



**UNHCR**

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

COMPILATION OF RESOLUTIONS ON  
THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

- OMNIBUS -

2015 - 2024

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Governance Service

January 2025

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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
23 February 2016

Seventieth session  
Agenda item 65

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/70/483)]

### 70/135. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-sixth session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner,

*Commending* the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner and of its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining* its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the

<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/70/12).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/70/12/Add.1).



course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-sixth session;<sup>2</sup>

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process, and welcomes the adoption of the decision on a multi-year workplan for Executive Committee conclusions;<sup>3</sup>

4. *Appreciates* the convening of the high-level segment on the Afghan refugee situation of the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Committee, welcomes the statement adopted by the States members of the Executive Committee on 7 October 2015,<sup>4</sup> commends the efforts of Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Pakistan, as well as those of the Office of the High Commissioner, to align policies, strategies and plans for voluntary repatriation and reintegration in the country of origin, as well as assistance and continued protection for refugees in host countries, and urges donors, development and humanitarian actors, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society to render their unequivocal support to enhance reintegration and absorption capacity in areas of return, while also supporting refugees and host communities;

5. *Recalls* the high-level segments of the sixty-fourth and sixty-fifth sessions of the Executive Committee, renews its call upon all States to provide the necessary support with a view to sharing the burden of the host countries, and underscores the critical importance of development support for host communities;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>5</sup> and its recognition of the needs of, among others, refugees and internally displaced persons, and urges its full implementation;

7. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>6</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>7</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 148 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

8. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., chap. III, sect. E.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., annex II.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution 70/1.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden-sharing;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action on 3 December 2014 by Latin American and Caribbean States, appreciates the commitment therein to implementing innovative solutions for refugees, displaced persons and stateless persons, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to work with the States concerned in their implementation;

11. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>8</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness<sup>9</sup> and notes that 86 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 65 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

12. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in this regard welcomes the global campaign to end statelessness within a decade and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and welcomes efforts that have been made by States in this regard;

13. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

14. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

15. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the measures taken by the Office to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue its efforts to further strengthen its emergency capacity and thereby ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

16. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the leading entity of the cluster for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

17. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 69/135 of 12 December 2014 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

18. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the articulation of the refugee coordination model;

19. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the “Delivering as one” initiative;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken and efficiencies gained in the process of structural and management change to reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to focus on continuous improvement in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of persons of concern, including identifying unmet needs, and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

21. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

22. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

23. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

24. *Deploras* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

25. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

26. *Notes with concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations, welcomes the increasing

use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

27. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

28. *Expresses concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international law, and commends the great lifesaving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

29. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

30. *Expresses deep concern* about the long-term impact of cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and in this regard calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

31. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

32. *Expresses appreciation* for the convening of the World Education Forum 2015 at Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 19 to 22 May 2015, notes with concern that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and takes note of the commitment in the Incheon Declaration<sup>10</sup> to developing more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees;

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<sup>10</sup> Incheon Declaration: Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all.

33. *Notes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

34. *Also notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

35. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions to refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

36. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

37. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

38. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely and voluntary return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

39. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

40. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

41. *Calls upon* States to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and other forms of humanitarian admission, recognizes the need to further increase the number of resettlement places and the number of countries with regular resettlement programmes and to improve the



integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees;

42. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

43. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

44. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

45. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

46. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

47. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

48. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the

continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

49. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>11</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

50. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session.

*80th plenary meeting  
17 December 2015*

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<sup>11</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
3 February 2017

Seventy-first session  
Agenda item 60

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2016

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/71/478)]

### 71/172. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-seventh session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner,

*Commending* the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining* its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law, including international refugee law, and relevant General Assembly resolutions that may

<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/71/12).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/71/12/Add.1).



concern the work of the Office of the High Commissioner, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution [70/106](#) of 10 December 2015,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-seventh session;<sup>2</sup>

3. *Welcomes* the resumption by the Executive Committee of the practice of adopting conclusions on international protection, and notes with appreciation the adoption of the conclusions on youth<sup>3</sup> and on international cooperation from a protection and solutions perspective;<sup>4</sup>

4. *Recalls* the high-level segments of the sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions of the Executive Committee, renews its call upon all States to provide the necessary support with a view to sharing the burden of the host countries, and underscores the critical importance of development support for host communities;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>5</sup> and the two annexes thereto at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement the commitments made therein;

6. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken in 2015 and 2016 to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, specifically the Brussels conference on 4 and 5 October 2016, the high-level meeting on global responsibility-sharing through pathways for admission convened by the Office of the High Commissioner in Geneva on 30 March 2016, the London conference on 4 February 2016, the pledging conference in Brussels on 21 October 2015, and the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, while recognizing that this summit did not have an intergovernmentally agreed outcome, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

7. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>6</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>7</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 148 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., chap. III, sect. B.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., sect. A.

<sup>5</sup> Resolution [71/1](#).

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

8. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

10. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>8</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>9</sup> and notes that 89 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 68 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

11. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in this regard welcomes the global campaign to end statelessness within a decade and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and welcomes efforts that have been made by States in this regard;

12. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe and dignified return to their homes;

13. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

14. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the measures taken by the Office to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue its efforts to further strengthen

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

its emergency capacity and thereby ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

15. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

16. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [70/106](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

17. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the implementation of the refugee coordination model;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the elements set out in the comprehensive refugee response framework contained in annex I to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and recalls the request to the Office of the High Commissioner to develop and initiate a comprehensive refugee response based on the principles of international cooperation and on burden- and responsibility-sharing, in close coordination with relevant States, including host countries, and involving other relevant United Nations entities as laid out in annex I to the New York Declaration;

19. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee hosting countries and their host communities, and their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and receiving States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States, noting the need for concrete arrangements for equitable and efficient burden- and responsibility-sharing to be elaborated within the framework of the evolving global compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees;

20. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the "Delivering as one" initiative;

21. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken and efficiencies gained in the process of structural and management change to reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to focus on continuous improvement in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of persons of concern, including identifying unmet needs, and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

22. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

23. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

24. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

25. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

26. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

27. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

28. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

29. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

30. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this

context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

31. *Expresses deep concern* about the long-term impact of cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and in this regard calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

32. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

33. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

34. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and welcomes the commitment in the New York Declaration to lend host countries support in providing quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement, as well as the commitment made in the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all to developing more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees;

35. *Notes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

36. *Also notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

37. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions to refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

38. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight



and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

39. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

40. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

41. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

42. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

43. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

44. *Calls upon* States to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and recognizes the need to further increase the number of resettlement places and the number of countries with regular resettlement programmes and to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees, recalling in this regard the annual resettlement needs identified by the Office of the High Commissioner;

45. *Also calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

46. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

47. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

48. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

49. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

50. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

51. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental, development, security and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

52. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

53. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>10</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

54. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session.

*65th plenary meeting  
19 December 2016*

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<sup>10</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.



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Seventy-second session  
Agenda item 64

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/72/433](#) and [A/72/433/Corr.1](#))]

### 72/150. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-eighth session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/72/12).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/72/12/Add.1).*



*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law, including international refugee law, and relevant General Assembly resolutions that may concern the work of the Office of the High Commissioner, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution [71/127](#) of 8 December 2016,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities, and underlines the significance of durable solutions, the securing of which is one of the principal goals of international protection;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-eighth session;<sup>2</sup>

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the conclusion on machine-readable travel documents for refugees and stateless persons by the Executive Committee at its sixty-eighth session;<sup>3</sup>

4. *Recalls* the special segment on the comprehensive refugee response framework of the sixty-eighth session of the Executive Committee, renews its call upon all States to provide the necessary support with a view to sharing the burden of the host countries, and underscores the critical importance of development support for host communities;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>4</sup> and the two annexes thereto at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement their commitments made therein;

6. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken in 2017 to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, in particular, the Oslo Humanitarian Conference on 24 February, the Special Intergovernmental Authority on Development Summit in Nairobi on 25 March, the Brussels Conference on 4 April, the high-level pledging conference in Geneva on 25 April, the London Conference on 11 May, the Uganda Solidarity Summit on Refugees on 22 and 23 June and the pledging conference in Geneva on 23 October, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

7. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>5</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>6</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 148 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., chap. III, sect. A.

<sup>4</sup> Resolution [71/1](#).

<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

8. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

10. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>7</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>8</sup> notes that 89 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 69 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

11. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in this regard welcomes the global campaign to end statelessness within a decade, encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and welcomes efforts that have been made by States in this regard;

12. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe and dignified return, integration or relocation in their own country;

13. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

14. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the measures taken by the Office to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue its efforts to further strengthen its emergency capacity and thereby ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

15. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

recalls the role of the Office as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

16. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [71/127](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

17. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the implementation of the refugee coordination model;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the elements set out in the comprehensive refugee response framework contained in annex I to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and recalls the request to the Office of the High Commissioner to develop and initiate a comprehensive refugee response based on the principles of international cooperation and on burden- and responsibility-sharing, in close coordination with relevant States, including host countries, and involving other relevant United Nations entities as laid out in annex I to the New York Declaration;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework;

20. *Invites* the High Commissioner to coordinate an effort to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to begin reporting on the results to Member States in 2018;

21. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee hosting countries and their host communities, and their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and receiving States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States, noting the need for concrete arrangements for equitable and efficient burden- and responsibility-sharing to be elaborated within the framework of the evolving global compact on responsibility-sharing for refugees;

22. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the "Delivering as one" initiative;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken and efficiencies gained in the process of structural and management change to reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to focus on continuous improvement, consistent with recent relevant initiatives and the change management process of the Office, in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of persons of concern, including identifying unmet needs, and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

24. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

25. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

26. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance and hate speech;

27. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

28. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

29. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

30. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

31. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

32. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;



33. *Expresses deep concern* about the long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and in this regard calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

34. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

35. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

36. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States to meet their commitments in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement, as well as the commitments in the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees;

37. *Notes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

38. *Also notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

39. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions to refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

40. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

41. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

42. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

43. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

44. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

45. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

46. *Calls upon* States to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution and as an indispensable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and recognizes the need to further increase the number of resettlement places and the number of countries with regular resettlement programmes and to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees, recalling in this regard the annual resettlement needs identified by the Office of the High Commissioner;

47. *Also calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

48. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

49. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, bearing in

mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

50. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

51. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

52. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

53. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

54. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental, development, security and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

55. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities;

56. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

57. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>9</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution [58/153](#) of 22 December 2003 and subsequent

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<sup>9</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.

resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

58. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.

*73rd plenary meeting  
19 December 2017*



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Seventy-third session  
Agenda item 65

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2018

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/73/583)]

### 73/151. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-ninth session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II)).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/73/12/Add.1).*



*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law, including international refugee law, and relevant General Assembly resolutions that may concern the work of the Office of the High Commissioner, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution [72/133](#) of 11 December 2017,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities, and underlines the significance of durable solutions, the securing of which is one of the principal goals of international protection;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-ninth session;<sup>2</sup>

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process;

4. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>3</sup> and the two annexes thereto at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement their commitments made therein;

5. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken in 2018 to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

6. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>4</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>5</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

7. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

8. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its

<sup>3</sup> Resolution [71/1](#).

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

9. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>6</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>7</sup> notes that 91 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 73 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

10. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in this regard welcomes the global campaign to end statelessness within a decade, including its high-level meeting on statelessness to take place in 2019, and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and welcomes efforts that have been made by States in this regard;

11. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe and dignified return, integration or relocation in their own country;

12. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

13. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the measures taken by the Office to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue its efforts to further strengthen its emergency capacity and thereby ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

14. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

15. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 72/133 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

16. *Welcomes* the recent efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the implementation of the refugee coordination model;

17. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and their host communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States, and in the context of the global compact on refugees, emphasizes the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing;

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the elements set out in the comprehensive refugee response framework contained in annex I to the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and recalls the request to the Office of the High Commissioner to develop and initiate a comprehensive refugee response based on the principles of international cooperation and on burden- and responsibility-sharing, in close coordination with relevant States, including host countries, and involving other relevant United Nations entities as laid out in annex I to the New York Declaration;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach, which contributed to the development of the global compact on refugees;

20. *While recognizing* contributions already made, renews its call upon all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the application of the comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin;

21. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to report on the results to Member States in 2019;

22. *Commends* the Office of the High Commissioner for the comprehensive and transparent process of engagement and consultation undertaken to develop the global compact on refugees, involving all States Members of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders, as requested of the High Commissioner by the General Assembly;

23. *Affirms* the global compact on refugees, as presented by the High Commissioner for Refugees in part II of the annual report on the activities of his Office submitted to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly,<sup>1</sup> and



underscores its importance as a representation of political will and ambition of the international community to operationalize the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, to mobilize the international community as a whole, and galvanize action for an improved response to refugee situations;

24. *In view of* the need to urgently achieve strengthened burden- and responsibility-sharing, and reiterating its commitment to reach this end, calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the global compact on refugees, in order to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing, in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the global compact on refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions, including at the first Global Refugee Forum, underlining the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, and requests the High Commissioner to report regularly on the progress being made;

25. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

26. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the “Delivering as one” initiative;

27. *Notes with appreciation* the measures taken and efficiencies gained in the process of structural and management change to reinforce the capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to focus on continuous improvement, consistent with recent relevant initiatives and the change management process of the Office, in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of persons of concern, including identifying unmet needs, and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

28. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages the Office to sustain action with a view to strengthening and enforcing the zero-tolerance approach within the Office;

29. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

30. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

31. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance and hate speech;

32. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

33. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the

infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

34. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

35. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

36. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

37. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

38. *Expresses grave concern* about the long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and in this regard calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

39. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

40. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

41. *Encourages* States to put in place, if they have not yet done so, appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children;

42. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States to meet their commitments in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement, as well as the commitments in the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030: Towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees;

43. *Notes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

44. *Also notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

45. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions to refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

46. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

47. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

48. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

49. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to exert further efforts to promote and facilitate whenever the prevailing circumstances

are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

50. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

51. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

52. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

53. *Calls upon* States to create opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution and as an indispensable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and recognizes the need to further increase the number of resettlement places and the number of countries with regular resettlement programmes and to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees, recalling in this regard the annual resettlement needs identified by the Office of the High Commissioner;

54. *Also calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

55. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

56. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

57. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the

return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

58. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

59. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

60. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

61. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental, development, security and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

62. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

63. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

64. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>8</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution [58/153](#) of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.

and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

65. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session.

*55th plenary meeting  
17 December 2018*

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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
14 January 2020

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 61

### Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2019

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/74/393)]

### 74/130. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventieth session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

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<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/74/12).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/74/12/Add.1).



*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly exposed,

*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution 73/139 of 14 December 2018,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities, and underlines the importance of durable solutions, the securing of which is one of the principal goals of international protection, and the significance of the Office's efforts to promote addressing root causes, within its mandate;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventieth session;<sup>2</sup>

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>3</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>4</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

5. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>5</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>6</sup> notes that 94 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 74 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 989, No. 14458.



the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

8. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in this regard welcomes the results achieved in the first five years of the global campaign to end statelessness within a decade, and notes the high-level segment that took place at the start of the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee, which discussed the issue of statelessness, encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and welcomes efforts that have been made by States in this regard;

9. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe and dignified return, integration or relocation in their own country;

10. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the ongoing measures to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue efforts to further strengthen its emergency response capacity to ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

12. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels;

13. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the implementation of the refugee coordination model;

14. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [73/139](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

15. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking

account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States;

16. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken in 2019 to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

17. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>7</sup> at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement relevant commitments made therein;

18. *Recalls* the global compact on refugees as set out in the High Commissioner's annual report (part II) of 2018,<sup>8</sup> affirmed on 17 December 2018,<sup>9</sup> and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the compact in order to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the global compact on refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions, including at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, and requests the High Commissioner to report regularly on the progress being made;

19. *Emphasizes* the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing in the context of the global compact on refugees;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework that is part of the global compact on refugees, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach;

21. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the global compact on refugees and its comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, while recognizing contributions already made, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin;

22. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to report on the results to Member States in 2020;

23. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

24. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Nations development system reform, including as part of broader efforts towards generating system-wide efficiencies;

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>8</sup> See A/73/12 (part II).

<sup>9</sup> See resolution 73/151.

25. *Notes* the transformation process that the High Commissioner has started to establish clearer authorities and lines of accountability, including through regionalization and decentralization, in order to enable a more timely, relevant and efficient response to the needs of persons of concern and to ensure the effective and transparent use of the Office's resources;

26. *Recognizes* the value of a geographically diverse and representative workforce, with a view to reflecting the international character of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon the Office to take effective measures to ensure balanced geographical representation and gender parity across the regions, in particular from underrepresented States, among its workforce both at headquarters and in the field, particularly at the senior level, which will also promote a better understanding of the working environment;

27. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages the Office to sustain action with a view to strengthening and enforcing the zero-tolerance approach within the Office;

28. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

29. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

30. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance and hate speech;

31. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

32. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

33. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

34. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-saving measures,

reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

35. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

36. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

37. *Expresses grave concern* about the long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

38. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

39. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

40. *Encourages* States to put in place, if they have not yet done so, appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children;

41. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States, in their implementation of the global compact on refugees, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement, as well as the commitments in the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030 – towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees;

42. *Notes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

43. *Also notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is

crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

44. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions to refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

45. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

46. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

47. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

48. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to exert further efforts to promote and facilitate, whenever the prevailing circumstances are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and, where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

49. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

50. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

51. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

52. *Calls upon* States, with the assistance of relevant stakeholders, to create expanded opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, broaden the base of countries and actors engaged, and expand the scope and size and maximize the protection and quality of resettlement as an invaluable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, and acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and recognizes the need to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees, recalling in this regard the annual resettlement needs identified by the Office of the High Commissioner;

53. *Also calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

54. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

55. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed movements in order to better address protection needs of people in the context of mixed movements, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

56. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

57. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

58. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

59. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing their capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

60. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental, development, security and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

61. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

62. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

63. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>10</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

64. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

*50th plenary meeting  
18 December 2019*

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<sup>10</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.

**Seventy-fifth session**

Agenda item 63

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for  
Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and  
displaced persons and humanitarian questions****Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
on 16 December 2020***[on the report of the Third Committee (A/75/472, para. 17)]***75/163. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees***The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-first session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/75/12).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/75/12/Add.1).*





*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly exposed,

*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution 74/118 of 16 December 2019,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities, and underlines the importance of durable solutions, the securing of which is one of the principal goals of international protection, and the significance of the Office's efforts to promote addressing root causes, within its mandate;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-first session;

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>3</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>4</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

5. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>5</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>6</sup> notes that 94 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 75 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

8. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in this regard welcomes the results achieved in the first five years of the global campaign to end statelessness within a decade, and notes the high-level segment that took place at the start of the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee, which discussed the issue of statelessness, encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and welcomes efforts that have been made by States in this regard;

9. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe and dignified return, integration or relocation in their own country;

10. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

11. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the ongoing measures to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to pursue efforts to further strengthen its emergency response capacity to ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

12. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels;

13. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure a more inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the implementation of the refugee coordination model;

14. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [74/118](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

15. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's

refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States;

16. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken in 2020 to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

17. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>7</sup> at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement relevant commitments made therein;

18. *Recalls* the global compact on refugees as set out in the High Commissioner's annual report (part II) of 2018,<sup>8</sup> affirmed on 17 December 2018,<sup>9</sup> and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the compact in order to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the global compact on refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions, including at the first Global Refugee Forum, in December 2019, and requests the High Commissioner to report regularly on the progress being made;

19. *Emphasizes* the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing in the context of the global compact on refugees;

20. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework that is part of the global compact on refugees, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach;

21. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the global compact on refugees and its comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, while recognizing contributions already made, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin;

22. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to report on the results to Member States in 2021;

23. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

24. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Nations development system reform, including as part of broader efforts towards generating system-wide efficiencies;

<sup>7</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>8</sup> See A/73/12 (part II).

<sup>9</sup> See resolution 73/151.

25. *Notes* the transformation process that the High Commissioner has started to establish clearer authorities and lines of accountability, including through regionalization and decentralization, in order to enable a more timely, relevant and efficient response to the needs of persons of concern and to ensure the effective and transparent use of the Office's resources;

26. *Recognizes* the value of a geographically diverse and representative workforce, with a view to reflecting the international character of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon the Office to take effective measures to ensure balanced geographical representation and gender parity across the regions, in particular from underrepresented States, among its workforce both at headquarters and in the field, particularly at the senior level, which will also promote a better understanding of the working environment;

27. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages the Office to sustain action with a view to strengthening and enforcing the zero-tolerance approach within the Office;

28. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

29. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

30. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance and hate speech;

31. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

32. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

33. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

34. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-

saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

35. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

36. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

37. *Expresses grave concern* about the long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally, particularly in Africa and the Middle East, and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

38. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

39. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

40. *Encourages* States to put in place, if they have not yet done so, appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children;

41. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States, in their implementation of the global compact on refugees, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, and to do so within a few months of the initial displacement, as well as the commitments in the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030 – towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all<sup>10</sup> to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees;

42. *Notes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

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<sup>10</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 19–22 May 2015* (Paris, 2015).

43. *Also notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children;

44. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions to refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

45. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

46. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements;

47. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

48. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to exert further efforts to promote and facilitate, whenever the prevailing circumstances are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and, where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

49. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

50. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

51. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

52. *Calls upon* States, with the assistance of relevant stakeholders, to create expanded opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, broaden the base of countries and actors engaged, and expand the scope and size and maximize the protection and quality of resettlement as an invaluable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, and acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and recognizes the need to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees, recalling in this regard the annual resettlement needs identified by the Office of the High Commissioner;

53. *Also calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

54. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

55. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed movements in order to better address protection needs of people in the context of mixed movements, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

56. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

57. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

58. *Expresses concern* about the challenges associated with climate change and environmental degradation to the operations of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

59. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing their capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

60. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental, development, security and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those host countries, donor States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the condition of refugees through building the resilience of refugees and their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

61. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

62. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to continue and enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

63. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>11</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution [58/153](#) of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

64. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

*46th plenary meeting  
16 December 2020*

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<sup>11</sup> Resolution [428 \(V\)](#), annex.



**Seventy-sixth session**

Agenda item 65

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions****Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
on 16 December 2021***[on the report of the Third Committee (A/76/456, para. 15)]***76/143. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees***The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-second session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, has reached the highest level since the Second World War,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the tremendous generosity of host countries and donors, including unprecedented levels of humanitarian funding, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow,

*Recognizing* that the greatest share of the refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, the majority of whom are women and children, are hosted by developing countries,

*Noting with grave concern* the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as their host communities and countries and countries of

<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/76/12).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/76/12/Add.1).*



origin, and recalling that the pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly and perilously exposed,

*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution [75/127](#) of 11 December 2020,

1. *Affirms* the importance of the work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities, and underlines the importance of seeking durable solutions, and the significance of the Office's efforts to promote addressing root causes, within its mandate;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-second session;

3. *Welcomes* the seventieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>3</sup> and the sixtieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;<sup>4</sup>

4. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process;

5. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>5</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

6. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

7. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

8. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>6</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, notes that 96 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 77 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, welcomes the results achieved since the launch of the global campaign to end statelessness in 2014, including through the implementation by States of pledges made at the high-level segment that took place at the start of the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee, and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further accelerate the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

10. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of, assistance to, and achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in line with applicable international law, and taking into consideration international and regional norms and standards, as appropriate, and welcomes efforts by States to incorporate such norms and standards into domestic law and national development plans, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe, sustainable and dignified return, local integration or relocation in their own country;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts to establish the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Internal Displacement, notes the submission of its report, and calls for further consultations on its follow-up, with relevant stakeholders, including intergovernmental consideration;

12. *Notes* the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

13. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the ongoing measures to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to further strengthen its emergency response capacity to ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

14. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels;

15. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure an inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the refugee coordination model;

16. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [75/127](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

17. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States;

18. *Recognizes* the importance of integrating the perspectives of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in humanitarian responses;

19. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

20. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>7</sup> at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement relevant commitments made therein;

21. *Also recalls* the global compact on refugees,<sup>8</sup> affirmed on 17 December 2018,<sup>9</sup> and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the compact to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the global compact on refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions;

22. *Welcomes* the pledges, contributions and commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum, in December 2019, encourages the sustained engagement of States and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of pledges and in their review process, including at the first meeting of high-level officials in December 2021, and in this regard requests the High Commissioner to report regularly on the progress

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution [71/1](#).

<sup>8</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

<sup>9</sup> See resolution [73/151](#).

being made, the challenges ahead and the areas in need of further support, and invites the Office of the High Commissioner to start the preparations for the second Global Refugee Forum, in 2023, in a timely and inclusive manner;

23. *Emphasizes* the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing in the context of the global compact on refugees;

24. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework that is part of the global compact on refugees, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach and the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees, and welcomes the launch and efforts of support platforms established for these mechanisms, as concrete arrangements to support responsibility-sharing;

25. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the global compact on refugees and its comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, while recognizing contributions already made to ensure timely, adequate, flexible and needs-driven humanitarian assistance, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin;

26. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to report on the results to Member States in 2022;

27. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

28. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Nations development system reform, including as part of broader efforts towards generating system-wide effectiveness, transparency, accountability and efficiencies;

29. *Notes* the transformation process that the High Commissioner is implementing to establish clearer authorities and lines of accountability, including through regionalization and decentralization, to enable a more timely, relevant and efficient response to the needs of persons of concern and to ensure the effective and transparent use of the Office's resources;

30. *Affirms* the importance of a geographically diverse and representative workforce, with a view to reflecting the international character of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon the Office to take effective measures to ensure balanced geographical representation and gender parity across the regions, in particular from underrepresented States, among its workforce both at headquarters and in the field, particularly at the senior level, which will also promote a better understanding of the working environment;

31. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages

the Office to sustain action with a view to strengthening and enforcing the zero-tolerance approach;

32. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, facilities and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need, and calls upon all States and parties to armed conflict to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilian populations and humanitarian personnel;

33. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not act with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

34. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights, and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to prevent and fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, related intolerance, hate speech, stigmatization and stereotyping;

35. *Deplores* the growing number of incidents of refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as practices of denial of access to asylum, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

36. *Stresses* the importance of preventing abuse of asylum systems, including for political purposes, in order to safeguard the efficiency and functionality of asylum systems for those in need of international protection;

37. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees and internally displaced persons in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

38. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

39. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many refugees and asylum seekers are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to step up efforts to combat human trafficking and human smuggling and to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

40. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum seekers who have lost their lives at sea trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen search and rescue mechanisms in accordance with international

law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

41. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of the most vulnerable, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

42. *Expresses grave concern* about the long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the health and well-being of refugees globally and especially its impact on children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and calls upon States to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

43. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including refugee-hosting countries as well as the countries of origin, have universal, timely, effective and equitable access to safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and medical supplies and equipment, and calls upon States and other partners to urgently support funding and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring access to COVID-19 vaccines for all, including persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their host communities, bearing in mind that extensive immunization against COVID-19 is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission and bringing the pandemic to an end, and to ensure that refugees can access correct information to avoid the negative impact of disinformation and misinformation;

44. *Welcomes* the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

45. *Recognizes* the generosity of host countries, and their differentiated experiences and situations, appreciates the contributions of refugees in host countries and countries of resettlement, including facilitating the generation of decent work opportunities, with the purpose of developing sustainable livelihoods until durable solutions are achieved, and recalls that international cooperation is needed in support of host communities, particularly in long-standing refugee-hosting countries;

46. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence and other harmful practices, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

47. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure that the perspectives of women and girls in situations of displacement are taken into account by promoting their meaningful participation in matters affecting them, as well as women's full and equal participation in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response;

48. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure that the humanitarian needs of persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, and their host communities, including clean water, food and nutrition, shelter, education, livelihoods, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health and other protection needs, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

49. *Welcomes* and calls upon States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard urges Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure reliable and safe access for persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as basic health-care services and psychosocial support from the onset of emergencies, while recognizing that relevant services are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies;

50. *Encourages* States to put in place, if they have not yet done so, appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children and to protect them from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence;

51. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States, in their implementation of the global compact on refugees, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary and secondary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, and to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees,<sup>10</sup> and underlines the importance of quality education in countries of origin;

52. *Notes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to improve its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including cash-based interventions;

53. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to address mental health and psychosocial well-being by promoting the availability of mental health and psychosocial support to persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as host communities, and encourages the further strengthening of such measures, including through international support;

54. *Notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children and other essential documentation;

55. *Notes with concern* that arbitrary deprivation of nationality pushes people into statelessness and is a source of widespread suffering, and calls upon States to refrain from adopting discriminatory measures and from enacting or maintaining legislation that would arbitrarily revoke citizenship of their nationals, rendering a person stateless;

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<sup>10</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 19–22 May 2015* (Paris, 2015).



56. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions for them and for refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

57. *Reaffirms* that accelerating complementary pathways to solutions is crucial for addressing protracted refugee situations, and recognizes the importance of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for seeking durable solutions for refugees, in accordance with its mandate;

58. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

59. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process their root causes;

60. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

61. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to coordinate and exert further efforts to promote and facilitate, whenever the prevailing circumstances are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and, where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

62. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

63. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

64. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

65. *Calls upon* States, with the assistance of relevant stakeholders, to create expanded opportunities for resettlement as a durable solution, broaden the base of countries and actors engaged, and expand the scope and size and maximize the protection and quality of resettlement as an invaluable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, and acknowledges with appreciation the many countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities and recognizes the need to improve the integration of resettled refugees, calls upon States to ensure inclusive and non-discriminatory policies in their resettlement programmes, and notes that resettlement is a strategic protection tool and solution for refugees, recalling in this regard the annual resettlement needs identified by the Office of the High Commissioner;

66. *Also calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

67. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

68. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed movements in order to better address protection needs of people in the context of mixed movements, bearing in mind the particular needs of persons in vulnerable situations, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

69. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

70. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

71. *Expresses deep concern* about the adverse sudden and slow onset impacts of climate change, natural disasters and environmental degradation, which are increasing in intensity and frequency, and which interact with the drivers of forced displacement and disproportionately affect persons in vulnerable situations, including forcibly displaced populations in developing countries and particularly in small island developing States and the least developed countries, and welcomes the increased attention and efforts of the Office to address these challenges in its work, including the adoption of a strategic framework for climate action, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies;

72. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address climate change, including with a view to building local and national resilience and capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to displacement in this context;

73. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing their capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

74. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the economic, environmental, development, security and social impacts of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the conditions for refugees through building their resilience and that of their host communities, while working towards a durable solution;

75. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

76. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to further enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

77. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>11</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes, keeping in mind the importance of unearmarked and other flexible funding;

78. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

*53rd plenary meeting  
16 December 2021*

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<sup>11</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.



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**Seventy-seventh session**

Agenda item 57

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions****Resolution adopted by the General Assembly  
on 15 December 2022***[on the report of the Third Committee (A/77/457, para. 20)]***77/198. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees***The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-third session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, is increasing,

*Expressing deep concern also* that the adverse effects of climate change, hazards and environmental degradation are increasing in intensity and frequency, contributing to drive forced displacement and disproportionately affecting persons in vulnerable situations, including forcibly displaced populations in developing countries and particularly in small island developing States and the least developed countries,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the unprecedented generosity of host countries and donors, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow, and recalling in this context the need for equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing,

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/77/12).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/77/12/Add.1).*



*Recognizing* that the greatest share of the refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, the majority of whom are women and children, are hosted by developing countries,

*Noting with grave concern* the continuing impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as their host communities and countries and countries of origin, and recalling that the pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly and perilously exposed,

*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution [76/124](#) of 10 December 2021,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and assisting Governments in meeting protection responsibilities, and underlines the importance of seeking durable solutions, and the significance of the Office's efforts to promote addressing root causes, within its mandate;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-third session;

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, welcomes the adoption of a conclusion on mental health and psychosocial support at the seventy-third session of the Executive Committee, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue this process;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>3</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>4</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

5. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>5</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>6</sup> notes that 96 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 78 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

8. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, encourages the fulfilment of the goals of the I Belong campaign to end statelessness, including through the implementation by States of pledges made at the high-level segment that took place at the start of the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee, and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further accelerate the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

9. *Notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children and other essential documentation;

10. *Notes with concern* that arbitrary deprivation of nationality pushes people into statelessness and is a source of widespread suffering, and calls upon States to refrain from adopting discriminatory measures and from enacting or maintaining legislation that would arbitrarily revoke citizenship of their nationals, rendering a person stateless;

11. *Re-emphasizes* that protection of, assistance to and achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in line with applicable international law, and taking into consideration international and regional norms and standards, as appropriate, and welcomes efforts by States to incorporate such norms and standards into domestic law and national development plans, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe, sustainable and dignified return, local integration or relocation in their own country;

12. *Recognizes* the importance of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, calls for sustained momentum on this important issue, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner, in coordination with the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, to contribute to the United Nations system's collective efforts to advance durable solutions, with ownership and leadership of affected States;

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

13. *Notes* the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his support for States in this regard;

14. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the ongoing measures to reinforce its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to redouble its efforts to ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

15. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure an inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the refugee coordination model;

17. *Highlights* the importance for States and the Office of the High Commissioner to have, when possible, high-quality and disaggregated data, in accordance with data protection and data privacy principles, and stresses the importance of interoperable data collection and analysis within the United Nations system, consistent with relevant United Nations provisions relating to data, further calls for strengthened coordination in this regard, and welcomes the collaboration of the Office of the High Commissioner with key data actors, development partners and States, including through the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, in order to promote evidence-based programming and policymaking at all levels to better target and monitor assistance;

18. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [76/124](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and camp management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

19. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States;

20. *Recognizes* the importance of meaningful refugee participation and of integrating the perspectives of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in humanitarian responses;

21. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

22. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>7</sup> at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement relevant commitments made therein;

23. *Also recalls* the Global Compact on Refugees,<sup>8</sup> affirmed on 17 December 2018,<sup>9</sup> and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the Compact to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the Global Compact on Refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions;

24. *Welcomes* the pledges, contributions and commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum, in December 2019, as well as the sustained engagement of States and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of pledges and in their review process at the first meeting of high-level officials in December 2021, also welcomes the High Commissioner's regular progress report, and encourages continued engagement in the preparations for the second Global Refugee Forum, in 2023;

25. *Emphasizes* the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing in the context of the Global Compact on Refugees;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework that is part of the Global Compact on Refugees, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees and the regional cooperation framework to strengthen protection and the search for solutions for people displaced by the Central African crisis, welcomes the launch and efforts of support platforms established for these mechanisms, as concrete arrangements to support responsibility-sharing, and encourages States, and other stakeholders, to continue their efforts to address the needs of the people who require international protection, including through support for host communities;

27. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and its comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, while recognizing contributions already made to ensure timely, adequate, flexible and needs-driven humanitarian assistance, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin in a spirit of partnership, respecting country ownership and leadership;

28. *Expresses concern* over the significant challenges associated with hosting, protecting and integrating refugees in national systems and strategies given socioeconomic difficulties and stretched resources, affecting, inter alia, infrastructure, social security and the provision of protection services, education,

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>8</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

<sup>9</sup> See resolution 73/151.



health and employment, and stresses the importance of easing pressure on host countries by facilitating more equitable, sustained and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing among States and other relevant stakeholders;

29. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to measure the impacts arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to report on the results to Member States in 2023;

30. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner and partners to effectively provide and facilitate further support for States in different situations, enabling them to build and expand the capacity of national systems to protect persons of concern to the Office and to the communities hosting them, as well as support for durable solutions and emergency responses, consistent with the principles of burden- and responsibility-sharing, taking into account the importance of national ownership and leadership;

31. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

32. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Nations development system reform, including as part of broader efforts towards generating system-wide effectiveness, transparency, accountability and efficiencies;

33. *Notes* the transformation process that the High Commissioner is implementing to establish clearer authorities and lines of accountability, including through regionalization and decentralization, to enable a more timely, relevant and efficient response to the needs of persons of concern and to ensure the effective and transparent use of the Office's resources;

34. *Affirms* the importance of a geographically diverse, inclusive and representative workforce, with a view to reflecting the international character of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon the Office to take effective measures to ensure balanced geographical representation across the regions, in particular from underrepresented States and large refugee-hosting States, among its workforce both at headquarters and in the field, with due consideration for gender parity, racial equality, disability and age, particularly at the senior level, which will also promote a better understanding of the working environment;

35. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages the Office to sustain action with a view to strengthening and enforcing the zero-tolerance approach;

36. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, facilities and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need, and calls upon all States and parties to armed conflict to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilian populations and humanitarian personnel and facilities;

37. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not act with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts

are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

38. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights, and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to fight racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech, stigmatization and stereotyping;

39. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of the most vulnerable, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

40. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

41. *Deplores* the growing number of incidents of refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as practices of denial of access to asylum, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

42. *Stresses* the importance of preventing abuse of asylum systems, including for political purposes, in order to safeguard the efficiency and functionality of asylum systems for those in need of international protection;

43. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees and internally displaced persons in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, to other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

44. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

45. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to step up efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling and to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including, as appropriate, life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, including trauma-informed assistance for victims of human trafficking and smuggling, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

46. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum-seekers who have lost their lives or gone missing at sea and on land trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen prevention, search and rescue mechanisms that are in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

47. *Also expresses grave concern* over the unprecedented scale of the global food security and nutrition crisis and the impacts this will have on persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, who are already in a situation of vulnerability, and calls upon States, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant partners to take coordinated and immediate action to save lives and reduce suffering in countries at risk of famine, food insecurity, hunger and acute malnutrition, and in this regard takes note of the work of the Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and the Committee on World Food Security, bearing in mind its resolution [76/264](#) of 23 May 2022 on the state of global food insecurity and measures contained to reinforce global food security;

48. *Further expresses grave concern* about the negative long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the nutrition, health and well-being of refugees and hosting communities globally and especially its impacts on women and children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and calls upon donors to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

49. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including refugee-hosting countries as well as the countries of origin, have universal, timely, effective and equitable access to safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and medical supplies and equipment, calls upon States and other partners to urgently support funding and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for all, including persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their host communities, bearing in mind that extensive immunization against COVID-19 is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission and bringing the pandemic to an end, and to ensure that refugees can access correct information to avoid the negative impact of disinformation and misinformation, and stresses the need to adequately prepare for and respond to future public health emergencies of international concern;

50. *Also recognizes* the generosity of host countries and their differentiated experiences and situations, and in particular welcomes the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

51. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of refugees in host countries and countries of resettlement, including facilitating the generation of decent work opportunities, with the purpose of developing sustainable livelihoods until durable solutions are achieved, and recalls that further international cooperation is needed in support of host communities, particularly in long-standing refugee-hosting countries;

52. *Notes* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs and rights of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, through an inclusive approach, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

53. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure that the perspectives of women and girls in situations of displacement are taken into account by promoting their meaningful participation in matters affecting them, as well as women's full and equal participation in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response;

54. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure that the humanitarian needs of persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, and their host communities, including clean water, food and nutrition, shelter, education, livelihoods, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health, and other protection needs, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

55. *Welcomes* and calls upon States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard urges Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure reliable and safe access for persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as basic health-care services and psychosocial support from the onset of emergencies, while recognizing that relevant services are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies;

56. *Encourages* States to put in place appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children and to protect them from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, while taking into account the situation of those with disabilities;

57. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to support and enable the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including those in particularly vulnerable situations, and their representative organizations, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response, and to consult relevant experts on the rights of persons with disabilities, and further requests the Office to continue its work on the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and to regularly report to the Executive Committee on its progress;

58. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States, in their implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary, secondary and tertiary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, youth and adults, and to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees,<sup>10</sup> and underlines the importance of quality education in countries of origin and the role of international cooperation in this regard;

59. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue improving its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including effective cash-based interventions;

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<sup>10</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 19–22 May 2015* (Paris, 2015).

60. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to address mental health and psychosocial well-being by promoting the availability and affordability of mental health and psychosocial support to persons of concern to the Office, as well as host communities, and encourages the further strengthening of such measures, including through additional international support;

61. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions for them and for refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

62. *Reaffirms* that accelerating complementary pathways to solutions is crucial for addressing protracted refugee situations, and recognizes the importance of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for seeking durable solutions for refugees, in accordance with its mandate;

63. *Calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

64. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving the plight of refugees and to realize durable solutions, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

65. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process their root causes;

66. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

67. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to coordinate and exert further efforts to promote and facilitate, whenever the prevailing circumstances are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and, where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

68. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the

Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

69. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

70. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

71. *Recognizes* the importance of resettlement as a strategic protection tool and a durable solution for refugees in reducing the pressure on refugee-hosting countries in protracted situations, as a measure for international protection, as well as in opening possibilities for other durable solutions;

72. *Calls upon* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to create expanded opportunities for inclusive and non-discriminatory resettlement as a durable solution, broaden the base of countries and actors engaged, expand the scope and size, and maximize the protection and quality of resettlement as an invaluable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, and acknowledges with appreciation countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities;

73. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed movements in order to better address protection needs of people in the context of mixed movements, bearing in mind the particular needs of persons in vulnerable situations, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

74. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

75. *Welcomes* the increased attention and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to address and respond to matters related to the impact of climate change in its work, including the adoption of a strategic framework for climate action, within its mandate, in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies;

76. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address climate change, including with a view to building local and national resilience and capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to displacement in this context in particular in developing countries, including in small island developing States and the least developed countries;

77. *Calls upon* donors, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to mobilize and provide additional support for adaptation and mitigation of environmental impacts of hosting large numbers of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, including by supporting renewable energy, environmental protection and rehabilitation initiatives for refugees and other forcibly displaced people and their host communities;

78. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, countries of origin, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing their capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

79. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the environmental, development, security and social impacts and economic and financial constraints faced by developing countries hosting refugee populations, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the conditions for refugees through building their resilience and that of their host communities, while working towards addressing root causes and the attainment of durable solutions;

80. *Recognizes* the importance of a comprehensive and principled approach to humanitarian response, in particular in protracted situations, including through early recovery activities, to strengthen the resilience of the persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their access to basic services;

81. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

82. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to further enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

83. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>11</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes, keeping in mind the importance of unearmarked and other flexible funding;

84. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.

*54th plenary meeting  
15 December 2022*

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<sup>11</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
22 December 2023

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## Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 60

### Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/78/474, para. 26)]

### 78/184. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office,<sup>1</sup> noting that it includes the second decennial strategic review pursuant to General Assembly resolution 58/153 of 22 December 2003, and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-fourth session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of people who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, is increasing,

*Expressing deep concern also* that the adverse effects of climate change, hazards and environmental degradation are increasing in intensity and frequency, contributing to drive forced displacement and disproportionately affecting persons in vulnerable situations, including forcibly displaced populations in developing countries and particularly in small island developing States and the least developed countries,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the unprecedented generosity of host countries and donors, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to

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<sup>1</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/78/12 (Part I) and A/78/12 (Part II)).*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/78/12/Add.1).*





grow, and recalling in this context the need for equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing,

*Recognizing* that the greatest share of the refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, the majority of whom are women and children, are hosted by developing countries,

*Noting with grave concern* the continuing impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as their host communities and countries and countries of origin, and recalling that the pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly and perilously exposed,

*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution [77/28](#) of 6 December 2022,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and assisting Governments in meeting protection responsibilities, and underlines the importance of seeking durable solutions, and the significance of the Office's efforts to promote addressing root causes, within its mandate;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-fourth session;

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions, welcomes the adoption of a multi-year workplan for the Executive Committee conclusions at its seventy-fourth session, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue the process of adopting conclusions;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>3</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>4</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

5. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>5</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>6</sup> notes that 97 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 79 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

8. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, encourages the fulfilment of the goals of the I Belong campaign to end statelessness, including through the implementation by States of pledges made at the high-level segment that took place at the start of the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee, and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further accelerate the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

9. *Re-emphasizes* that protection of, assistance to and achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in line with applicable international law, and taking into consideration international and regional norms and standards, as appropriate, and welcomes efforts by States to incorporate such norms and standards into domestic law and national development plans, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe, sustainable and dignified return, local integration or relocation in their own country;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, calls for sustained momentum on this important issue, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner, in coordination with the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, to contribute to the United Nations system's collective efforts to advance durable solutions, with ownership and leadership of affected States;

11. *Notes* the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his support for States in this regard;

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the ongoing measures to reinforce its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to redouble its efforts to ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

13. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure an inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees, as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the refugee coordination model;

15. *Notes* the significant global and regional initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

16. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>7</sup> at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement relevant commitments made therein;

17. *Also recalls* the Global Compact on Refugees,<sup>8</sup> affirmed on 17 December 2018,<sup>9</sup> and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the Compact to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the Global Compact on Refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions;

18. *Welcomes* the pledges, contributions and commitments made at the first Global Refugee Forum, in December 2019, as well as the sustained engagement of States and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of pledges and in their review process at the first meeting of high-level officials in December 2021, also welcomes the High Commissioner's regular progress report, and encourages engagement in the second Global Refugee Forum, in December 2023;

19. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States;

20. *Expresses concern* over the significant challenges associated with hosting, protecting and integrating refugees in national systems and strategies, given socioeconomic difficulties and stretched resources, affecting, inter alia, infrastructure, social security and the provision of protection services, education,

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>8</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

<sup>9</sup> See resolution 73/151.

health and employment, and stresses the importance of easing pressure on host countries by facilitating more equitable, sustained and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing among States and other relevant stakeholders;

21. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to measure the impacts arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable, and to report on the results to Member States in 2024;

22. *Emphasizes* the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing in the context of the Global Compact on Refugees;

23. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework that is part of the Global Compact on Refugees, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees and the regional cooperation framework to strengthen protection and the search for solutions for people displaced by the Central African crisis, welcomes the launch and efforts of support platforms established for these mechanisms, as concrete arrangements to support responsibility-sharing, and encourages States, and other stakeholders, to continue their efforts to address the needs of the people who require international protection, including through support for host communities;

24. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner and partners to effectively provide and facilitate further support for States in different situations, enabling them to build and expand the capacity of national systems to protect persons of concern to the Office and to the communities hosting them, as well as support for durable solutions and emergency responses, consistent with the principles of burden- and responsibility-sharing, taking into account the importance of national ownership and leadership;

25. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

26. *Recognizes* the importance of meaningful refugee participation and of integrating the perspectives of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in humanitarian responses;

27. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue improving its humanitarian assistance response, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including effective cash-based interventions;

28. *Highlights* the importance for States and the Office of the High Commissioner to have, when possible, high-quality and disaggregated data, in accordance with data protection and data privacy principles, and stresses the importance of interoperable data collection and analysis within the United Nations system, consistent with relevant United Nations provisions relating to data, further calls for strengthened coordination in this regard, and welcomes the collaboration of the Office of the High Commissioner with key data actors, development partners and States, including through the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, in order to promote evidence-based programming and policymaking at all levels to better target and monitor assistance;

29. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution [77/28](#) on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and camp management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

30. *Recognizes* the importance of a comprehensive and principled approach to humanitarian response, in particular in protracted situations, including through early recovery activities, to strengthen the resilience of the persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their access to basic services;

31. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Nations development system reform, including as part of broader efforts towards generating system-wide effectiveness, transparency, accountability and efficiencies;

32. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, facilities and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need, and calls upon all States and parties to armed conflict to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilian populations and humanitarian personnel and facilities;

33. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not act with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

34. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights, and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to fight racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech, stigmatization and stereotyping;

35. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees and internally displaced persons in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, to other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

36. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of the most vulnerable, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a

staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

37. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

38. *Deplores* the growing number of incidents of refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as practices of denial of access to asylum, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

39. *Stresses* the importance of preventing abuse of asylum systems, including for political purposes, in order to safeguard the efficiency and functionality of asylum systems for those in need of international protection;

40. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

41. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to step up efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling and to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including, as appropriate, life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, including trauma-informed assistance for victims of human trafficking and smuggling, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

42. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum-seekers who have lost their lives or gone missing at sea and on land trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen prevention, search and rescue mechanisms that are in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

43. *Notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children and other essential documentation;

44. *Notes with concern* that arbitrary deprivation of nationality pushes people into statelessness and is a source of widespread suffering, and calls upon States to refrain from adopting discriminatory measures and from enacting or maintaining legislation that would arbitrarily revoke citizenship of their nationals, rendering a person stateless;

45. *Expresses grave concern* over the unprecedented scale of the global food security and nutrition crisis and the impacts this will have on persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, who are already in a situation of vulnerability, and calls upon States, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant partners to take coordinated and immediate action to save lives and reduce suffering in countries at risk of famine, food insecurity, hunger and acute malnutrition, and in this regard takes note of the work of the Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and the Committee on World Food Security,

bearing in mind its resolution 76/264 of 23 May 2022 on the state of global food insecurity and measures contained to reinforce global food security;

