africa under UNHCR voluntary funds totalled \$225.9 million, of which \$144.3 million was obligated under General Programmes, the greater part for care and maintenance of operations, and \$81.5 million under Special Programmes.

The UNHCR Executive Committee noted the “Khartoum Declaration” on Africa’s refugee crisis issued by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Commission of Fifteen on Refugees on 24 September. It encouraged the follow-up contained in the Declaration, which called for the enhancement of the capacity for management and conflict resolution to eradicate the causes of refugee flows and realize durable solutions. It called on the international community to provide adequate resources to enable the High Commis-

sioner to discharge his mandate. The Committee invited host countries to promote protection, assistance and durable solutions in the most cost-effective manner.

Chad

By the end of 1989, some 107,000 voluntary returnees in Chad had benefited from UNHCR assistance, receiving blankets, household utensils, seeds and agricultural tools, as well as food and transportation, said the Secretary-General in an October report [A/45/651], submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 44/153 [YUN 1989, p. 702]. Limited repatriation continued in 1990, particularly from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Nigeria and the Sudan. It was estimated that at the end of 1990, some 4,000 returnees benefited from UNHCR assistance.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

The General Assembly, on 18 December 1990, adopted resolution 45/156.

Assistance to voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/153 of 15 December 1989 on 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,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the natural disasters that are compounding the already precarious food situation in Chad,

Considering that the large number of voluntary returnees poses serious social and economic problems for the Government of Chad,

Bearing in mind the many appeals made by the Government of Chad for international assistance to the voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad,

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

2. Notes with satisfaction the action taken by the various organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies with a view to mobilizing humanitarian assistance to the voluntary returnees and displaced persons in Chad;

3. Reiterates its appeal to all States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide the necessary assistance to the Government of Chad in the implementation of programmes for the repatriation and resettlement of returnees and displaced persons;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to mobilize food aid for the persons displaced as a result of natural disasters;

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

6. Calls upon 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-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 45/156

18 December 1990 Meeting 69 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/838) without vote, 30 November (meeting 58); 38-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.75); agenda item 12.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 48-50, 57, 58; plenary 69.

Djibouti

As requested by General Assembly resolution 44/150 [YUN 1989, p. 703], the Secretary-General reported [A/45/445] in September that the movements of refugees in the Horn of Africa had not spared Djibouti, severely straining its already inadequate social and economic infrastructure. By the end of July 1990, the country was host to an estimated 33,000 refugees, for the most part Somalis living in Djibouti-Ville. UNHCR's assistance programme for those refugees was mostly for internal transport and storage of food donated by the World Food Programme (WFP).

UNHCR co-ordinated assistance in favour of those Somali refugees who arrived in the Ali-Sabieh district in June, making available \$30,000 from its Emergency Fund to purchase food locally to supplement the basic food provided by WFP.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/157.

Humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/150 of 15 December 1989 on humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Djibouti, as well as all its previous resolutions on this question,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Deeply concerned about the recent inflow of over fifty thousand externally displaced persons, which has added considerably to the burden already being carried by Djibouti in respect of refugees in the country,

Noting that Djibouti is considered one of the least developed countries and that the recent inflow of large numbers of externally displaced persons and the continued presence of refugees have severely strained the already inadequate social and economic infrastructure,

Noting also that the situation thus created has resulted in the dispersal of the country's scarce resources and their diversion from economic development to emergency relief and precautionary measures,

Appreciating the determined and sustained efforts made by the Government of Djibouti to cope with the

growing needs of refugees and externally displaced persons,

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 with respect to the refugees and externally displaced persons in Djibouti,

Also noting with appreciation that over seven thousand refugees have already been settled and integrated in Djibouti, despite the physical, social and economic obstacles that the country faces,

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

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and appreciates the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to keep the situation under constant review;

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

4. Urges the High Commissioner to intensify his efforts to mobilize, on an emergency basis, the resources necessary to implement lasting solutions with respect to the refugees in Djibouti and the increasing inflow of externally displaced persons;

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

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

General Assembly resolution 45/157

18 December 1990 Meeting 69 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/838) without vote, 30 November (meeting 58); 77-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.76); agenda item 12.

Meeting numbers, GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 48-50, 57, 58; plenary 69.

Ethiopia

The presence of Ethiopian refugees in neighbouring Somalia and the Sudan was matched by the presence of an almost equal number of refugees from those countries in Ethiopia, said the Secretary-General in a September report [A/45/447], submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/154 [YUN 1989, p. 704].

At the end of 1990, Ethiopia was host to 790,000 refugees, comprising 385,000 Somalis in the east and 405,000 Sudanese in the west. In 1990, UNHCR programmes made progress in consolidating and strengthening relief assistance for those refugees, particularly in the transport, water and health/nutrition sectors, as well as for an estimated 13,000 Ethiopian returnees from neighbouring countries. In March 1990, a special appeal was launched to encourage large-scale voluntary repatriation of Ethiopians from Somalia, resulting in the registration of some 107,000 Ethiopians in southern Somalia for repatriation. Another 60,000 in north-western Somalia were also expected to register. The budget needed to assist those returnees was estimated at \$28.3 million over a two-year period.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/161.

Assistance to refugees and returnees in Ethiopia

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its resolutions, in particular resolution 44/154 of 15 December 1989, 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,

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

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

Deeply concerned about the massive presence of refugees and voluntary returnees in the country and the enormous burden this has placed on the country's infrastructure and meagre resources,

Deeply concerned also about the grave consequences this has entailed for the country's capability to grapple with the effects of the prolonged drought,

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

1. Commends the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and intergovernmental organizations and voluntary agencies for their assistance in mitigating the plight of the large number of refugees and voluntary returnees in Ethiopia;

2. Appeals to Member States and to international organizations and voluntary agencies to provide adequate material, financial and technical assistance for relief and rehabilitation programmes for the large number of refugees and voluntary returnees in Ethiopia;

3. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue his efforts to mobilize humanitarian assistance for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of voluntary returnees and the large number of 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

1991, of the implementation of the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

General Assembly resolution 45/161
18 December 1990 Meeting 69 Adopted without vote
Approved by Third Committee (A/45/838) without vote, 30 November (meeting 58); 62-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.80), orally revised: agenda item 12.
Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 48-50, 57, 58; plenary 69.

Liberia

In West Africa, the refugee population grew in 1990 from 200,000 to 875,000 due to the exodus of 759,000 Liberians to Côte d'Ivoire (300,000), Ghana (8,000), Guinea (325,000), Nigeria (1,500) and Sierra Leone (125,000). Expenditures for assistance to Liberian refugees alone amounted to \$15.9 million.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/139.

Emergency humanitarian assistance to Liberian refugees and displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the civil strife that has in the past year ravaged the West African State of Liberia, decimated its population and forced thousands of Liberians to become refugees abroad or displaced persons within their own homeland,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in which he asserts that developments in the West African subregion necessitate new emergency operations,

Deeply concerned about the mass exodus of innocent victims of the Liberian civil strife into neighbouring West African countries and the enormous burden that this movement has placed on the infrastructure and already insufficient resources of the West African countries concerned,

Aware that the majority of the refugees and displaced persons are women and children, who are particularly vulnerable to the hardship imposed on them by the unfortunate circumstances,

Noting the determined and sustained efforts being made by the Governments of the West African countries hardest hit by the crisis to cater to and restore faith and hope among the Liberian refugees in their countries,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for having taken steps to encourage continued and concerted international action in favour of Liberian refugees and displaced persons;
2. Acknowledges, with grateful appreciation, the emergency humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the governmental and intergovernmental agencies to the thousands of Liberian refugees and displaced persons in the West African subregion;
3. Appeals to the organizations of the United Nations system, Member States and international and voluntary organizations, including non-governmental or-

ganizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, to intensify urgent humanitarian and other assistance for the relief and rehabilitation of the victims of the Liberian civil strife taking refuge in neighbouring West African countries;

4. Also appeals to the organizations of the United Nations system, governmental and intergovernmental bodies, as well as non-governmental organizations, to provide the necessary material and financial assistance for the return and resettlement of the victims of the Liberian civil war;

5. Requests the High Commissioner to continue his efforts to mobilize additional resources necessary for the rehabilitation of Liberian refugees and displaced persons and to find a durable solution to the problem of Liberian refugees;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

General Assembly resolution 45/139
14 December 1990 Meeting 68 Adopted without vote
Approved by Third Committee (A/45/763) without vote, 28 November (meeting 55); 42-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.63); agenda item 107.
Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 43-47, 49, 55; plenary 68.

Somalia

In Somalia, an estimated 600,000 Ethiopian refugees continued in 1990 to receive assistance from UNHCR. Some 9,000 refugees were repatriated in organized convoys to Ethiopia, with some 4,500 of that number moving from north-western Somalia under a joint International Committee of the Red Cross/UNHCR operation.

Responding to General Assembly resolution 44/152 [YUN 1989, p. 705], the Secretary-General, in a September report [A/45/508], outlined assistance provided to refugees in Somalia by organizations of the UN system. He stated that UNHCR had launched an appeal to the international community on 16 March to secure funds for the two-year special programme for durable solutions to the refugee problem, which envisaged voluntary repatriation, spontaneous local integration and assistance to refugees. In accordance with the conclusions of the tripartite commission established in 1989, a registration of refugees in all southern camps was conducted between November 1989 and February 1990 for one of those three options.

UNDP approved a \$1 million project designed to increase the effectiveness of emergency assistance programmes to displaced persons and refugees. WFP continued the general feeding of Ethiopian refugees in Somalia through its refugee operation in the south and the Secretary-General's six-month extraordinary interim emergency programme for refugees in the north-west. During 1990, that assistance covered

440,000 re-registered refugees in the south and 140,000 refugees in the north-west, in addition to 50,000 vulnerable children and mothers in the refugee camps.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/154.

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, 41/138 of 4 December 1986, 42/127 of 7 December 1987, 43/147 of 8 December 1988 and 44/152 of 15 December 1989 on assistance to refugees in Somalia,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

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,

Noting with concern the decision taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme to suspend temporarily their food and other humanitarian assistance programmes for refugees in the north-west districts of Somalia, and the food shortages that have occurred in the refugee settlements as a result of the termination of the extraordinary interim emergency programme,

Considering the urgent need to reactivate the extraordinary interim emergency programme to alleviate hardship and human suffering of refugees in the affected north-west districts of Somalia,

Conscious of the fact that Somalia, as a least developed country, does not possess the economic or financial capacity to fill the gap created by the temporary suspension of humanitarian assistance programmes for refugees in the north-west districts of Somalia,

Aware of the fact that Somalia does not have the capacity to provide humanitarian assistance from its limited resources,

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

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

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

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 Somalia;

4. Calls upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme to resume their assistance programmes for the refugees in the north-west districts of Somalia as soon as possible;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner,

the World Food Programme and the donor community, to resume the interim assistance programme so as to ensure that essential food aid and other humanitarian supplies continue to reach the refugee settlements in the north-west districts of Somalia until such time as a more permanent arrangement can be made;

6. Appeals once again to Member States, international organizations and voluntary agencies to give full support to the Secretary-General in the implementation of the interim assistance programme;

7. Reiterates its appeal 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 implement the projects and activities identified in the report of the 1987 inter-agency mission annexed to the report of the Secretary-General as the basis for a comprehensive programme of action concerned with both the humanitarian and the developmental needs of refugees;

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-Saharan Office and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to continue and expand their activities in Somalia, in co-operation with the Government of Somalia, and to protect and rehabilitate its damaged environment;

10. Recognizes the important role that the 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. 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 1991, of the progress made in their respective fields of responsibility with regard to those provisions of the present resolution which concern them;

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

General Assembly resolution 45/154

18 December 1990 Meeting 69 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/838) without vote, 30 November (meeting 58); 68-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.71); agenda item 12.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 48-50, 57, 58; plenary 69.

Southern Africa

In 1990, UNHCR continued to provide assistance to more than 140,000 Mozambicans in Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Some voluntary repatriation to Mozambique took place during the year. At the end of the year, UNHCR, in co-operation with the Governments concerned, organized the repatriation of 2,266 Namibian refugee children from Zambia by air. Since the middle of 1990, new waves of South African refugees had been arriving in neighbouring countries, fleeing violence in their townships. The estimated 38,000 South African refugees in the southern Africa region continued to receive UNHCR assistance, pending their repatriation when conditions permitted.

Follow-up to the 1988

Conference on refugees in southern Africa

In response to General Assembly resolution 44/136 [YUN 1989, p. 701], the Secretary-General reported [A/45/480] in September on follow-up to the 1988 International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa. He summarised the activities of Member States and organizations of the UN system in implementing the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Conference [YUN 1988, p. 665], which were designed to promote emergency preparedness, needs assessment and delivery assistance, recovery and development, and mobilization of resources.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

The General Assembly, on 14 December, adopted resolution 45/137.

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/136 of 15 December 1989,

Gravely concerned about the continuous deterioration of the situation in southern Africa arising from the domination and oppression of the people of South Africa by the minority racist regime of South Africa,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General,

Conscious 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 regime of South Africa,

Noting with appreciation the consultations undertaken by the Secretary-General to establish within the United Nations system a mechanism to ensure the implementation and overall co-ordination of relief programmes for internally displaced persons,

Convinced of the necessity to strengthen the capacity of the identified focal points within the United Nations system for the implementation and the overall

co-ordination of relief programmes for internally displaced persons,

Noting with indignation that South Africa's policy of apartheid and its direct and indirect acts of aggression, intimidation and destabilization through armed terrorists continue to be the main causes of refugee flows and increasing displacement of persons in southern Africa,

Convinced also 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 these persons,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Reaffirms the need to continue the implementation of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa adopted by the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, held at Oslo from 22 to 24 August 1988;

3. Expresses its gratitude to the countries and organizations that have given assistance to the countries of southern Africa to enable them to cope with the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their territories;

4. 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 the refugees, returnees and displaced persons in their territories;

5. 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 the front-line and other neighbouring States to help them to withstand the effects of the acts of aggression and destabilization committed by the apartheid regime of South Africa;

6. Notes with appreciation the efforts made by the Secretary-General, 'the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to implement the specific tasks and responsibilities assigned to them in the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action, and encourages them to continue their efforts;

7. Endorses the recommendation of the Secretary-General aimed at assigning to the United Nations resident co-ordinators the function of co-ordinating assistance for internally displaced persons, in close co-operation with Governments, local representatives of donor countries and United Nations agencies in the field;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen the capacity of the identified focal points at the field level to enable them to respond more effectively to government requests for assistance to refugees and displaced persons;

9. Once again urges all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and governmental and non-governmental organizations to undertake the measures required of them under the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action;

10. Decides to consider this question at its forty-sixth session on the basis of a report to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

General Assembly resolution 45/137

14 December 1990 Meeting 68 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/763) without Vote, 28 November (meeting 55); draft by Tunisia, for African Group (A/C.3/45/L.60); agenda item 107.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 43-47, 49, 55; plenary 68.

Student refugees

In September, the Secretary-General reported [A/45/448] that UNHCR educational assistance programmes continued in 1990 for South African and Namibian refugee students in southern Africa. The aim of the assistance was to enable young refugees to become self-reliant in their host country, and to assume leadership roles upon their return. Most of the student refugees in those programmes (some 212 Namibians and 600 South Africans) were at the primary and lower secondary levels, with smaller numbers enrolled in secondary and post-secondary educational institutions in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The programmes were implemented either directly by local UNHCR offices or through other agencies. Appropriation for the programmes for 1990 totalled \$207,700.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/171.

Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa
The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/157 of 15 December 1989, in which, inter alia, it requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 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 had been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Noting with appreciation that some of the projects recommended in the report continue to be successfully implemented,

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

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 Secretary-General;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe 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, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe for the co-operation that they have extended to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 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, who have been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

6. Also requests the High Commissioner, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to continue the sponsorship of Namibian students still studying under programmes of the High Commissioner until they complete their studies;

7. 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;

8. 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;

9. 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 who have been granted asylum in Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

10. Calls upon agencies and programmes of the United Nations systems 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;

11. 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 1991, of the current status of the programmes and to re-

port to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 45/171

18 December 1990 Meeting 69 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/838) without vote, 30 November (meeting 58); 48-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.91); agenda item 12.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 48-50, 57, 58; plenary 69.

Malawi

In 1990, UNHCR assisted Malawi to meet the burden of the presence of the large number of Mozambican refugees in the country, which increased by over 120,000 to a total of some 927,000. The UNHCR assistance programme continued to provide for the basic needs of refugees pending repatriation, but the financial constraints faced by the Office resulted in a cut of some \$6 million from the 1989/90 programmes. As a result, the refugees suffered a nutritional deficiency and there was a deterioration in community services and education.

The Secretary-General, in a September report [A/45/444] submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/149 [YUN 1989, p. 699], said that the inevitable reduction in the UNHCR programme in Malawi had weakened the delivery of basic care and maintenance and hampered efforts to repair the ecological damage caused by the arrival of over 800,000 persons. WFP continued to co-ordinate the supply of basic food commodities, while UNHCR purchased additional supplies. However, the long-term presence of the large and increasing refugee population in Malawi continued to affect the country seriously, diverting precious resources intended for national development. To alleviate the situation, UNHCR and the Government in May addressed the Paris World Bank Consultative Group Meeting for the first time on the refugee crisis in Malawi.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

The General Assembly, on 18 December, adopted resolution 45/159.

Assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/132 of 7 December 1987, 43/148 of 8 December 1988 and 44/149 of 15 December 1989 on assistance to refugees and displaced persons in Malawi,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,

Having examined that part of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that deals with the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Malawi,

Gravely concerned about the continuing serious social and economic impact of the massive presence of refugees and displaced persons, as well as its far-reaching

consequences for the country's long-term development process,

Appreciating the important measures that the Government of Malawi is taking in order to provide shelter, protection, food, education and health' and other humanitarian services to thousands of refugees and displaced persons,

Recognizing the heavy burden placed on the people and Government of Malawi and the sacrifices they are making in caring for the refugees and displaced persons, given the country's limited social services and infrastructure, and the need for adequate international assistance to enable them to continue their efforts to provide assistance to the refugees and displaced persons,

Expressing its appreciation for the assistance rendered by Member States, the various organizations of the United Nations system, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in support of the refugee programme in Malawi,

Bearing in mind the findings and recommendations of the inter-agency mission to Malawi, particularly on the need to strengthen the country's socio-economic infrastructure in order to enable it to provide for the immediate humanitarian relief requirements of the refugees and displaced persons, as well as the long-term national development needs of the country,

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;
2. Commends the measures that the Government of Malawi is taking to provide material and humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons, in spite of the serious economic situation it faces, and stresses the need for additional resources to lessen the impact of the presence of refugees and displaced persons on the country's long-term development process;
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 and displaced persons in Malawi;
4. Expresses grave concern at the serious and far-reaching consequences of the massive presence of refugees and displaced persons in the country and its implications for the long-term socio-economic development of the whole country;
5. 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 continue providing the Government of Malawi with the necessary resources for the implementation of development assistance projects in regions affected by the presence of refugees and displaced persons, as well as for the development programmes now being implemented;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize the necessary financial and material assistance for the full implementation of ongoing projects in the areas affected by the presence of refugees and displaced persons and for programmes now being implemented;

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

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

General Assembly resolution 45/159

18 December 1990 Meeting 69 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/838) without vote, 30 November (meeting 58); 34-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.78); agenda item 12.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 48-50, 57, 58; plenary 69.

Sudan

In a September report [A/45/446], the Secretary-General stated that in 1990 UNHCR assisted some 385,000 of the more than 768,000 refugees estimated to be in the Sudan. With the completion of the voluntary repatriation of Ugandan refugees in 1989, UNHCR activities in the south of the Sudan were phased out. While efforts were made to promote the voluntary repatriation of the 20,000 Chadian refugees remaining in the west, no significant return movement took place. To enhance the economic independence of Ethiopian refugees in the eastern and central regions, efforts were made towards programme rationalization. A parallel effort was made to reduce refugee dependence on direct assistance in the long term by linking assistance to national development efforts. Refugee-specific activities were linked with regional development projects being implemented by the World Bank, the European Community and bilateral donors in refugee-affected areas. Full implementation of the World Bank/UNHCR/Government of the Sudan project in South Kassala targeting small farmers, including refugees in rural settlements, unassisted refugees and nationals, was hampered by a lack of financial contributions towards the refugee component of the project. The project had to be redesigned to reduce its scope. UNHCR continued to fund projects to improve infrastructure and services in refugee-affected areas in eastern Sudan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/160.

Situation of refugees in the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/151 of 15 December 1989 and its other previous resolutions on the situation of refugees in the Sudan,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts made by the Government of the Sudan for the reception of the refugees and the provision of protection, shelter, food, education and health and other humanitarian services to the ever-increasing number of refugees who have been crossing the borders into the Sudan since the early 1960s,

Recognizing the heavy burden shouldered by the people and the Government of the Sudan and the sacrifices they are making to host more than one million refugees, who constitute approximately 7.5 per cent of the total population of the country,

Deeply concerned that the great majority of the refugees have settled of their own accord in various urban and rural communities throughout the country and are thus sharing with the indigenous population the already meagre resources and services,

Expressing grave concern at the devastating and far-reaching effects of the successive calamities, ranging from the drought in 1984 to the torrential rains and floods and locust infestations in 1988 and the drought and food shortage of 1990, that have afflicted the country, thus exacerbating the already deteriorating situation resulting from the presence of this great number of refugees,

Gravely concerned also that the Government of the Sudan, besides dealing with the difficult prevailing economic and social problems, has the additional task of taking care of more than 3.7 million persons displaced by successive calamities and civil strife in the south,

Recognizing the efforts undertaken by the Government of the Sudan to initiate a wide-ranging rehabilitation programme to redress the damages incurred by the natural disasters,

Considering those serious circumstances, which render the Government of the Sudan less prepared than ever to meet its obligations to its own people, and the more serious consequences, which affect the capacity of the Government of the Sudan to receive and grant asylum to additional numbers of refugees,

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,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Takes note also of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and, in particular, of the new trends identified in the area of refugee aid and development;
3. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, 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 presence of massive numbers of refugees on the security and stability of the country and the overall negative impact on its basic infrastructure and socio-economic development;
5. Also expresses grave concern at the shrinking resources available for refugee programmes in the Sudan and the serious consequences of this situation on the country's ability to continue to host and assist refugees;
6. 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 particular those prepared by the United Nations Development Programme, in the regions affected by the presence of refugees;

7. 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. 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 and to explore ways and means to extend assistance to refugees who have settled of their own accord elsewhere;

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

General Assembly resolution 45/160
18 December 1990 Meeting 69 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/838) without vote, 30 November (meeting 58); 46-nation draft A/C.3/45/L.79; agenda item 12.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 48-50, 57, 58; plenary 69.

Asia and Oceania

In 1990, efforts continued to implement the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) adopted at the 1989 International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees [YUN 1989, p. 707] and aimed at achieving a durable solution to the problem of Indo-Chinese refugees in the South-East Asia region.

In Viet Nam, a mass information campaign aimed at discouraging the organization of clandestine departures was partly responsible for the dramatic decline in the number of new Vietnamese asylum-seekers in the region, from 83,700 in 1989 to 40,500 in 1990. The campaign involved close co-operation between UNHCR and the Government, as well as the media. By the end of 1990, under the Orderly Departure Programme, a total of 252,760 Vietnamese had left the country by air to over 30 countries.

UNHCR worked closely with the Governments concerned to establish status-determination procedures for asylum-seekers. Under CPA, voluntary repatriation for Vietnamese refugees continued in 1990. To help in their reintegration, returnees were paid \$30 per month over a one-year period and UNHCR staff undertook periodic visits to their home provinces and villages to monitor their progress. In China, UNHCR contributed \$3 million to support 40 projects geared towards income-generation, education, job creation and health care for the younger generation of 285,000 Vietnamese settled in China who suffered from lack of job opportunities and cultivable land.

In Thailand, there were 99,821 Indo-Chinese refugees at the end of 1990, two thirds of whom were Lao, and the rest Vietnamese and Cambodian. Under UNHCR auspices, more than 20,000 left the country for resettlement, but that was offset by new arrivals and natural population growth. UNHCR continued its programmes of care and maintenance, repatriation and resettlement assistance for refugees in Thailand, at a cost of \$24.5 million.

The fate of some 300,000 Cambodians on the border with Thailand, assisted by the United Nations Border Relief Operation, as well as of 15,000 others in Thailand and an equal number in Viet Nam, awaited a resolution of the Cambodia conflict. Preparations for the repatriation of those refugees and displaced persons were under way in anticipation of a political settlement. An inter-agency mission, led by UNHCR, visited Thailand and Cambodia in May/June 1990. Follow-up consultations were held to ensure effective co-ordination and a definition of the responsibilities of each organization involved. A memorandum of understanding was concluded between UNHCR and WFP on food assistance and a contingency plan prepared to ensure a safe return and a smooth transition of returnees.

The UNHCR Executive Committee, noting that the inter-agency mission had laid the groundwork for the repatriation operation, called on the High Commissioner to work with the Secretary-General to ensure that the financial and other requirements of the operation were addressed in UN overall planning. It appealed for a comprehensive settlement in Cambodia and called on Governments and other donors to respond rapidly. The Committee also called for the creation of a climate of security and confidence so that repatriation and reintegration could be undertaken with international monitoring. In October 1990, the Secretary-General launched an appeal for funds to cover the preparatory phase of the repatriation, which was met with a favourable initial response of more than \$10 million. Surveys were conducted in Cambodia to determine the absorption capacity of potential returnee areas.

Elsewhere in the region, in November 1990, UNHCR began an emergency relief programme for some 43,000 Sri Lankan returnees and displaced persons in Mannar District. That population had repatriated from south India since 1987, and was helped by UNHCR to resettle in their native towns and villages. However, since mid-1990 the situation in the north-east had deteriorated rapidly, and large numbers of returnees were again displaced. Due to the increase of asylum-seekers in Australia and New Zealand, the Governments of those countries requested addi-

tional help in carrying out status-determination procedures; in response, UNHCR recruited additional personnel. In both countries, persons of Indo-Chinese origin formed the majority of new asylum-seekers, with others from Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. At the end of 1990, the number of refugees in Australia stood at 97,915, and in New Zealand at 5,424.

Papua New Guinea gave permission to Irian Jayan refugees from Indonesia to settle on its territory; they were encouraged to engage in income-generating activities. However, during the year, 600 of those refugees voluntarily repatriated to their country of origin. During the same period, Nepal saw an influx of some 2,000 Bhutanese.

Total expenditures by UNHCR for the region under voluntary funds amounted to \$102 million in 1990, of which \$52.6 million was expended under General Programmes and \$49.4 million under Special Programmes. Care and maintenance programmes accounted for \$60 million of the total.

1989 Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees

In September, the Secretary-General reported [A/45/449] on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action adopted at the 1989 International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees [YUN 1989, p. 707]. He said that considerable progress had been registered on all aspects of CPA, except the issue of the return of non-refugees. Concerning departures, a public information campaign was conducted in northern Viet Nam to inform inhabitants about the situation of asylum-seekers, the establishment of procedures to determine refugee status and the limitation of resettlement opportunities. That campaign contributed largely to the drastic reduction in arrivals in Hong Kong. In the rest of the region, however, no significant change was noted in the number of arrivals and a public information campaign would be undertaken in southern Viet Nam.

UNHCR conducted training/briefing sessions for government officials involved in the determination of refugee status. Special procedures were established with UNHCR assistance for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable cases. Considerable progress was also made on resettlement of the pre-cutoff date case-load; over 80 per cent of the case-load had been accepted or had departed for resettlement. With respect to voluntary repatriation, 3,345 Vietnamese returned to Viet Nam. The Steering Committee of the Conference, at its third meeting (Geneva, 24-25 January), agreed on the principle of the return of non-refugees, but was unable to agree on a time-

table for implementation. At an informal meeting of the Steering Committee (Manila, Philippines, 17-18 May), first asylum countries issued a statement indicating that, if there was no solution for non-refugees by 1 July, they would reserve the right to take unilateral action to safeguard their national interest, including abandonment of first asylum.

The UNHCR Executive Committee emphasized the need for continued efforts to ensure full and balanced implementation of all mutually reinforcing elements of CPA, including temporary asylum and repatriation. It requested the High Commissioner and the Steering Committee to continue their multilateral co-ordinating role towards that end and urged that a consensus be reached in the near future enabling full CPA implementation.

Europe and North America

Changes taking place in Central and Eastern Europe led to a substantial increase in the activities of UNHCR in the area. The agency undertook a number of missions with a view to encouraging Governments to accede to international refugee instruments and to develop national legislation pertaining to refugees and asylum-seekers, repatriation, resettlement and family reunification. In 1990, Hungary and Yugoslavia were the only countries in the region to have acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees [YUN 1951, p. 520] and its 1967 Protocol [YUN 1967, p. 769], but almost all others had expressed their intention to do so in the near future. The number of refugees in Eastern Europe was as yet relatively small, but future mass flows were anticipated.

In Western Europe, the number of asylum-seekers continued to rise, from 290,000 in 1988 to 420,000 in 1990. That resulted in strains on reception facilities and increased expenditures for public assistance, and created a large backlog in the processing of asylum applications. At the same time, public opinion became increasingly less favourable to immigrants in general, and refugees in particular. During 1990, Albania was the largest source of new refugees: 19,852 sought asylum in Greece, 27,000 in Italy and 2,100 in Yugoslavia.

In North America, asylum applications in Canada during 1990 increased to about 36,000 from 21,745 in the previous year. However, their rate of acceptance was 70 per cent, reflecting the country's generous asylum policies. In the United States, requests for asylum during the year numbered some 74,000, the majority of which were from Cubans and Central Americans.

UNHCR worked closely with the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service in training asylum adjudicators in the new asylum regulations instituted in 1990.

UNHCR expenditures in Europe and North America amounted to \$27.3 million for 1990.

Latin America and the Caribbean

At the end of 1990, 92,773 refugees were being assisted by UNHCR in Central America and another 8,275 in South America (out of a refugee population of 29,098 in that region). The momentum created by regional peace efforts and the 1989 International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) [YUN 1989, p. 709] served as a catalyst to find durable solutions, through voluntary repatriation or integration in host countries, to refugee problems in Central America, notably in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Following the elections in Nicaragua in March 1990 (see PART Two, Chapter II), most of the Nicaraguan refugees in Honduras expressed a desire to return home. At the request of the Secretary-General, UNHCR lent its good offices to the work of the International Support and Verification Commission. In 1990, in the largest such effort in Latin America by UNHCR, it helped in the repatriation of 35,464 refugees and 18,883 members of the Nicaraguan resistance within the framework of the Commission. It also set up seven field offices in returnee areas for rehabilitation assistance. In addition to immediate relief aid, UNHCR, in partnership with UNDP, began implementing long-term development projects for the permanent reintegration of the returnees. During the year, another 8,072 refugees were repatriated to El Salvador under UNHCR auspices, making a total of 30,000 returnees to that country since 1987; UNHCR continued to monitor the security conditions and welfare of the returnees in more than 17 communities throughout the country. Some 783 refugees were repatriated from Mexico to Guatemala in 1990—a slower rate of return than in the previous year.

In South America, following the growing trend towards voluntary repatriation, 2,500 Chileans returned under UNHCR auspices from various countries of asylum, most notably from Argentina, receiving assistance within a framework agreed upon between the Chilean Government, the International Organization for Migration and UNHCR.

With funds made available through CIREFCA projects, local integration efforts were pursued to assist those refugees who did not wish to return home. In Costa Rica, five CIREFCA projects were implemented by UNHCR to provide housing

credit, job training and education to Nicaraguan refugees. As a result of those measures, it was expected that by the end of 1991 there would be no more refugee camps in Costa Rica. In Mexico, the Government announced a new policy of "secure settlement" aimed at providing a measure of self-sufficiency for 7,000-8,000 Guatemalan refugees in the State of Chiapas.

UNHCR opened a Regional Office in Caracas, Venezuela, in April, and intensified its activities in the Caribbean. Voluntary repatriation of Haitian refugees continued and a rehabilitation project for returnees was re-opened.

Expenditures for the year in Latin America and the Caribbean amounted to \$43.4 million, of which \$24 million was obligated under General Programmes and \$19.4 million under Special Programmes.

Follow-up to the 1989

Conference on Central American Refugees

During 1990, UNHCR, in collaboration with UNDP, provided technical and material support for the finalization of development and reconstruction projects presented at the 1989 International Conference on Central American Refugees [YUN 1989, p. 709], said the Secretary-General in a September report [A/45/450]. In compliance with the Concerted Plan of Action adopted at that Conference, a governmental national committee was formed in each affected country to define priorities regarding the linkage of development projects for uprooted populations to their countries' national plans. Also in compliance with the Plan of Action, donor Governments, NGOs, the affected Governments, UNDP and UNHCR worked together in a support group which served as a forum for sharing information and viewpoints regarding project design and implementation.

The First International Meeting of the Follow-up Committee of CIREFCA was held in New York on 27 and 28 June. The Meeting reviewed the progress reports of the seven affected Governments on the application of the Concerted Plan of Action in their respective countries and showed their support for the CIREFCA process during its implementation stage. Contributions for the financing of projects totalling \$156.2 million were made or announced at the Meeting. The Meeting adopted the Declaration of the First International Meeting of the Follow-up Committee, which supported the strengthening of the mechanisms set in motion by CIREFCA and called for consideration in development-related projects for uprooted persons in the region of the participation of women, physical and intellectual development of children, conservation of ethnic

and cultural values and protection of the environment. The Meeting requested the Secretary-General, UNHCR and UNDP to support the affected Governments, in particular through the CIREFCA Joint Support Unit.

The UNHCR Executive Committee welcomed the Declaration of the First International Meeting of the Follow-up Committee. It requested the Governments in the region to strengthen the functioning of the mechanisms established under the Concerted Plan of Action at the national and international levels and asked the High Commissioner to ensure effective implementation of CIREFCA projects and reinforce his collaboration with UNDP and national support groups. The Committee appealed to the Governments of Central America, Belize and Mexico, the international community, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs to increase their efforts towards full implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action to achieve durable solutions for refugees, returnees and displaced persons.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/141.

International Conference on Central American Refugees

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/1 of 7 October 1987, 42/110 of 7 December 1987, 42/204 of 11 December 1987, 42/231 of 12 May 1988, 43/118 of 8 December 1988 and 44/139 of 15 December 1989,

Recalling also that the International Conference on Central American Refugees is related to the initiative of the Central American Presidents expressed in the procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America concluded at the Esquipulas II summit meeting in August 1987, as indicated in the San Salvador communique on the Central American refugees, of 9 September 1988,

Recognizing the importance and validity of the Declaration of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, held at Guatemala City from 29 to 31 May 1989, and especially of the framework contained in the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, adopted by the Conference,

Noting the establishment of the national and international follow-up mechanisms contemplated in the Concerted Plan of Action,

Taking into account that the Conference has become an integral part of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, as referred to in General Assembly resolution 42/231, thus responding to the needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Recalling the important declarations of support for the Conference process and its objectives contained in the communiqués issued by the Central American Presidents following the summit meetings at Tela, Honduras, on 7 August 1989, Montelimar, Nicaragua,

on 3 April 1990, and Antigua, Guatemala, on 17 June 1990: in General Assembly resolution 44/139 and in resolution 1021(XIX-0/89) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States; in the conclusion adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees on the Guatemala Declaration and the Concerted Plan of Action; and, lastly, in the communique of the meeting between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries of the European Community and of Central America, held at Dublin on 9 and 10 April 1990,

Noting the generous support provided by the countries participating in the First International Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee of the International Conference for the proposals presented at the Meeting by the Central American countries, Belize and Mexico,

Convinced that peace, development and democracy are essential in order to solve the problem of uprooted populations in the region,

Recognizing the valuable co-operation of the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme with the affected countries through the Joint Support Unit of the Conference to ensure the follow-up of the Concerted Plan of Action and the proper implementation of the objectives and proposals contained therein,

Noting with satisfaction the progress made in the region through dialogue and national reconciliation, which contribute to the consolidation of peace and the strengthening of democratic processes,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees relating to the International Conference on Central American Refugees;
2. Welcomes with satisfaction the meetings held by the Follow-Up Committee established by the Conference as the mechanism provided in the Concerted Plan of Action in favour of Central American Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons, and encourages further meetings with a view to the effective follow-up of activities related to the implementation of plans and projects in favour of displaced persons of the Central American region;
3. Recognizes the efforts made by the affected countries to establish conditions conducive to resolving the problem of uprooted populations in the region;
4. Urges the affected countries, according to their capacities, to strengthen their efforts to deal with the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to adapt the solutions to national and regional development plans and programmes and to action aimed, specifically, at eradicating extreme poverty;
5. Agrees on the need for projects in favour of refugees, returnees and displaced persons to promote, inter alia;
 - (a) The participation of women;
 - (b) The physical and intellectual development of children;
 - (c) The preservation of ethnic and cultural values;
 - (d) The protection of the environment;
6. Reaffirms its conviction that the voluntary repatriation of refugees and the return of displaced persons to their countries or communities of origin is one of the

most positive signs of the progress of peace in the region;

7. Expresses its conviction that the process of return to and reintegration in the countries and communities of origin should take place in conditions of dignity and security and with the necessary guarantees to ensure that the affected populations are included in the respective national development plans;

8. Reaffirm the validity of the Concerted Plan of Action as a framework for solving the problems posed in the affected countries by the massive presence of uprooted populations of the Central American region, while recognizing that it constitutes only an initial response to the many problems to which uprootedness gives rise;

9. Expresses its appreciation for the resources committed to finance the proposals submitted by the Governments of Central America, Belize and Mexico at the First International Meeting of the Follow-Up Committee, and welcomes with satisfaction the willingness expressed by the Follow-Up Committee to give favourable consideration to future projects submitted by the affected countries within the Conference framework and to explore all possible sources for funding them;

