

Welcoming the increasing number of accessions by States to the 1951 Convention¹⁷⁹ and the 1967 Protocol¹⁸⁰ relating to the Status of Refugees,

Emphasizing that voluntary repatriation is the most desirable and durable solution to problems of refugees and displaced persons of concern to the High Commissioner,

1. *Commends* the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff for the valuable work they perform on behalf of refugees, returnees and displaced persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner;

2. *Reaffirms* the fundamental nature of the High Commissioner's function to provide international protection and the need for Governments to co-operate fully with him to facilitate the effective exercise of this essential function, in particular by acceding to and fully implementing the relevant international and regional instruments and by scrupulously observing the principles of asylum and *non-refoulement*;

3. *Deplores* all violations of the rights and safety of refugees and asylum-seekers, in particular through military or armed attacks against refugee camps and settlements, other forms of brutality and failure to rescue asylum-seekers in distress at sea;

4. *Urges* States, in co-operation with the Office of the High Commissioner and other competent international bodies, to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety of refugees and asylum-seekers;

5. *Reaffirms* the principle of international solidarity and burden-sharing in responding to the refugee problem, particularly in view of the heavy burden borne by receiving countries on account of the presence of large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

6. *Expresses its deep appreciation* for the valuable material and humanitarian response of receiving countries, in particular of many developing countries that give asylum to or accept on a temporary basis large numbers of refugees;

7. *Commends* all States that facilitate the attainment of durable solutions, accept refugees for resettlement and contribute generously to the High Commissioner's programmes;

8. *Urges* all States to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to find durable solutions to refugee problems, primarily through voluntary repatriation, including assistance to returnees, as appropriate, or, wherever appropriate, through integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in third countries;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the continuing support given to the High Commissioner by organizations of the United Nations system, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in carrying out his humanitarian task and requests the High Commissioner to continue to co-ordinate his efforts with those agencies and organizations;

10. *Calls upon* all States to promote durable solutions and to contribute generously to the High Commissioner's humanitarian programmes in order to assist refugees, displaced persons and returnees in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing.

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/122. International campaign against traffic in drugs

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 36/132 of 14 December 1981, 36/168 of 16 December 1981, 37/168 of 17 December 1982, 37/198 of 18 December 1982 and 38/98 of 16 December 1983,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 1982/8 and 1982/9 of 30 April 1982,

Reaffirming the need to improve and maintain regional and interregional co-operation and co-ordination, particularly in the field of law enforcement, to counter drug trafficking and drug abuse,

Noting the growing interest in the development of regional and interregional co-ordination, as indicated by the holding of three meetings in the Bahamas, Greece and India during 1983,

Conscious that while many countries, both developed and developing, continue to divert substantial human, financial and other resources to combat the illicit traffic, the developing countries encounter particular hardships in doing so,

Acknowledging that the illicit production of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances constitute a serious threat to the development and security of many countries, especially developing countries,

Recognizing, in particular, the dilemma of transit States, which have no control over the production of and demand for illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances yet are seriously affected, both at the domestic and the international levels, by the movement of illicit drugs,

Noting that the international drug control treaties include provisions for the development of effective countermeasures to combat the illicit supply of, demand for and traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances,

Considering the important role of the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control in supporting various drug control programmes in developing countries, and the necessity of increasing contributions to the Fund to permit it to continue its most valuable work,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁸¹

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

2. *Calls upon* Member States that have not yet done so to ratify the international drug control treaties and, until such time, to endeavour to abide by the provisions thereof;

3. *Encourages* Member States to contribute, or to continue to contribute, to the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control to enable it to expand its support for programmes in the field of drug abuse control;

4. *Urges* organizations and programmes within the United Nations system, as well as Member States with available resources and expertise, to continue to grant technical and other forms of assistance, especially in the area of training of law enforcement professionals, to countries most affected by the illicit production of and traffic in drugs and drug abuse and, in this regard, to give appropriate priority to providing the resources and assistance needed to ensure rapid, secure and accurate means of communication and exchange of information;

¹⁷⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545, p. 137.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791, p. 267.

¹⁸¹ A/38/478.

5. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of the Bahamas, Greece and India for acting as hosts to regional and interregional meetings during 1983;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, to explore all avenues leading to a further improvement of regional and interregional co-ordination of activities against drug trafficking and drug abuse, in particular:

(a) To continue to pursue efforts and initiatives with a view to establishing, on a continuing basis, co-ordination mechanisms for drug law enforcement in regions where these do not yet exist;

(b) To give appropriate priority to measures designed to alleviate the special problems of transit States through co-operative regional and interregional efforts and, in this regard, to bring the present resolution to the attention of all regional and interregional meetings concerned with drug trafficking and drug abuse;

(c) To make every effort to convene, within the resources that may be made available to him, the interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies proposed in paragraph 5 (c) of General Assembly resolution 37/198;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for review by the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session, on the progress achieved in the implementation of the present resolution;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the item entitled "International campaign against traffic in drugs".

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/123. National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 32/123 of 16 December 1977, 33/46 of 14 December 1978, 34/49 of 23 November 1979 and 36/134 of 14 December 1981 concerning national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Mindful of the guidelines on the structure and functioning of national and local institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 33/46,

Mindful also of the need to create conditions, at the national, regional and international levels, for the protection and promotion of the human rights of individuals and peoples,

Conscious of the significant role which institutions at the national level can play in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in developing and enhancing public awareness and observance of those rights and freedoms,

Emphasizing the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹⁸² the International Covenants on Human Rights¹⁸³ and other international human rights instruments for promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁸⁴

2. *Invites* all Member States to take appropriate steps for the establishment or, where they already exist, the

strengthening of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the integrity and independence of such national institutions, in accordance with national legislation;

4. *Draws attention* to the constructive role that national non-governmental organizations can play in the work of national institutions;

5. *Recommends* that all Member States should take appropriate steps to encourage the exchange of experience in the establishment of national institutions;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit his report to Governments and to invite them to submit additional information, comments and observations, with a view to developing further the various types of national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of his previous reports and of further information received, to submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session an updated report providing detailed information on the various types of national and local institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, taking into account differing social and legal systems and the contributions that national and local institutions can make towards the implementation of international human rights instruments;

8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its thirty-ninth session the sub-item entitled "National institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights".

*100th plenary meeting
16 December 1983*

38/124. Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in the Charter of the United Nations the peoples of the United Nations declared their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling also the purposes and principles of the Charter to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming the continued significance and validity of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁸² and the importance of the International Covenants on Human Rights¹⁸³ in promoting respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling its resolution 32/130 of 16 December 1977, in which it decided that the approach to the future work within the United Nations system with respect to human rights questions should take into account the concepts set forth in that resolution,

¹⁸² Resolution 217 A (III).

¹⁸³ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁸⁴ A/38/416.