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II.

PROGRAMME or ACTION

A.

Voluntary repatriation

Voluntary repatriation remains, when conditions allow, the ideal solution to a
1.

refugee problem. 'Governments are responsible for creating the necessary legal and practical conditions conducive toâ\200\234the return of refugees.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is, by its mandate, required it should

to facilitate the return of refugees and safeguard its voluntary nature;

take all measureewdeemed appropriate and feasible to promote such voluntary return.

Whenever appropriate, tripartite commissions composed of representatives of the country of origin, the country of asylum and UNHCR Should be established;

process, care must be taken to respect the voluntary nature of the repatriation :

process and the entirely nonppolitical character of the work of UNHCR.

The Office of the

in this.

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For the ultimate aim of successful reintegration of returnees into their

2.

society, rehabilitation assistance will often be required well beyond the initial

In such cases, the United Nations

period during which UNHCR can provide.it.

Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant development organizations and

non-governmental organizations should be involved as soon as possible in the

planning and implementation of further rehabilitation assistance which may benefit

not only returnees but also their compatriots in the areas concerned.

B.

Egpal Eettlement

Where voluntary repatriation is not immediately feasible or possible,

3.
conditions should be created within the country of asylum so that the refugees can temporarily settle or integrate into the community, 1.3., participate on an equal footing in its social and economic life and contribute to its development. For this purpose, settlement programmes should be development-oriented and, wherever possible, be linked to existing or planned economic and social development schemes for the area or region.

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When large numbers of refugees need land or other work opportunities, there is

4.
a need for development-oriented projects which would generate work opportunities and - where local integration of the refugees is feasible - long-term livelihoods for refugees and local people in a comparable situation, through activities which create assets of a continuing economic value with a good rate of return, so that they contribute to the over-all development of the area.

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page 2

daily implementation must remain the foundation for protecting and assisting refugees in Africa.

The principle enshrined in the 1969 Convention that "the

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granting'of asylum is a peaceful and humanitarian act and shall not be regarded as an unfriendly act by any member State" must continue to guide the approach of States to the refugee problem in Africa.

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4.

The recommendations of the 1979 Arusha Conference on the African Refugee

D.

Arusha. Conference

Problem, endorsed by the OAU Council of Ministers through its resolution GM/Res.727 (XXXIII) and reaffirmed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolutions 34/61 and 35/41, remain fundamental for action on behalf of refugees in Africa.

The recommendations deal with the causes for asylum seeking in Africa and: the situation of rural and urban refugees, their employment, education and training, and arrangements for refugee counselling services.

5.

The Arusha Conference also adopted a number of recommendations relating to the

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legal situation of refugees, notably as regards asylum, the definition of the

expulsion, rights and obligations of refugees and voluntary repatriation.

The

standards defined in these recommendations, together with those figuring in the

1969 GAU Convention, represent an important component for the protection of and assistance to refugees on the African continent. The Organization of African Unity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are urged, in accordance with a decision of that Conference, to continue monitoring the implementation of the relevant recommendations and report thereon through the appropriate channels.

E.

Meeting between the OAU secretariat and voluntary agencies

The 92 recommendations adopted in March 1969 at the meeting between the

6.

OAU secretariat and voluntary agencies dealt with the following issues: International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa II, protection, voluntary repatriation, awareness-building and public information, co-operation in refugee assistance at the national, regional and international levels, root causes of refugee situations, education, counselling, settlement and resettlement, and the role of voluntary agencies during emergencies, which should constitute a realistic approach to the refugee problem in Africa.

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F.

QAU Charter on Human and People's Rights

7.

Respect for human and people's rights, and benefit from economic and social progress and development in conformity with Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations must be a cornerstone in the protection and assistance to refugees.

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page 3

The Conference takes full note of the adoption by the OAU Heads of State and Government of the Charter on Human and People's Rights; the entry into force of which will constitute a positive contribution in reducing the number of refugees in Africa.

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Gt' Approaches to solutions

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8.

International cooperation to avert new flows of refugees must be strengthened.

Everything possible must be done to prevent the causes of refugee flows and to reduce and resolve the problem of refugees in Africa.

States must refrain from

taking measures that would create or aggravate refugee problems. conditions should be established to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees, which has been recognized as the best means of promoting permanent and durable solutions.