10. Stresses in particular the need to support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme in the discharge of the special function assigned to them by the Secretary-General within the framework of the International Support and Verification Commission in order to provide them with the resources required for assistance for and voluntary repatriation and reintegration of members of the Nicaraguan resistance and their families, as well as of the Nicaraguan refugees being repatriated voluntarily;

11. Urges Member States and organs, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as regional and subregional organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in humanitarian tasks in favour of the Central American refugees, returnees and displaced persons, to continue and increase their assistance to and support for the responsible authorities of the affected countries in the implementation and follow-up of the guidelines, goals and objectives of the Concerted Plan of Action, and expresses its gratitude to all the national and international organizations engaged in assistance to the uprooted populations and in the development of the region;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Development Programme to continue their support for the affected countries in the implementation of the Concerted Plan of Action, especially through the activities of the joint Support Unit of the Conference:

13. Urges the responsible authorities to 'continue and strengthen measures to ensure the efficient implementation of the proposed programmes;

14. Stresses the importance of strengthening and developing the follow-up and promotion mechanisms established under the Concerted Plan of Action, in particular the support groups, in order to ensure co-ordination and co-operation between all the parties involved, and calls upon the Governments of the region to take the necessary measures to facilitate this process;

15. Recognizes the importance of the role played by non-governmental organizations, as well as by the affected populations, in identifying their needs and participating in the planning and execution of projects in co-ordination with national committees and in accordance with the Concerted Plan of Action, and urges them to continue in this humanitarian and non-political endeavour;

16. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the High Commissioner, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

General Assembly resolution 45/141

14 December 1990 Meeting 68 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/763) without vote, 28 November (meeting 55); 26-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.65); agenda item 107.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 43-47, 49, 55; plenary 68.

South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East

In 1990, the situation of Afghan refugees in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran was the principal focus of UNHCR activities in the region, though assistance continued to pockets of refugee populations elsewhere.

The expected mass return of Afghan refugees, following the complete withdrawal of foreign armed forces from Afghanistan in February 1989, did not materialize. Although significant repatriations, involving some 300,000 persons, took place in 1989 and 1990, by the end of 1990 there were 3,185,265 Afghan refugees in Pakistan and more than 2.3 million in Iran. In Pakistan, the majority of Afghans lived in some 345 refugee villages, with women and children comprising 75 per cent of the refugee population. Most of UNHCR services were geared towards community-based activities and income-generating schemes for those refugees who had not attained economic self-sufficiency. Food aid to the refugees was provided by WFP at an estimated value of \$120 million.

Besides the 2.3 million Afghans, Iran hosted over 500,000 Iraqi refugees. Only a small percentage of the Afghan refugees lived in camps, the majority being integrated in urban centres throughout the country, where they enjoyed the right to employment and access to education and health facilities on an equal footing with Iranian citizens. UNHCR assistance was limited to health, sanitation, water, education and income generation. In the field of health, UNHCR complemented the efforts of Iran by procuring vaccines, medicines and water-distribution systems, and by providing salaries of Afghan health workers, at a cost of \$8 million. Another \$4 million was expended on similar assistance to Iraqi refugees.

In order to promote a durable solution to the problem of Afghan refugees, UNHCR took part in a Pilot Repatriation Project launched in July 1990. In Afghanistan, UNHCR continued to support the Peace Guest House project, where returnees were received and assisted with transportation to their areas of origin. Guest houses were established in Kabul, Herat and Mazari-i-Sharif, where WFP provided food aid to the returnees. By the end of 1990, UNHCR had assisted some 30,000 persons through that project.

During 1990, UNHCR voluntary funds expenditure in South-West Asia, North Africa and the Middle East totalled \$97.6 million, \$63.6 million of which was for care and maintenance.

Refugee protection and assistance

Protection issues

In 1990, there was an overall improvement in the international protection of refugees, said the High Commissioner in his annual report to the General Assembly [A/46/12]. That was evidenced by the implementation in Central America and South-East Asia of plans of action developed in 1989 to deal with the refugee situation in those regions; the setting up of a regional mechanism in Africa to contain the rapidly worsening refugee situation there; and the voluntary repatriation of refugees in several parts of the world and the consequent closure of camps set up over a decade earlier. However, that was offset by negative trends in other parts of the world. Although many States admitted the vast majority of the world's refugees, granting them temporary asylum at least and protection from refoulement, a number of countries denied entry to asylum-seekers on various grounds and concern did not lessen over violations of the principle of non-refoulement.

In August, the High Commissioner, in a note on international protection [A/AC.96/750] to the Executive Committee, gave an overview of the problems faced in the area of protection and suggested certain considerations for any broad-based approach to the refugee problem in the coming decade. The aim was to underpin suggestions for future direction for refugee policy that States and the international community might develop.

Refugee problems were identified as operational in nature, especially where there were communities of refugees for whom no lasting solution to their situation had been found; the serious and growing challenge to the institution of asylum as a main way of offering protection to refu-

gees; and the financial crisis of UNHCR which had adversely affected its ability to protect refugees.

The High Commissioner stated that the physical security of refugees during their flight and after arrival in asylum countries was of paramount concern. Military or armed attacks on refugee camps or settlements destroyed lives and property, refugees were forcibly recruited into regular and irregular armed forces and women and children were subjected to physical violence or sexual abuse. Denial by Governments of UNHCR access to refugee populations further impeded effective monitoring or intervention. A related concern was the detention of refugees and asylum-seekers in circumstances outside the guidelines agreed to in 1986 by the Executive Committee. There were also restrictions on the full enjoyment of rights of refugees guaranteed by international instruments. Protection training and promotion activities instituted by UNHCR had proved only partially effective. The institution of asylum, which was critical to refugee protection, was increasingly being undermined. Certain States expelled refugees individually and, in some instances, in large numbers. In addition, many States, some of which were among the architects of the international refugee protection structures, adopted measures denying admission and hindering access to procedures for the determination of status. As a complement to such policies, a number of States had adopted a narrow view of the scope of their responsibilities under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees [YUN 1951, p. 520], particularly article 1 on refugee definition, so that it was held to apply to only a limited group of persons. As a result of such restrictive approaches there was a higher rejection rate. Additionally, there was the problem of the rigid adherence by some countries to the country-of-first-asylum principle. Those problems had the combined effect of making asylum less accessible. The situation was further undermined by the serious financial crisis facing UNHCR, which threatened to compromise its ability to meet the refugees' basic needs, including protection. The Office was forced to identify priorities even among mandated activities, resulting in enforced reductions affecting not only the immediate welfare of refugees, but also their protection and prospects for solutions, particularly voluntary repatriation. Concerning long-term approaches, UNHCR was of the view that an overall and global approach was required to develop asylum and refugee policies so that humanitarian and human rights concerns could be integrated and properly balanced in relation to

development, foreign policy and immigration control procedures.

In the conclusions to the report, the High Commissioner suggested that, as part of new strategies, human rights institutions and organizations should be utilized more actively and effectively to address the human rights concerns in refugee situations. International co-operation to ensure early warning of developing humanitarian emergencies and to facilitate their timely mediation should be promoted and activities strengthened. Future policies should reflect new and broadly endorsed human rights positions regarding torture and inhumane and degrading treatment. National and international development assistance agencies, in implementing policies on development aid, should promote positive human rights situations and target socio-economic difficulties causing people to leave or hindering their return to their countries of origin. States must respond to the legitimate concerns of all affected States, including the protracted nature of refugee problems in many developing countries with their own troubled economies, their limited ability to provide for substantial refugee populations, concern about waning international solidarity in sharing the burden, and the political and security difficulties. The manner in which regional bodies might more actively contribute to positive resolution of problems in their respective regions should be explored. Response strategies employing the three traditional durable solutions should include measures to broaden their acceptability. New thinking on solutions should develop the concept of State responsibility under international law, particularly as it related to the responsibilities of countries of origin. Governments should share with UNHCR the responsibility to lead and educate public opinion and to encourage positive attitudes by making public information activities an integral part of new strategies to address refugee problems. Open debate on possible new strategies should precede any final decision at the political level. Migration control should be examined with a view to assessing the appropriateness of legal migration as an alternative channel for departures for some groups, particularly those with no compelling reasons for their departure that were pertinent to refugees status. Any new strategy must contain measures to deal humanely and effectively with rejected asylum-seekers.

In an October conclusion, the UNHCR Executive Committee called for measures to ensure that refugees were effectively protected and, in that regard, reiterated the importance of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees [YUN 1951, p. 520] and its 1967 Protocol [YUN 1967, p. 769]. It also called on the High Commissioner to continue to ensure that protection

measures were fully integrated into assistance and durable solutions programmes. The Committee noted the accomplishments of UNHCR in promoting and disseminating refugee law and called on the High Commissioner to pursue those activities within existing resources. Noting matters emphasized by the High Commissioner in his note on refugee protection, it decided to refer those matters to its Working Group on Solutions and Protection.

The Executive Committee took note of the establishment of that Working Group and requested that a further meeting of the Group be convened as soon as possible after the October 1990 session of the Committee and that a report on the Group's work be submitted in 1991.

Refugee women and children

In an August report [A/AC.96/754], the High Commissioner outlined UNHCR's policy on refugee women, which was based on the principle that the resources and needs of refugee women should be integrated into all aspects of programme planning and implementation rather than creating special women's projects. The organizational goals were to provide protection appropriate to the specific needs of women, identify durable solutions and provide assistance that would encourage the realization of their full potential and encourage their participation in preparing for the durable solution. The main policy objectives to support those goals were to recognize that refugee women represented approximately 80 per cent of UNHCR's target population and that programmes could be effective only if they were planned with an understanding of, and in consultation with, that group; to ensure that specific protection needs and the legal rights of refugee women were understood and that adequate response measures were taken; to support their efforts and ensure their participation in UNHCR's protection and assistance activities; to ensure that differing needs and resources of refugee men and women were considered in programme activities and, where necessary, for cultural and social reasons; to place particular emphasis on strategies to protect and assist refugee women; and to ensure that refugee women were equitably represented in resettlement programmes.

The Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women a report [E/CN.6/1991/4] on refugee and displaced women and children, based on the work of the Expert Group on Refugee and Displaced Women and Children (Vienna, 2-6 July 1990), in which he dealt with, *inter alia*, the issue of refugee protection as it related to women and children.

The report stated that women and children shared the same protection problems experienced by all refugees but they had additional legal and physical protection problems peculiar to their gender and age. Women faced special difficulties in obtaining refugee status, and few countries had an adequate number of female staff involved in the procedures for determining refugees to respond to the needs of those women. In addition, women were also underrepresented in the protection staff of UNHCR and that of implementing partners. Refugee women also experienced difficulty in registering and obtaining documentation of their refugee status and eligibility for assistance. Children also faced difficulties in establishing refugee status, particularly unaccompanied children. They frequently did not have access to information to substantiate their claims. Statelessness was one of their major problems. The physical security of refugee women and children was also at risk both during flight and after they had found asylum. Problems included rape, abduction, sexual harassment and the forced induction of children into the military. Additionally, camp design and operation contributed to physical insecurity. In urban settings, minimal assistance programmes forced many refugee women into prostitution.

In October, the UNHCR Executive Committee approved the policy on refugee women [A/AC.96/754] and urged States, relevant UN organizations and NGOs to implement the policy, including in the area of training. It called on the High Commissioner to present a progress report in 1991 on the implementation of the policy in protection and assistance activities and to develop comprehensive guidelines on the protection of refugee women and their application within the framework of the policy.

The Committee urged States, UN organizations and NGOs to ensure that the needs and resources of refugee women were fully understood and integrated into their activities and programmes and to pursue measures for improving the international protection of refugee women.

Early warning of refugee flows

Co-ordination

In October [A/45/649 & Corr.1], the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) on the co-ordination of activities related to early warning of possible refugee flows. The report examined the policy framework for a co-ordinated

early-warning system, UN system involvement in activities relevant to early warning of possible refugee flows as a basis for co-ordination, methods and techniques to monitor early warning and co-operation and co-ordination.

The report concluded that although 10 years had passed since the importance of early warning was recognized by the General Assembly, mass exoduses of refugees continued to increase. Many organizations of the UN system had already developed techniques and methods to monitor certain factors within their mandate. However, activities related to early warning were not well co-ordinated in the light of the fragmentation and decentralization of the work of the UN system. JIU concluded that there was a need to introduce early warning as a regular component of work of the UN system in a co-ordinated manner. To that end, the report recommended that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) should include in the agenda of its forthcoming session an item on the subject, which it should further consider from time to time as needed; designate a central focal point of the UN system for the co-ordination and monitoring of factors related to possible refugee flows; establish a working group on early warning of refugee flows to work out modes of co-operation and procedures to develop an effective early-warning system for refugees; set up a regular inter-agency consultative mechanism to consider concrete cases and to meet urgently in case of emergencies; and make arrangements for UN resident coordinators to serve as co-ordination points for early warning of refugee flows. The Secretary-General should make administrative arrangements to increase the capacity of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information (ORCI) in early warning of refugee flows; the executive heads of relevant UN organizations should strengthen early-warning activities related to refugee flows; ORCI should develop an effective early-warning system, give priority to the finalization of specific indicators concerning the root causes of refugee flows, promote consultative discussions with relevant entities and further develop links with existing internal and external data bases; and UN research institutions should disseminate information on their work related to alert function by sending their products to the entities involved.

In November [A/45/649/Add.1], the Secretary-General submitted his comments on the JIU report. He noted that the information and observations contained therein could be useful in designing the UN arrangements for early warning and prevention of possible refugee flows. However, the report did not sufficiently emphasize

the necessity of developing an early-warning capacity at the country level and the role that could be played by the resident co-ordinators. The Secretary-General agreed that the envisaged arrangement should extend to all displaced persons, but noted that the involvement of UNHCR in early-warning activities would have to take into account the scope of its mandate. He said that he would consider arrangements to increase the capacity of ORCI in early warning of refugee flows and undertook to expedite the work related to early warning as proposed by JIU. He indicated that the comments of ACC on those recommendations with system-wide implications would be submitted to the General Assembly at a later date.

Assistance

During 1990, UNHCR continued to co-operate with concerned Governments and the international community to meet the humanitarian needs of refugees throughout the world, as well as in the pursuit of durable solutions, through programmes of voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. Those efforts were affected by the financial constraints of the Office as well as by requests for emergency assistance in an increasing number of new refugee situations.

UNHCR continued its large care and maintenance programmes in Ethiopia (\$42.4 million), Malawi (\$36.3 million) and the Sudan (\$13.9 million). The deteriorating situation in Somalia considerably hampered the implementation of UNHCR activities in the latter part of the year and finally led to the evacuation of all UN personnel. Assistance was provided in neighbouring countries to refugees fleeing Somalia. The situation in Liberia throughout the year resulted in an influx of large numbers of refugees in need of assistance in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Assistance provided included infrastructure in host villages, and agricultural and small income-generating projects. Large care and maintenance programmes continued throughout South-East Asia, especially in Thailand (\$21.4 million), Hong Kong (\$15.1 million) and Malaysia (\$6.1 million). In South-West Asia, the largest programme was in Pakistan in favour of Afghan refugees (\$44.1 million). In Latin America, care and maintenance programmes continued in Mexico (\$3.3 million) and Honduras (\$3.7 million).

In 1990, some \$183 million was spent under General and Special Programmes to promote durable solutions. UNHCR emphasized the need for States to create the necessary conditions to make voluntary repatriation a viable option, and in that regard advocated the establishment of tripartite

commissions whenever possible. In Africa, some 2,774 Namibians, mostly students from Zambia, were repatriated. Another 32,000 persons returned to Mozambique, including 25,800 from Malawi, 2,500 from Zimbabwe and over 3,500 from South Africa. However, the two-way repatriation to Angola and Zaire remained suspended at the end of the year for financial and security reasons. In Latin America, the repatriation of Nicaraguan refugees from Honduras and other countries in the region was successfully completed. In Asia, a new outbreak of violence in Sri Lanka disrupted ongoing repatriation activities. Under the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees, some 5,462 refugees returned from Hong Kong, and smaller numbers from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. In addition, 1,476 persons voluntarily returned to the Lao People's Democratic Republic and projects continued to provide them with assistance for reintegration and to attain self-sufficiency. Also in 1990, 70,000 Afghans returned home through the Voluntary Repatriation Pilot Project, and an additional 30,000 spontaneous returnees from Iran were assisted through the UNHCR Guest House Programme. An estimated 100,000 Afghans also returned to their country of origin unassisted by UNHCR.

The emphasis of resettlement was on South-East Asia, where in 1990 new homes were provided for 49,313 Indo-Chinese. Some 3,600 refugees from the Middle East and South-West Asia were resettled. In Africa, the number of refugees resettled was a small portion of the total refugee population on the continent; a total of 4,274 were resettled, mainly in Canada and the United States. The number of refugees resettled in Latin America under the auspices of UNHCR was just 1,537. The historic changes in Eastern Europe resulted in a marked decline in resettlement from the region; 1,429 persons were resettled in 1990.

UNHCR also responded to numerous requests for emergency assistance. The UNHCR Emergency Fund was used for situations in Angola \$1.6 million), Burundi and Rwanda (\$0.2 million), Ethiopia (\$0.5 million), Guatemala (\$0.2 million), the Sudan (\$1.4 million), Uganda (\$0.42 million), Zaire (\$1.4 million) and Zambia (\$0.9 million).

UNHCR promoted greater public awareness of the refugee problem by producing and distributing a variety of written and audio-visual materials. Ten editions of the magazine *Refugees* were published in English, French and Spanish, six in Japanese, five in German, four in Italian and one each in Arabic and Greek. Other activities included the further development of relations with

the media and the organization of exhibitions and special events.

In October, the Executive Committee addressed the High Commissioner's need for more flexibility to respond to a range of contingencies. Subsequently, the level of the Emergency Fund was increased from \$10 million to \$20 million and the High Commissioner was authorized to spend up to \$6 million in any one year for a given emergency. The ceiling of the Working Capital and Guarantee Fund was also raised, from \$10 million to \$50 million.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/140 B.

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1166(XII) of 26 November 1957, 2956 B (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 3271 B (XXIX) of 10 December 1974 and 35/41 B of 25 November 1980 in connection with the Emergency Fund of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in relation to the funding and administration of programmes and projects, including those aimed at responding to emergency situations,

Authorizes the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to determine in future the terms and conditions for the operation of the Emergency Fund of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

General Assembly resolution 45/140 B

14 December 1990 Meeting 68 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/763) without vote, 28 November (meeting 55); 44-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.64); agenda item 107.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 43-47, 49, 55; plenary 68.

Development assistance

The presence of large numbers of refugees, displaced persons and returnees continued to cause environmental degradation and to divert scarce human and financial resources from development efforts in already fragile economies. Recognizing the need to link refugee assistance with economic development, UNHCR continued to co-operate with other agencies in supporting income-generating schemes for refugees and development projects in various host countries.