46. *Also expresses grave concern* about the negative long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the nutrition, health and well-being of refugees and hosting communities globally and especially its impacts on women and children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and calls upon donors to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

47. *Recognizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including refugee-hosting countries as well as the countries of origin, have universal, timely, effective and equitable access to safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and medical supplies and equipment, calls upon States and other partners to urgently support funding and further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for all, including persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their host communities, bearing in mind that extensive immunization against COVID-19 is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission as countries transition to pandemic recovery, and to ensure that refugees can access correct information to avoid the negative impact of disinformation and misinformation, and stresses the need to adequately prepare for and respond to future public health emergencies of international concern;

48. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to address mental health and psychosocial well-being by promoting the availability and affordability of mental health and psychosocial support to persons of concern to the Office, as well as host communities, and encourages the further strengthening of such measures, including through additional international support;

49. *Recognizes* the generosity of host countries and their differentiated experiences and situations, and in particular welcomes the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees;

50. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of refugees in host countries and countries of resettlement, including facilitating the generation of decent work opportunities, with the purpose of developing sustainable livelihoods until durable solutions are achieved, and recalls that further international cooperation is needed in support of host communities, particularly in long-standing refugee-hosting countries;

51. *Notes* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs and rights of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, through an inclusive approach, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

52. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure that the perspectives of women and girls in situations of displacement are taken into account by promoting their meaningful participation in matters affecting them, as well as women's full and equal participation in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response;

53. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure that the humanitarian needs of persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, and their host communities, including clean water, food and nutrition, shelter, education, livelihoods, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health, and other protection needs, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

54. *Welcomes* and calls upon States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard urges Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure reliable and safe access for persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner to sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as basic health-care services and psychosocial support from the onset of emergencies, while recognizing that relevant services are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies;

55. *Encourages* States to put in place appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children and to protect them from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, while taking into account the situation of those with disabilities;

56. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to support and enable the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including those in particularly vulnerable situations, and their representative organizations, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response, and to consult relevant experts on the rights of persons with disabilities, and further requests the Office to continue its work on the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and to regularly report to the Executive Committee on its progress;

57. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States, in their implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary, secondary and tertiary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, youth and adults, and to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees,<sup>10</sup> and underlines the importance of quality education in countries of origin and the role of international cooperation in this regard;

58. *Welcomes* the increased attention and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to address and respond to matters related to the impact of climate change in its work, including the adoption of a strategic framework for climate action, within its mandate, in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies;

59. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address climate change, including with a view to building local and national resilience and capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to displacement in this context in particular in developing

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<sup>10</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 19–22 May 2015* (Paris, 2015).



countries, including in small island developing States and the least developed countries;

60. *Calls upon* donors, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to mobilize and provide additional support for adaptation and mitigation of environmental impacts of hosting large numbers of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, including by supporting renewable energy, environmental protection and rehabilitation initiatives for refugees and other forcibly displaced people and their host communities;

61. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process their root causes;

62. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions for them and for refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

63. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving the plight of refugees and to realize durable solutions, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

64. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds;

65. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to coordinate and exert further efforts to promote and facilitate, whenever the prevailing circumstances are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and, where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

66. *Expresses concern* about the current low level of voluntary repatriation, encourages the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions;

67. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

68. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

69. *Recognizes* the importance of resettlement as a strategic protection tool and a durable solution for refugees in reducing the pressure on refugee-hosting countries in protracted situations, as a measure for international protection, as well as in opening possibilities for other durable solutions;

70. *Calls upon* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to create expanded opportunities for inclusive and non-discriminatory resettlement as a durable solution, broaden the base of countries and actors engaged, expand the scope and size, and maximize the protection and quality of resettlement as an invaluable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, and acknowledges with appreciation countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities;

71. *Reaffirms* that accelerating complementary pathways to solutions is crucial for addressing protracted refugee situations, and recognizes the importance of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for seeking durable solutions for refugees, in accordance with its mandate;

72. *Calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

73. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed movements in order to better address protection needs of people in the context of mixed movements, bearing in mind the particular needs of persons in vulnerable situations, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

74. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

75. *Notes* the transformation process that the High Commissioner is implementing to establish clearer authorities and lines of accountability, including through regionalization and decentralization, to enable a more timely, relevant and efficient response to the needs of persons of concern and to ensure the effective and transparent use of the Office's resources;

76. *Affirms* the importance of a geographically diverse, inclusive and representative workforce, with a view to reflecting the international character of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon the Office to take effective measures to ensure balanced geographical representation across the regions, in particular from underrepresented States and large refugee-hosting States, among its workforce both at headquarters and in the field, with due consideration for gender parity, racial equality, disability and age, particularly at the senior level, which will also promote a better understanding of the working environment;

77. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages the Office to sustain action with a view to strengthening and enforcing the zero-tolerance approach;

78. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to further enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

79. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>11</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution 58/153 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes, keeping in mind the importance of unearmarked and other flexible funding;

80. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

81. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and its comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, while recognizing contributions already made to ensure timely, adequate, flexible and needs-driven humanitarian assistance, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin in a spirit of partnership, respecting country ownership and leadership;

82. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, countries of origin, refugee populations and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing their capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

83. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes, as well as the environmental, development, security and social impacts and economic and financial constraints faced by developing countries hosting refugee populations, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the conditions for refugees through building

<sup>11</sup> Resolution 428 (V), annex.

their resilience and that of their host communities, while working towards addressing root causes and the attainment of durable solutions;

84. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

*50th plenary meeting  
19 December 2023*

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# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
19 December 2024

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## Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 60

### Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2024

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/79/452, para. 18)]

### 79/156. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office<sup>1</sup> and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-fifth session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions contained therein,

*Recalling* its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

*Expressing deep concern* that the number of persons who are forcibly displaced owing to, inter alia, conflict, persecution and violence, including terrorism, is increasing,

*Expressing deep concern also* that the adverse effects of climate change, hazards, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss are increasing in intensity and frequency, contributing to drive forced displacement and disproportionately affecting persons in vulnerable situations, including forcibly displaced persons in developing countries and particularly in small island developing States and the least developed countries,

*Noting with grave concern* that, despite the unprecedented generosity of host countries and donors, the gap between needs and humanitarian funding continues to grow, and recalling in this context the need for equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing and the importance of flexible funding, particularly unearmarked funding,

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<sup>1</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/79/12).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., Supplement No. 12A (A/79/12/Add.1).



*Recognizing* the key role of the co-conveners, co-hosts and leaders of multi-stakeholders to effectively implement the pledges of the first and second Global Refugee Forums,

*Recognizing also* that the greatest share of the refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, the majority of whom are women and children, are hosted by developing countries,

*Noting with grave concern* the continuing impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as well as their host communities and countries and countries of origin, and recalling that the pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

*Expressing concern* at the continued emergence and re-emergence of epidemic-prone diseases, and recognizing that pandemics have a disproportionate impact on developing countries, including hosting countries,

*Recognizing* that forced displacement has, inter alia, humanitarian and development implications and that, thus, addressing root causes of forced displacement is highly imperative as part of more comprehensive collaboration among humanitarian, development and peace efforts,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, and commending the staff of his Office and its partners for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities,

*Underlining its strong condemnation* of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel are increasingly and perilously exposed, particularly in areas of armed conflict,

*Reaffirming* the need for consistency with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and taking into account national policies, priorities and realities,

*Recalling* its resolution [46/182](#) of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations and all subsequent General Assembly resolutions on the subject, including resolution [78/119](#) of 8 December 2023,

1. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and assisting Governments in meeting protection responsibilities, and underlines the importance of seeking durable solutions, in an equitable and sustainable manner, and the significance of the Office's efforts to promote addressing root causes, within its mandate, and enhancing partnerships with relevant actors to address root causes;

2. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its seventy-fifth session;

3. *Recognizes* the relevance of the Executive Committee's practice of adopting conclusions on international protection, welcomes the adoption of a conclusion on durable solutions and complementary pathways at its seventy-fifth session, and encourages the Executive Committee to continue the process of adopting conclusions;

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees<sup>3</sup> and the 1967 Protocol thereto<sup>4</sup> as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that 149 States are now parties to one or both instruments, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments and States parties with reservations to give consideration to withdrawing them, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

5. *Urges* States that are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto to respect their obligations in letter and spirit;

6. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes the importance of active international solidarity and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing;

7. *Welcomes* recent accessions to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons<sup>5</sup> and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,<sup>6</sup> notes that 99 States are now parties to the 1954 Convention and 81 States are parties to the 1961 Convention, encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees with regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

8. *Re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, recognizes the achievements of the I Belong campaign to end statelessness, including through the implementation by States of pledges made at the high-level segment that took place at the start of the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee, and welcomes the high-level segment on statelessness that took place at the seventy-fifth plenary session of the Executive Committee, which marked the launch of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness and provided an opportunity to renew collective commitments, and encourages all States to consider actions they may take to further accelerate the prevention and reduction of statelessness;

9. *Also re-emphasizes* that protection of, assistance to and achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, in line with applicable international law, and taking into consideration international and regional norms and standards, as appropriate, and welcomes efforts by States to incorporate such applicable norms and standards into domestic law and national development plans, aimed at, inter alia, facilitating voluntary, safe, sustainable and dignified return, local integration or relocation in their own country;

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 360, No. 5158.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 989, No. 14458.