This could be done by the promulgation of emergency laws and

Essential

respect for the principle of non-refoulement. Where voluntary return is not immediately feasible or possible, conditions should be created within the country of asylum for a temporary settlement or the integration of refugees into the community and their full participation in its social and economic life. solutions to last, assistance to refugees and returnees must aim at their participation, productivity and durable self-reliance. It should be development-oriented as soon as possible and, in least developed countries, it should take into account the needs of the local people as well.

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DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN AFRICA

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A.

Global responsibility

I.

DECLARATION

1.
The task of caring for refugees and finding solutions to their problems is a matter of international concern in keeping with the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments, in particular the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol.
The 230 Conference recognizes that the condition of refugees is a global responsibility of the international community and emphasizes the need for equitable burden-sharing by all its members, taking into consideration particularly the case of the least developed countries.

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B.

Continental responsibility

2.

In dealing with the refugee situation in Africa, special account must be

taken of the regional situation and of the regionally relevant legal instruments, such as the Charter of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), convention: as well as principles mentioned in resolutions adopted under the auspices of OAU.

V

C.

â\200\230L969 OAU Convention

The 1969 OAU Convention on the Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problems in

3.

Africa constitutes a basic instrument for the plight of refugees in that continent; according to Article VIII, paragraph 2, the OAU Convention shall be the effective regional complement in Africa ofâ\200\230the 1951 United Nations Convention on the Status of Refugees.

Accession to the OAU Convention byâ\200\230African States that have not yet done so, respect for the principles

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E "H REFUGEEâ\200\235:

Opening statement by the High Commissioner for Refugees:

In his Opening statementg the High Commissioner for Refugees remarked
about the success been made at Refugee Settlements he has visited in
Africa.

He emphasized the point that the Internaticnal commuhity must
thank refugees; after the initial trauma of flight9 refugees have
recovered and wanted to work hard.

The High Commissibner has seen
refugees resolutely farming new land9 moving into new areas unfamiliar
to them in order to lead a useful and productive existence;'rEefugees
are courageous9 energetic and determined to do what they ealj;?given
the chanoeg said the High Commissioner.

In~accordanoe to the theme of this conference, the â\200\235Time for golutions"9
mere then 55% of UNHCR projected programming expenditures in Africa of
some US\$160 million for thieyeer9 19849 will be towards durahle
solutions.

The'High Commissioner further remarked that it must be eneureÃ©.that
conuntries can provide asylum without being overwhelmed by its effect.

This new eSpeot of assistance:goes beyond the traditional mani~\202ate of "
his office for relief ane for durable solutions.

In Closing his statement9 the High Commissioner put forward the
following tasks before the Conference:

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â\200\230To recognise the link between the humanitarian and develeghent
aSpeete of care for refugees and support for host Countries.

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Tb support programmes that give refugees the relief assistance that

they urgently need as well as additional chances for durable solutions.

â\200\224

To provide the countries of asylum with the infrastructural support that they require.

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To engage ourselves in an expanded process, a process that we cannot complete in any Conference but on which we must here make a solid and significant start.

Introduction

The following distinguished guests were invited for the Opening:-

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Kr Peres de Cueller -- United Nations Secretary General.

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3.

Hr Bradford Horse - Administrator of the UNDP.

Cde Firkeâ\200\224Seleesie Hogderess 4-Secretary General of the PFAC, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and CCPWE Executive Committee Member of Socialist Ethiopia.

The abovementioned guests left the presidium after the opening stateâ\200\224

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national and non governmental organisations to use tdeirâ\200\230cyperiise ror
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the benefit of refugees in search for lasting solutions.

Jacob Chilwane.

Office of the Treasurer General.

Projects Departmenĩ-\201;

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Therefore9 additional funding is required.

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Twenty two afriean Countries .0 ...1eein3 refugee problems Uere invited

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Secretary General.

These projects were tp be refugee related

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to conform with develoPUent plans and priorities, and be eozplementary

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projects were to be b0Chĩ-\\202l0â\\200\\230ll;

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skills training

and provision of h0&1th and s.?Uitation faeil ities;

b)

to strengthen t31e phveieal and teMe

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ulture and related fields in

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tne transformation of refugees

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Project proposed at ICLRA II 0..