In 1990, UNHCR efforts to assist refugees and displaced persons was complemented by the development initiatives of other agencies. The technical planning for phase III of the income-generating project for refugee areas in Pakistan had begun. Joint project identification and appraisal missions were undertaken by UNHCR with

development and donor agencies. Missions were undertaken, with the European Economic Community, to Mexico, where an operational plan was drawn up for the Guatemalan refugee programme in Campeche, and to Viet Nam, for the development of projects for those Vietnamese returning home. In co-operation with the Organization of African Unity, UNHCR prepared a plan of action for the integration/reintegration of Rwandese refugees/returnees. Projects in Iran, Somalia and the Sudan were awaiting funding.

In May, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) submitted a report [DP/1990/66] to the UNDP Governing Council on the present and future role of UNDP in the field of refugee aid and development. The report reviewed the impact of the growing numbers of refugees and displaced persons on temporary and permanent host environments, creating an impediment to development; diverting scarce resources; and engendering hostile reactions as their presence created economic hardships. It focused on the role of UNDP in helping to bridge the gap between relief assistance and development. Among the future strategies recommended were inclusion of the problem of displacement as a new criterion for calculating indicative planning figure levels; co-ordination of overall UN assistance in the field; continued collaboration between UNDP and UNHCR in formulating programmes and mobilizing resources; establishment of a trust fund; promotion of the fullest participation of NGOs in refugee rehabilitation; integration of women into mainstream activities relating to refugees and development efforts; and the establishment of a focal point for UN policy on the matter.

On 22 June [E/1990/29 (dec. 90/22)], the Governing Council encouraged UNDP to assist Governments to assess the impact and take into account the problems of refugees, displaced persons and returnees in their development plans and programmes, which could help attract additional co-financing or other resources. It invited the Administrator to participate with UNHCR in rehabilitation, reconstruction and long-term development of areas affected by massive population displacements and to collaborate with UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Volunteers and NGOs in providing assistance. The Governing Council authorized the Administrator to utilize for the remainder of the fourth programming cycle (1987-1991) up to \$500,000 from the Special Programme Resources allocation for disaster-

relief activities, for the assessment of needs caused by population displacements. It requested UNDP to train its field staff and that of national Governments to react effectively in situations of population displacements and to plan rehabilitation activities. It invited the Economic and Social Council to request the Secretary-General to initiate a UN system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of organizations of the system in assisting refugees and in supporting affected countries.

In October, the UNHCR Executive Committee called on the High Commissioner to assure greater inter-agency co-operation in responding to the needs of refugees and in seeking to complement the Office's humanitarian endeavours with development initiatives from specialized agencies. It called on member Governments to support those efforts in the governing bodies of those agencies.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 27 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1990/78.

Refugees, displaced persons and returnees

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling decision 90/22 adopted on 22 June 1990 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme at its thirty-seventh session,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/137 of 15 December 1989, in which, *inter alia*, the Assembly invited the agencies of the United Nations system, as well as all other relevant international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to establish as soon as possible specific mechanisms of co-operation to assure an agreed division of responsibilities and arrangements for the financing of operational activities relating to refugees, while preserving the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Noting the substantial increase in the number of refugees, displaced persons and returnees and their impact on the development prospects of the often fragile economic infrastructure of the countries concerned,

Realizing the immense human suffering occasioned by the phenomenon of mass population movements resulting from conflict, natural and man-made disasters and war,

Recognizing that relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development are part of the same continuum, and stressing that the impact of refugees and displaced persons on the development prospects of affected countries is frequently severe, multifaceted and requires a system-wide approach in order to ensure that the full spectrum of their needs is covered and that serving those needs should complement the development efforts of the affected countries,

Recognizing the primacy of the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in providing international protection and assistance to refugees and in seeking durable solutions to their problems, and commending the efforts being made by the Office in that regard,

1. Requests the Secretary-General to initiate a United Nations system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the co-ordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees, and the full spectrum of their needs, in supporting the efforts of the affected countries;

2. Also requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of the system-wide review and within existing resources, to recommend ways of maximizing co-operation and co-ordination among the various organizations of the United Nations system in order to ensure an effective response by the United Nations system to the problems of refugees, displaced persons and returnees, keeping in mind the mandates of the United Nations organizations concerned;

3. Further requests the Secretary-General to report on the results of the system-wide review and on the recommendations emanating therefrom to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/78

27 July 1990 Meeting 37 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (E/1990/115), 24 July (meeting 17); 12-nation draft (E/1990/C.3/L.16); agenda item 9.

International instruments

As at 31 December 1990, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees [YUN 1951, P. 520] had been ratified or acceded to by 103 States and the 1967 Protocol to the Convention [YUN 1967, p. 769] had 104 States parties as a result of the 1990 accession of Belize to both instruments.

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

As at 31 December 1990, there were 37 States parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons [YUN 1954, p. 416] and 15 States parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness [YUN 1961, p. 533].

UNHCR programme and finances

Programme policy

At its forty-first session (Geneva, 1-5 October) [A/45/12/Add.1], the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reaffirmed the High Commissioner's central and basic role in interna-

tional protection of refugees. It expressed concern that refugee protection was seriously jeopardized in many countries through expulsion, refoulement and threats to the security, dignity and well-being of refugees, and, noting the link between protection and resettlement, called on States to assist refugees in need of resettlement and on the international community to continue to share the burden of refugee assistance with countries of first asylum. The Committee expressed concern about the lack of adequate international protection for various groups of refugees, including a large number of Palestinians, and urged continued efforts within the UN system to address their needs.

Noting the widespread violations of the rights of refugee women, the Committee approved the UNHCR policy on refugee women and invited the Office to develop comprehensive guidelines to give effect to that policy. It urged States, relevant UN organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dealing with refugees to ensure that the needs of refugee women were integrated into their programmes and activities, and to encourage refugee women to participate in the planning and implementation of assistance programmes.

Realizing that the problem of refugees in Africa had assumed alarming proportions, and that African countries, despite their limited resources, continued to host and provide assistance to millions of refugees, the Executive Committee called on the international community to provide adequate resources to enable the High Commissioner, in co-operation with other organizations, to discharge his mandate. The Committee recognized that substantial progress had been achieved in the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action of the 1989 International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees [YUN 1989, p. 707] and emphasized the need for continued efforts to ensure full implementation of all elements of the Plan. Concerning the repatriation of Cambodian refugees under the framework for a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodia conflict endorsed by the Security Council in September by resolution 668(1990), the Committee called on the High Commissioner to work with the Secretary-General to ensure that the financial and other requirements for repatriation and reintegration programmes were adequately and urgently addressed in UN overall planning. The Committee noted the valuable role of various assistance programmes of repatriation and integration within the context of the 1989 International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) [YUN 1989, p. 709], and urged the High

Commissioner to continue to support, through the CIREFCA Joint Support Unit, Governments in the region and to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in implementing development projects for refugees and returnees.

The Committee endorsed the allocation under General Programmes of \$340.9 million (including \$10 million for the Emergency Fund) for 1990, and \$345.6 million for 1991.

At its extraordinary session (Geneva, 28-30 May) [A/AC.96/747], the Executive Committee approved the revised target of General Programme activities for 1990 of \$378.9 million and adopted the report of the Temporary Working Group on Programme, Budgetary, Administrative and Organizational Matters containing recommendations on the most effective use of UNHCR funds, bearing in mind the severe financial constraints imposed on the Office (see below).

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

By decision 1990/260 of 17 July 1990, the Economic and Social Council transmitted the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [A/45/12] to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth (1990) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/140 A.

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 forty-first session, noting the statement made by the Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the High Commissioner on 15 November 1990, and having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on Indo-Chinese Refugees,

Recalling its resolutions 44/137 and 44/138 of 15 December 1989,

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

Noting with satisfaction that one hundred and seven States are now parties to the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees,

Welcoming the valuable support extended by Governments to the Office of the High Commissioner in carrying out its humanitarian tasks,

Noting with concern that refugee protection continues to be seriously jeopardized in many States, including through expulsion, refoulement and other threats to the physical security, dignity and well-being of refugees,

Commending the Office of the High Commissioner for its efforts 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 Office of the High Commissioner in its search for durable and timely solutions to the problems of refugees based on new approaches that meet the current size and characteristics of these problems and are built on respect for fundamental human rights and basic internationally agreed protection principles and concerns,

Aware of the need for the international community to continue to provide adequate resettlement opportunities for those refugees for whom no other durable solution is in sight,

Commending those States which, 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, including development-oriented assistance,

Aware also that the application of the principle of international solidarity implies an improved sharing of responsibilities and arrangements between relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations for the financing and implementation of related activities and that such activities need also include specific development assistance to avert new flows of refugees as well as to solve problems of refugees and returnees and areas hosting them,

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

1. Strongly reaffirms the fundamental nature of the function of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to provide international protection and the need for States to co-operate fully with the Office in fulfilling this function, in particular by acceding to and fully and effectively implementing the relevant international and regional refugee instruments;

2. Recognizes the urgent need to put all issues related to refugees, asylum-seekers and other migratory flows firmly on the international political agenda, especially in view of the fortieth anniversary of the Office of the High Commissioner and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and in this connection welcomes initiatives to promote further awareness of and support for the Office, including accessions to this instrument;

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

4. Condemns violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular those perpetrated by military or armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements, forced recruitment into armed forces and other forms of violence, and reiterates the conclusions on military and armed attacks on refugee camps and settlements adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its thirty-eighth session;

5. Calls upon States to give high priority to the rights of refugee children and to their survival, protection and development as reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children in New York on 30 September 1990;

6. Endorses the High Commissioner's policy on refugee women, which provides for the integration of refugee women into all the programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as the conclusion on refugee women and international protection adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session;

7. Urges States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to support the implementation of the policy on refugee women through their own efforts;

8. Recognizes the importance of attaining durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees and to facilitate the solution of existing problems;