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, calls for sustained momentum on this important issue, and encourages the Office of the High Commissioner, within its mandate, to continue contributing to the collective efforts of the United Nations system to advance durable solutions for internally displaced persons, with States;

11. *Notes* the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be carried out with the full consent of the affected States, consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions, in accordance with the refugee mandate of the Office, and requests the High Commissioner to support States in a transparent and accountable manner;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to respond adequately to emergencies, in accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with States, notes the ongoing measures to reinforce its capacity to respond to emergencies, and encourages the Office to redouble its efforts to ensure a more predictable, effective and timely response;

13. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure an inclusive, transparent, predictable and well-coordinated response to refugees as well as internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, consistent with its mandate, and in this regard takes note of the refugee coordination model and further notes the need to support host communities and refugees alike in the spirit of leaving no one behind and promoting cohesion and peaceful co-existence;

15. *Notes* the significant global, regional and bilateral initiatives, conferences and summits undertaken to strengthen international solidarity with and cooperation for refugees and other persons of concern, and encourages those who participated to implement their commitments made therein;

16. *Recalls* the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants<sup>7</sup> at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, on 19 September 2016, and encourages States to implement relevant commitments made therein;

17. *Also recalls* the Global Compact on Refugees,<sup>8</sup> affirmed on 17 December 2018,<sup>9</sup> and calls upon the international community as a whole, including States and other relevant stakeholders, to implement the Compact to achieve its four objectives on an equal footing based on the principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and in accordance with the guiding principles and paragraph 4 of the Global Compact on Refugees, through concrete actions, pledges and contributions;

18. *Calls upon* States and other relevant stakeholders to implement the pledges, including pledge matching while prioritizing host countries' pledges, in the spirit of burden- and responsibility-sharing, and requests the High Commissioner to

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution 71/1.

<sup>8</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/73/12 (Part I) and A/73/12 (Part II))*, part II.

<sup>9</sup> See resolution 73/151.



regularly update Member States on the status of progress in the implementation of the pledges of both the first and second Global Refugee Forums, held in 2019 and 2023;

19. *Underlines* the centrality of international cooperation to the refugee protection regime, recognizes the burden that large movements of refugees place on major and long-standing refugee-hosting countries and communities, as well as their national resources, especially in the case of developing countries, and calls for a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees, addressing the needs of refugees and hosting States, while taking account of existing contributions and the differing capacities and resources among States;

20. *Welcomes* the efforts of host countries receiving refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner to adopt durable solutions, to give access to social services and to facilitate their integration and inclusion, and calls upon donor countries to support predictable and sustained financing, through bilateral, regional and international cooperation;

21. *Expresses concern* over the significant challenges associated with hosting, protecting and integrating refugees in national systems and strategies given socioeconomic difficulties and stretched resources, affecting, inter alia, infrastructure, social security and the provision of protection services, education, health and employment, and stresses the importance of easing pressure on host countries by facilitating more equitable, sustained and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing among States and other relevant stakeholders;

22. *Invites* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue coordinating the effort to effectively measure the impacts arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees, with a view to quantifying the impact and assessing gaps in international cooperation and promoting burden- and responsibility-sharing that is more equitable, predictable and sustainable and facilitates pathways for durable solutions, and to report on the results to Member States in 2025, and notes in this regard the organization of workshops on measuring the impact of hosting refugees in the main spending areas such as education, health and basic needs;

23. *Emphasizes* the need for robust, well-functioning, concrete arrangements and potential, complementary mechanisms for ensuring predictable, equitable, efficient and effective burden- and responsibility-sharing in the context of the Global Compact on Refugees;

24. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the increased number of countries applying the comprehensive refugee response framework that is part of the Global Compact on Refugees, including through regional approaches, where applicable, such as the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework (MIRPS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development regional approach, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees and the Central African Republic Solutions Support Platform (CAR-SSP), welcomes the launch and efforts of support platforms established for these mechanisms, as concrete arrangements to support responsibility-sharing, and encourages States, and other stakeholders, to continue their efforts to address the needs of the persons who require international protection, including through support for host communities;

25. *Notes with interest* that in 2024 Latin American and Caribbean States are commemorating 40 years of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, and the regional process, led by Chile, to adopt a Declaration and Plan of Action for the next decade (2024–2034) to promote good practices and address regional challenges on international protection;

26. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner and partners to effectively provide and facilitate further support for States in different situations, in coordination with national authorities, enabling them to build and expand the capacity of national systems to protect persons of concern to the Office and to the communities hosting them, as well as support for durable solutions and emergency responses, consistent with the principles of burden- and responsibility-sharing, taking into account the importance of national ownership and leadership;

27. *Calls upon* States and other stakeholders that have not yet contributed to burden- and responsibility-sharing to do so, with a view to broadening the support base, in a spirit of international solidarity and cooperation;

28. *Recognizes* the importance of meaningful refugee participation and of integrating the perspectives of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner in humanitarian responses;

29. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue improving its humanitarian assistance response and protection, and stresses the importance of tailored, innovative approaches, including effective cash-based interventions;

30. *Highlights* the importance for States and the Office of the High Commissioner to have, when possible, high-quality and disaggregated data, in accordance with data protection and data privacy principles, and stresses the importance of interoperable data collection and analysis within the United Nations system, consistent with relevant United Nations provisions relating to data, further calls for strengthened coordination in this regard, and welcomes the collaboration of the Office of the High Commissioner with key data actors, development partners and States, including through the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement, in order to promote evidence-based programming and policymaking at all levels to better target and monitor assistance;

31. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and States to enhance data management practices, ensuring data protection and privacy in line with applicable laws;

32. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian response and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 78/119 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, and recalls the role of the Office of the High Commissioner as the leading entity of the clusters for protection, camp coordination and camp management and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

33. *Recognizes* the importance of a comprehensive and principled approach to humanitarian response, in both protracted and emerging situations, including through early recovery activities, to strengthen the resilience of the persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their access to basic services;

34. *Welcomes* the active engagement of the Office of the High Commissioner in the United Nations development system reform, including as part of broader efforts towards generating system-wide effectiveness, transparency, accountability and efficiencies;

35. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing threats to the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers, facilities and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging

conditions in order to assist those in need, and calls upon all States and parties to armed conflict to fulfil their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and humanitarian personnel and facilities;

36. *Strongly condemns* attacks and all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, threats and intimidation, against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including national and locally recruited personnel and their premises and assets, including humanitarian supplies, facilities and transports, in violation of international humanitarian law; and in particular urges parties to armed conflict to respect the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in the conduct of hostilities and refrain from attacking, destroying, removing or rendering useless objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population;

37. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not act with impunity and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

38. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all measures necessary to respect and ensure respect for human rights, and international humanitarian law, and urges all States to fight racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech, stigmatization and stereotyping;

39. *Urges* States to uphold the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for refugees and internally displaced persons, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugees, to settle refugees and internally displaced persons in secure locations and to afford to the Office of the High Commissioner and, where appropriate, to other humanitarian organizations prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern;

40. *Emphasizes* that the international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of the most vulnerable, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

41. *Calls upon* States to process asylum applications by duly identifying those in need of international protection, in accordance with their applicable international and regional obligations, so as to strengthen the refugee protection regime;

42. *Deplores* the growing number of incidents of refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as practices of denial of access to asylum, and calls upon all States concerned to respect the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

43. *Stresses* the importance of preventing abuse of asylum systems, including for political purposes, in order to safeguard the efficiency and functionality of asylum systems for those in need of international protection and to process asylum applications in accordance with the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating

to the status of refugees, and further urges States to cooperate in finding solutions to address onward movements;

44. *Notes with increasing concern* that asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons are subject to arbitrary detention in numerous situations and encourages working towards the ending of this practice, welcomes the increasing use of alternatives to detention, especially in the case of children, and emphasizes the need for States to limit detention of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons to that which is necessary, giving full consideration to possible alternatives;

45. *Notes with grave concern* the significant risks to which many persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner are exposed as they attempt to reach safety, and encourages international cooperation to step up efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and smuggling and to ensure adequate response mechanisms, including, as appropriate, life-saving measures, reception, registration and assistance, including trauma-informed assistance for victims of human trafficking and smuggling, as well as to ensure that safe and regular access to asylum for persons in need of international protection remains open and accessible;

46. *Expresses grave concern* at the large number of asylum-seekers who have lost their lives or gone missing at sea and on land trying to reach safety, encourages international cooperation to further strengthen prevention, search and rescue mechanisms that are in accordance with international law, and commends the great life-saving efforts and actions taken by a number of States in this regard;

47. *Notes* that the lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to statelessness and associated protection risks, including the risk of being victims of human trafficking, recognizes that birth registration provides an official record of a child's legal identity and is crucial to preventing and reducing statelessness, and welcomes efforts by States to ensure the birth registration of children and other essential documentation;

48. *Notes with concern* that arbitrary deprivation of nationality pushes persons into statelessness and is a source of widespread suffering, and calls upon States to refrain from adopting discriminatory measures and from enacting or maintaining legislation that would arbitrarily revoke citizenship of their nationals, rendering a person stateless;

49. *Expresses grave concern* over the unprecedented scale of the global food security and nutrition crisis and the impacts this will have on persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, who are already in a situation of vulnerability, and calls upon States, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant partners to take coordinated and immediate action to save lives and reduce suffering in countries at risk of famine, food insecurity, hunger and acute malnutrition, and in this regard takes note of the work of the Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and the Committee on World Food Security, bearing in mind its resolution [76/264](#) of 23 May 2022 on the state of global food insecurity and measures contained to reinforce global food security;

50. *Also expresses grave concern* about the negative long-term impact of continued cuts in food rations on the nutrition, health and well-being of refugees and hosting communities globally and especially its impacts on women and children, owing to insufficient funding and increased costs, and calls upon donors to ensure sustained support for the Office of the High Commissioner and the World Food Programme, with contributions, including flexible, particularly unearmarked funding, while looking to provide refugees with alternatives to food assistance, pending a durable solution;

51. *Recognizes* that pandemics and public health emergencies of international concern require a global response to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including refugee-hosting countries as well as the countries of origin, have universal, timely, effective and equitable access to safe and effective diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and medical supplies and equipment, calls upon States and other partners to consider funding and explore innovative financing initiatives aimed at facilitating equitable access to vaccines during pandemics and other health emergencies for all, including persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner and their host communities, bearing in mind that extensive immunization in case of future pandemics and other health emergencies is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission, stresses the need to ensure that refugees can access correct information to avoid the negative impact of disinformation and misinformation, and also stresses the need to adequately prepare for and respond to future pandemics and public health emergencies of international concern;

52. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to address mental health and psychosocial well-being by promoting the availability and affordability of mental health and psychosocial support to persons of concern to the Office, as well as host communities, and encourages the further strengthening of such measures, including through additional international support;

53. *Recognizes* the generosity of host countries and their differentiated experiences and situations, and in particular welcomes the positive steps taken by individual States to open their labour markets to refugees, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to strengthen the coordination with the private sector and international financial institutions for investment in host countries and countries of origin to ease pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, and support conditions in countries of origin for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity;

54. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions of refugees in host countries and countries of resettlement, including facilitating the generation of decent work opportunities, with the purpose of developing sustainable livelihoods until durable solutions are achieved, and recalls that further international cooperation is needed in support of host communities, particularly in long-standing refugee-hosting countries;

55. *Notes* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and of State policies, affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs and rights of women, children and persons with disabilities in particular, through an inclusive approach, and underlines the importance of continuing to work on those issues;

56. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure that the perspectives of women and girls in situations of displacement are taken into account by promoting their meaningful participation in matters affecting them, as well as women's full and equal participation in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response;

57. *Calls upon* Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure that the humanitarian needs of persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, and their host communities, including clean water, food and nutrition, shelter, education, livelihoods, energy, health, including sexual and reproductive health, and other protection needs, are addressed as components of humanitarian response,

including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

58. *Calls upon* States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to continue to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard urges Member States, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and with the support of other stakeholders, to ensure reliable and safe access for persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, as well as basic healthcare services and psychosocial support from the onset of emergencies, while recognizing that relevant services are important in order to effectively meet the needs of women and adolescent girls and infants and protect them from preventable mortality and morbidity that occur in humanitarian emergencies;

59. *Encourages* States to put in place appropriate systems and procedures to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration with regard to all actions concerning refugee children and to protect them from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence, while taking into account the situation of those with disabilities;

60. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to support and enable the full and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, including those in particularly vulnerable situations, and their representative organizations, in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies, programmes and activities related to humanitarian response, and to consult relevant experts on the rights of persons with disabilities, and further requests the Office to continue its work on the implementation of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy and to regularly report to the Executive Committee on its progress;

61. *Notes with concern* that a large proportion of the world's out-of-school population lives in conflict-affected areas, and calls upon States, in their implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, to lend support to host countries in providing quality primary, secondary and tertiary education in safe learning environments for all refugee children, youth and adults, and to develop more inclusive, responsive and resilient education systems to meet the needs of children, youth and adults in these contexts, including internally displaced persons and refugees,<sup>10</sup> and underlines the importance of quality education in countries of origin and the role of international cooperation in this regard;

62. *Welcomes* the increased attention and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to address and respond to matters related to the impact of climate change and environmental degradation in its work, including the adoption of the Strategic Framework for Climate Action, within its mandate, in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies;

63. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures to address climate change, including with a view to building local and national resilience and capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to displacement in this context, in particular in developing countries, including in small island developing States and the least developed countries;

64. *Encourages* States and the Office of the High Commissioner, within its protection mandate, to improve the resilience of both forcibly displaced persons and their host communities in the context of adverse effects of climate change and disasters through enhanced strategic partnerships, including with support from donors;

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<sup>10</sup> See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum 2015, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 19–22 May 2015* (Paris, 2015).

65. *Calls upon* donors, the Office of the High Commissioner and other stakeholders to mobilize and provide additional support for adaptation and mitigation of environmental impacts of hosting large numbers of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, including by supporting renewable energy, environmental protection and rehabilitation initiatives for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons and their host communities, including through the Climate Resilience Fund of the Office of the High Commissioner;

66. *Recalls* that the work of the High Commissioner shall be of an entirely non-political character; it shall be humanitarian and social and shall relate, as a rule, to groups and categories of refugees, in accordance with the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

67. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee situations and, in particular, the need to address in this process their root causes, and urges countries of origin to commit to their human rights obligations towards their nationals as a preventative measure to reduce forced displacement;

68. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking durable solutions for them and for refugee situations, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

69. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees and their hosting communities in protracted situations, recognizes with deep concern that the average length of stay has continued to grow, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving the plight of refugees, to strengthen peace efforts and address violent conflict and to realize durable solutions, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

70. *Encourages* further efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to actively promote durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, with a focus on sustainable, timely, voluntary, safe and dignified return, which encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States and other relevant actors to continue to support these efforts through, inter alia, the allocation of funds and strengthening humanitarian, development and peace efforts, particularly in countries of origin;

71. *Recalls* the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the Office of the High Commissioner, calls upon the international community and the Office to coordinate and exert further efforts to promote and facilitate, whenever the prevailing circumstances are deemed appropriate, the safe, dignified and voluntary repatriation of refugees, through their free and informed choice, in a sustainable manner and in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement, to their countries of origin, and encourages the Office and, where appropriate, other United Nations agencies, to mobilize further resources in this regard;

72. *Encourages* the solution-oriented approach pursued by the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of voluntary repatriation and

reintegration, including from the onset of displacement, and in this regard urges the Office to further strengthen partnerships with national Governments and development actors, as well as international financial institutions, to create conducive conditions in countries of origin for voluntary repatriation and reintegration in safety and dignity;

73. *Recognizes*, in the context of voluntary repatriation, the importance of resolute efforts in the country of origin, including rehabilitation and development assistance, to foster the voluntary, safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration of refugees and to ensure the restoration of national protection;

74. *Acknowledges with appreciation* voluntary action taken by several host countries to enable permanent residence and naturalization for refugees and former refugees;

75. *Recognizes* the importance of resettlement as a strategic protection tool and a durable solution for refugees in reducing the pressure on refugee-hosting countries in protracted situations, as a measure for international protection, as well as in opening possibilities for other durable solutions;

76. *Calls upon* States and the Office of the High Commissioner to create expanded opportunities for inclusive and non-discriminatory resettlement as a durable solution, broaden the base of countries and actors engaged, expand the scope and size, and maximize the protection and quality of resettlement as an invaluable tool for burden- and responsibility-sharing, and acknowledges with appreciation countries that continue to offer enhanced resettlement opportunities;

77. *Reaffirms* that accelerating complementary pathways to solutions, including through implementation of the Executive Committee conclusion on durable solutions and complementary pathways, is crucial for addressing protracted refugee situations, and recognizes the importance of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for seeking durable solutions for refugees, in accordance with its mandate;

78. *Calls upon* States to consider creating, expanding or facilitating access to complementary and sustainable pathways to protection and solutions for refugees, in cooperation with relevant partners, including the private sector, where appropriate, including through humanitarian admission or transfer, family reunification, skilled migration, labour mobility schemes, scholarships and education mobility schemes;

79. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed movements in order to better address protection needs of persons under the mandate of the Office in the context of mixed movements, especially unregistered persons in need of international protection, bearing in mind the particular needs of persons in vulnerable situations, especially women, children and persons with disabilities, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and also notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

80. *Acknowledges* existing disparities between the numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers registered and the persons in need of international protection, and the need to strengthen registration capacities, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

81. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane



manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

82. *Notes* the transformation process that the High Commissioner is implementing to establish clearer authorities and lines of accountability, including through regionalization and decentralization, to enable a more timely, relevant and efficient response to the needs of persons of concern and to ensure the accountable, effective, efficient and transparent use of the Office's resources;

83. *Affirms* the importance of a geographically diverse, inclusive and representative workforce, with a view to reflecting the international character of the Office of the High Commissioner, and calls upon the Office to take effective measures to ensure balanced geographical representation across the regions, in particular from underrepresented States and large refugee-hosting States, among its workforce both at headquarters and in the field, with due consideration for gender parity, racial equality, disability and age, particularly at the senior level, which will also promote a better understanding of the working environment;

84. *Welcomes* the commitment and efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, fraud, corruption and other forms of misconduct, and encourages the Office to continue to strengthen its internal oversight and accountability mechanisms, enforcing the zero-tolerance approach;

85. *Expresses concern* that the needs required to protect and assist persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner continue to increase and that the gap between global needs and available resources continues to grow, appreciates the continued and increasing hospitality of host countries and generosity of donors, and therefore calls upon the Office to further enhance efforts to broaden its donor base so as to achieve greater burden- and responsibility-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

86. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute<sup>11</sup> and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolution [58/153](#) of 22 December 2003 and subsequent resolutions on the Office of the High Commissioner concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes, with contributions, including flexible, particularly unearmarked funding;

87. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner with development partners, noting the advantages of complementarity of funding sources to support refugees and host communities as requested by host Governments, and the importance of doing so in a manner that does not negatively impact or reduce support for broader development objectives in host countries and, where appropriate, countries of origin;

88. *Renews its call upon* all States and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and its comprehensive refugee response framework with a view to sharing the burden and responsibilities for hosting and supporting refugees, while recognizing contributions already made to ensure timely, adequate, flexible and needs-driven humanitarian assistance, and underscores the critical importance of additional development support

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<sup>11</sup> Resolution [428 \(V\)](#), annex.

over and above regular development assistance for host countries and countries of origin in a spirit of partnership, respecting country ownership and leadership;

89. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources, including through financial and in-kind assistance, as well as direct aid to host countries, countries of origin, refugees and the communities hosting them, with a view to enhancing their capacity and reducing the heavy burden borne by countries and communities hosting refugees, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and whose generosity is appreciated;

90. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address the root causes as well as the environmental, development, security and social impacts and economic and financial constraints faced by developing countries hosting refugees, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition, and notes with appreciation those States, organizations and individuals that contribute to improving the conditions for refugees through building their resilience and that of their host communities, while working towards addressing root causes and the attainment of durable solutions;

91. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his annual activities to the General Assembly at its eightieth session.

*53rd plenary meeting  
17 December 2024*