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refugee

The Sponsoring organisations were represented by 4 bodies 1.3. UN;
O&U9VUNDP, and office of the UNHCR.

The United Nations System was represented by 23 UN agencies.

Non Governmental organisations were represented by 10 bodies.

The African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) was represented and
swgpo was invited but did not turn up.

We had observer status.

SUMMARY OF NEEDS

Introduction:

If any countries in Africa today face critical economic and social
problems...

...

problems arising from underdevelopment, from weak and inadequate
infrastructure and an increasingly difficult economic environment.

It was noted at the Conference that the host countries are among
the least developed in the world and are scarcely capable of providing
adequately for their own population.

Despite their economic condition

they have accepted the refugees in their midst and continue to share
with them their scant resources and facilities.

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10.

Likewise, closer coâ\200\224operation between the refugee and deveISQment services in the financial donor countries would be conducive to addressing the\refugee problem in its development context.

11.

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Governing councils of development agencies should

and returnee element in their programme planning egth a view to alleviating theâ\200\230 p}ight of refugees and returnees. Among such agencies UNDP, in view of its central eg-ordinating role within the United Netionsssystem for development end its close linkages with donor eommunities, could be asked to take as eooh as possible a leading part in the Co-ordination, impieï-\201entetion and monitoring of refugee-related infrastructural projects of a developmental nature '

in close eseociationWith its Q>

partners and other donors;

the expertise of non-governmental orgahiiqiions, 1n the assessment,

planning and execution of projects should also be utilized.

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seriously consider the refugee

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tg_Refugees in Africa

Follow-up of the Second Ihternational Conference on Assistance
The Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa.

12.

another important step of a long-term process on the road towards lasting solutiens to the problems of rÃ©fugees arid returnees in Afriâ\200\230fa.

Further fect-finding missions,

accurate dataâ\200\230collectfon EctiVities and feasibility studies may be many cases in furtherihg this piecess.

13.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation and close necessary in

is requested to mediate through the Conference to recommend the appropriate

Governments are requested to keep the Secretary-General of the United Nations the projects submitted to

Cooperation with the Organization of African States, the existing channels the follow-up of the action needed for this purpose.

14. informed of any action taken or being taken relating to the Conference, submitted in response to paragraph 5 (b) of General Assembly resolution 37/197 and through the office of the Secretary-General and/or UNDP in the case of projects submitted in response to paragraph 5 (e) of that resolution.

15- at its thirty-ninth session a first report on the results of the Conference as well as action taken or planned to follow up on the process initiated at the Conference:

The Secretary-General is requested to submit to the General Assembly through UNHCR in the case of projects submitted or which may be

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Direct assistance to refugees has been provided by JEECR.
instahoes'such assistance has

hlded emergenov reliefand asais tahce to

In some

refugees for the prometieh of longer term solutions.
inelĩ-\202de local Settltreht 1n oountlies of asylum or resettlement in other

Such solutions

countries;

Current prograrness howeVer do not plovide as sistanee to offset the
burden placed on the infrastructure of host countrieÃ© by the presence
hot only is there need for adequate assis ence to allay

of refugees.

refugee distress9 but there is a further requirement for 1hfrestructural
assistance to help governments to settle refugees in their society.

ICARA II provided the international community with an asse g sme::1t of the
direct needs ef.\$friceh Refugees? es WÃ©ĩ-\202llas the inflastructurel needs
More

oehcerned9 related to the presence of refugees,

of the oeuntries.

Specifically9 the Conference identified and developed Suppcrtf 1r portfolio
of projects which hold the premise of long term solutions to t1> refugee

T1lese solutions must enaEble refugees gradually to GeeEse being

crisis.

dependent upon outside Ifsources and assist them to he better ilterâ\200\224
grated into the econ mic act1V1t1esef the countries ofCS3IUH

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Problem 70f refugees in Africa:

hccording to the current estimates of host governments9 the humher of
.African refugees9 on the basis of which the infrastructural buri-\202en we
assessed, is in the order of 4 million.