9. Underlines the concept of State responsibility particularly as it relates to the countries of origin, including addressing root causes and facilitating voluntary repatriation and the return of their nationals who are not refugees;

10. Urges all States to support the Office of the High Commissioner in its efforts to search for durable solutions to the problem of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the Office, primarily through voluntary repatriation or return, which remain the most desirable solution to the problem of refugees, or, wherever appropriate, through integration into countries of asylum or through resettlement in third countries;

11. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its extraordinary session in May 1990 to adopt the report of the Temporary Working Group established by the Executive Committee at its fortieth session, and calls upon all parties concerned to continue to implement the recommendations contained in that report;

12. Endorses the decisions on administrative and financial matters adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session, and notes with satisfaction the efforts under way to find an appropriate mechanism that will address the need of the High Commissioner to have a higher degree of flexibility to ensure funding of ongoing-needs under approved general programmes and of initial emergency needs under special pro-

grammes pending the receipt of contributions pledged;

13. Calls upon the High Commissioner to sustain his efforts in assuring greater inter-agency co-operation in responding to the needs of refugees and, in particular, in seeking to complement the humanitarian endeavours of the Office of the High Commissioner with development initiatives from specialized agencies so as to attain, in an effective and efficient manner, further and more concrete results towards achieving durable solutions, and calls upon the member Governments to support these efforts in the governing bodies of these agencies;

14. Welcomes Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/78 of 27 July 1990, in which, *inter alia*, the Council requested the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to initiate, with a view to recommending ways of maximizing co-operation and co-ordination among the various organizations of the United Nations system, a system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of these organizations in the co-ordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees, and the full spectrum of their needs, in supporting the efforts of the affected countries, and to report on the results to the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session of 1991;

15. Endorses the conclusion on the note on international protection adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session, in which, in particular, the Executive Committee recognized the importance of human rights and humanitarian principles and recognized that the current size and characteristics of the refugee and asylum problem necessitate appropriate reassessment of international responses to the problem to date, with a view to developing comprehensive approaches to meet present realities, and at the same time noted the difference between refugees and persons seeking to migrate for economic and related reasons;

16. Also endorses, with these objectives in mind, the conclusion on solutions and protection adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session, in which the Executive Committee noted the establishment of the Working Group on Solutions and Protection, which will present a report to the Executive Committee at its forty-second session;

17. Further endorses the conclusions of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session on the implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees and on repatriation to Cambodia, welcomes the decision of the Secretary-General to designate the High Commissioner as his Special Representative to co-ordinate efforts with all parties concerned to promote the phased and orderly return of non-refugees in a manner that is fully compatible with the humanitarian mandate of his Office and under conditions of safety and dignity, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to monitor closely the progress towards the implementation of these conclusions and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

18. Endorses the conclusions on the International Conference on Central American Refugees and on the situation of refugees in Africa, adopted by the Execu-

tive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner at its forty-first session, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner and all other parties concerned to continue their efforts in implementing these conclusions;

19. 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 large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers on a permanent or temporary basis;

20. Urges the international community, including non-governmental organizations, in accordance with the principle of international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, to continue to assist the countries referred to in paragraph 19 above and the High Commissioner in order to enable them to cope with the additional burden that the care for refugees and asylum-seekers represents;

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

General Assembly resolution 45/140 A

14 December 1990 Meeting 68 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/763) without vote, 28 November (meeting 55); 44-nation draft (A/C.3/45/L.64), orally revised; agenda item 107.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 43-47, 49, 55; plenary 68.

Financial and administrative questions

The financial limitations, which UNHCR faced in 1989, continued to a greater extent in 1990 and did not allow the Office to provide the level of assistance that it otherwise would have. UNHCR total expenditure in 1990 amounted to \$544 million which, compared to 1989, represented a decrease of \$26.3 million. Some \$331.3 million was spent under General Programmes and \$212.7 million under Special Programmes and other trust funds. Total contributions for 1990 amounted to \$567.3 million.

Special appeals were made in 1990 to respond to new situations, such as the two-way, voluntary repatriation operation between Angola and Zaire, the massive exodus of Liberians into neighbouring countries, the emergency assistance required in Sri Lanka, the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees and the repatriation operation from Honduras and Costa Rica to Nicaragua.

The Executive Committee in 1989 had noted the budget for 1990 General Programmes of \$414.4 million and imposed a ceiling on obligations of \$190 million for the first six months of

the year. In view of that restriction, the working budget for the 1990 General Programmes was adjusted to \$340 million.

Revised estimates for 1990 General Programmes were submitted to the extraordinary session of the Executive Committee in May [A/AC.96/747]. The Executive Committee approved the revised target of \$340.9 million (including \$10 million for the Emergency Fund), which, together with the carry-over of \$38 million from 1989, amounted to \$378.9 million.

In October, the Executive Committee approved the country and area programmes and the overall allocations for 1991 General Programmes amounting to \$345.6 million (including \$10 million for the Emergency Fund).

Contributions

Contributions to UNHCR assistance programmes in cash and kind in 1990 totalled \$567.3 million, compared to \$507.3 million in 1989. Seventy-five Governments made contributions totalling \$498.4 million, while international and non-governmental organizations contributed some \$68 million. Donor support continued to be very strong and several donors increased their total contributions by up to 60 per cent in absolute terms, with an increase of 12 per cent on the total contributions figure of \$507 million in 1989.

Government pledges of \$141 million were announced at the 20 November 1990 meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of the General Assembly for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the 1991 Programme of UNHCR.

In May, the Executive Committee, expressing concern about the serious financial problems facing UNHCR, called on the international community and UNHCR to join in common efforts to mobilize resources.

In October, it called on donors to consider urgently additional contributions to ensure timely and full funding of activities programmed for 1990 to allow UNHCR the flexibility to allocate funds according to the most pressing needs. It urged early announcement of 1991 contributions and called on non-contributing Governments to provide financial support to offset the shortfall in funds in relation to assessed needs. The Committee also called on Governments to provide the financial resources that would enable UNHCR to pursue new ways of broadening its income base. It requested the High Commissioner to continue negotiations for an increase of the UN regular budget participation in the administrative costs of UNHCR for 1992-1993. The Executive Committee noted the High Commissioner's proposal to establish a special contingency account. It recognized his need for a higher degree of flexibility to en-

sure funding of ongoing needs and of initial emergency needs pending the receipt of contributions pledged. Accordingly, it requested him to seek the advice of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on proposals for appropriate mechanisms that would address that need and to submit a proposal to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters for endorsement.

1989 accounts

The audited financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by UNHCR for the year ending 31 December 1989 showed total expenditures of \$570.3 million and income of \$533.6 million [A/45/5/Add.5]. The Board of Auditors recommended that UNHCR explore the possibility of obtaining guaranteed income as a complement to voluntary contributions, which were becoming unpredictable.

ACABQ in an October report [A/45/570], recommended that the purpose of funds channelled through UNHCR to refugee programmes carried out by third parties should be clearly reflected in financial documents and the purpose should be consistent with UNHCR's policies and objectives.

The General Assembly, in resolution 45/235 of 21 December, accepted the financial report and audited financial statements of UNHCR and endorsed the observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors and ACABQ.

Administrative and personnel issues

The UNHCR Executive Committee approved the transfer in 1991 of up to \$300,000 from the General Programme Reserve to the Fund for Field Staff Housing and Basic Amenities. It urged the Office to pursue outstanding issues related to the recommendations of the Temporary Working Group and to report thereon to the Sub-Committee on Administrative and Financial Matters.

The Executive Committee supported the High Commissioner's action to phase reductions in staffing levels through retrenchment and attrition, vacancy management, redeployment within UNHCR and transfer to other UN agencies, and requested the Secretary-General to assist the High Commissioner in implementing that decision. It authorized the High Commissioner to meet the costs relating to General Programmes of the staff retrenchment exercise (estimated at between \$2.5 million and \$2.9 million) from the 1990-1991 Programme Reserve, on the understanding that such costs would be absorbed within the approved allocations for support costs.

Enlargement of Executive Committee

On 17 May 1990 [E/1990/89], the Philippines requested that the Economic and Social Council discuss, under the agenda item on the report of the High Commissioner, the membership of the UNHCR Executive Committee. The Philippines pointed to the need to enlarge the membership to include more members from South-East Asian countries, which, like the Philippines, continued to host large numbers of Indo-Chinese refugees.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ACTION

On 24 July, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1990/55.

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, 2294(XXII) of 11 December 1967 and 42/130 of 7 December 1987, in which it provided for subsequent increases in the membership of the Executive Committee,

Taking note of the note verbale dated 17 May 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Recommends the General Assembly to take a decision at its forty-fifth 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-three to forty-four.

Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/55

24 July 1990 Meeting 34 Adopted without vote

B-nation draft (E/1990/L.38); agenda item 15.

Sponsors: Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritania, Philippines, Thailand.

Meeting numbers. ESC 31, 33, 34.

On 27 September [E/1990/121], Ethiopia requested that the membership of the Executive Committee be enlarged with a view to its candidacy for membership.

In decision 1990/285 of 9 November, the Council decided to consider Ethiopia's request at its organizational session for 1991.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 14 December, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/138.

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 1990/55 of 24 July 1990 on the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the note verbale dated 17 May 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner,

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

2. Requests the Economic and Social Council to elect the one additional member at its first regular session of 1991.

General Assembly resolution 45/138

14 December 1990 Meeting 68 Adopted without vote

Approved by Third Committee (A/45/763) without vote. 28 November (meeting 55); 20-nation draft (AC.3/45/L.61); agenda item 107.

Meeting numbers. GA 45th session: 3rd Committee 43-47, 49, 55; plenary 68.