

1. *Recommends* that Member States should give special attention to possibilities of accelerating as far as possible the internal procedures that would lead to the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, on the basis of communications from Governments, to report to the General Assembly at its twenty-seventh session and at such other times as he may consider appropriate on the progress of the ratification of the Covenants and the Optional Protocol.

2001st plenary meeting,  
6 December 1971.

#### 2789 (XXVI). Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

*The General Assembly,*

*Having considered* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees concerning his current activities<sup>15</sup> and having heard his statement,<sup>16</sup>

*Noting with appreciation* the results obtained by the High Commissioner in the accomplishment of his humanitarian task of providing international protection to refugees within his mandate and promoting permanent solutions to their problems,

*Considering* the increasing and fruitful co-operation between the High Commissioner and the other members of the United Nations system in the field of rural settlement, education and training of refugees in developing countries, particularly in Africa, which results in a better co-ordination of action and a greater efficiency of the United Nations system as a whole,

*Noting with satisfaction* the recent decision of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme to approve the participation of the High Commissioner in the new country programming system adopted by the United Nations Development Programme and his association, where necessary, with any efforts made by Governments, with the assistance of the Programme, to develop regions where large groups of refugees are being settled with the assistance of the High Commissioner,

*Recognizing* the importance of voluntary repatriation as a permanent solution to the refugee problem and the useful role that United Nations bodies and non-governmental agencies can play in facilitating the rehabilitation of groups of refugees who have voluntarily returned to their countries of origin,

*Noting with satisfaction* the increasing number of Governments contributing to the High Commissioner's assistance programme and the substantial increase in some of these contributions,

*Commending* the growing number of accessions to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951<sup>17</sup> and the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 1967,<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup> *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/8412) and Supplement No. 12A (A/8412/Add.1).*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, *Twenty-sixth Session, Third Committee, 1874th meeting, paras. 1-15.*

<sup>17</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189 (1954), No. 2545.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 606 (1967), No. 8791.

1. *Expresses its deep satisfaction* at the efficient manner in which the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and his staff continue to accomplish their humanitarian tasks;

2. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide international protection and assistance to refugees who are his concern, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

3. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue his efforts, in co-operation with Governments, United Nations bodies and voluntary agencies, to promote permanent and speedy solutions to the problems of refugees who are his concern through voluntary repatriation, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries;

4. *Urges* Governments to continue to lend their support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian action by:

(a) Facilitating the accomplishment of his task in the field of international protection;

(b) Co-operating in the promotion of permanent solutions to refugee problems;

(c) Providing the necessary means to attain the financial targets established with the approval of the Executive Committee.

2001st plenary meeting,  
6 December 1971.

#### 2790 (XXVI). United Nations assistance to East Pakistan refugees through the United Nations focal point and United Nations humanitarian assistance to East Pakistan

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*The General Assembly,*

*Noting* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on his activities as the focal point in co-ordinating international relief assistance for refugees from East Pakistan in India,<sup>19</sup>

*Noting also* the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations programme of relief assistance to the people of East Pakistan,<sup>20</sup>

*Wishing* to pay a tribute to the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, and to their staffs, for the work they have done under difficult conditions,

*Deeply concerned* at the magnitude of the human suffering to which the crisis in East Pakistan has given rise and at its possible consequences,

*Concerned also* at the heavy burden imposed on India and at the disturbing influence of the general situation on the process of economic and social development in the area,

*Noting with appreciation* the prompt and generous response of the international community to the needs that have arisen from the crisis, including the efforts of non-governmental organizations to raise funds for the relief of the suffering,

*Recognizing* that voluntary repatriation is the only satisfactory solution to the refugee problem and that this is fully accepted by all concerned,

<sup>19</sup> See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-sixth Session, Third Committee, 1876th meeting.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 1877th meeting.