The.1NC delegate supported by other delegates drew the attention of the
Conference on that another area of concentration of refugees is int
Southern.&frioa, where problems related to the process of decelenisation
and the policy of apartheid heve_1n recent years ihvelved the international
community;

It was genera 1y mentiohed that the pelieie s towards wâ\200\230refi-\201gees of an over-
whelmihg majority of.â\200\234frican Governments are based on terets and objectives
_of internetonel and regional instruments relating te refugees.
the main tehets of these instruments hold that granting asylum to 1efugees
should be seen es_a peaceful and humehiterian act and refugees should

Some of

be assis ted to settle at reasonable dietanees from f-onu10rs (1' countries

of origin and attain the level ofvHall-being of.ne1g.bourihg rationals
as rapidly as possible, -y95t governments in Africa have traditionally
allowed reft"ees aces.~ _te 311su1qg soeial services, health and educa~
tional fae1lit1es5 en: in e gooe numeer of in m.nces;_to landc

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degree of access ha E11111263331,9 1nter â\200\23411:19 hueetje t}:.e ocuhtries lack
adequate infrastructures

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Policies of local settlement designed to make refugees economically productive and socially active exist in some countries of asylum.

Some Speakers drew the attention to the fact that host governments often have to mobilise and utilise their own resources to meet emergency needs including shelter and security during the initial flow of refugees.

Usually, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies, including non governmental organisations, are called in to provide assistance.

Although host Governments with the help of the international community, contribute to meeting emergency humanitarian needs they generally can do little to assist refugees to move beyond "care and maintenance" and subsistence levels to effective participation in production.

.Additional

resources are therefore needed for the impetus to trigger and sustain the settlement and integration of refugees in the development process.

The need for additional resources for Refugees in the

Emphasis was placed by many Speakers on the objective of ICIR, that

1.
is ICIR; II is to maintain support for those essential needs while concentrating further efforts on two particular areas:
the implementation of programmes for solutions, especially through settlement in countries of asylum; and second, to provide assistance to strengthen the infrastructure of countries affected.

first to expand

2.

For 1984 total UNHCR expenditure in Africa is projected at US\$155 mil.

which includes both general and Special programmes.
reference to the ICIR; II resolutions, the UNHCR general programmes approved for Africa for 1984 will rise to US\$125 million an increase

With particular

over the \$113 million authorised for 1983.

3;

UNHCR programme levels for 1985 and 1986 cannot be precisely determined since they will depend upon developments that might require emergency programmes as well as upon the pace at which solutions are achieved.

4.

Refugees have placed a considerable burden on the social and economic infrastructure of affected countries said a number of delegates.

Therefore additional facilities must be built and those components that have deteriorated because of increased demands must be rehabilitated.

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A3 e result of the eaterseiniĩ-\201EEtâ\200\230ĩ-\201ĩ-\201rrhenational economieeof the Af rican

countries concerned, most of which belong to the group of the least developed countries, there is need to provide these countries with the required eeetaneo to strengthen their soc-al and economic infrastructure so as to enable them to cope with the burden of dealing with laIEEâ\200\231numbena of refugeeaiaand returnees. This assistance, to achieve the desired objective, should be additional to, end not at the expense of, concerned countries' other development programme.

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6.

The international community, through the Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa, will endeavour to provide assistance at three levels:

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D. The process

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(a)

The necessary relief and care and maintenance must be provided to

refugees in the face of an emergency, "it must be adjusted to the immediate needs of refugees, be directly linked to those needs and be commensurate with reliable estimates of their numbers.

MA

(b)

Long-term solutions, through voluntary repatriation of refugees or the

(c)

settlement in countries of asylum, must be continued and, as necessary, expanded; additional resources should be made available for expanded durable solution efforts. Technical and capital assistance to countries that offer asylum to refugees and to countries that welcome back returnees should be recognized as an important new element of international assistance; such assistance should be additional to ongoing development programmes. undertaken at the Conference will be fulfilled as soon as possible.

The Conference expresses the hope that the commitments as

E. Structures for assistance to refugees, returnees, and for

co-ordination of such aid and development assistance

The complementarity between refugee-related aid and development assistance

7.

should be reflected in the structures addressing these issues.

In aid to refugees, both for relief, care and maintenance and towards durable

8. solutions through local settlement and voluntary repatriation, UNHCR should remain the focal point and should closely co-operate with other relevant bodies within and outside the United Nations system

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Closer coordination between refugee and returnee services and development Services within the administrative framework of countries receiving refugees or returnees would contribute to the development and orientation of refugee protection from the earliest possible stage.

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