

AG/RES. 2055 (XXXIV-O/04)

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2004)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolutions AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03), “The Protection of Refugees, Returnees, and Stateless and Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas”; and AG/RES. 774 (XV-O/85); AG/RES. 838 (XVI-O/86); AG/RES. 951 (XVIII-O/88); AG/RES. 1021 (XIX-O/89); AG/RES. 1039 (XX-O/90); AG/RES. 1040 (XX-O/90); AG/RES. 1103 (XXI-O/91); AG/RES. 1170 (XXII-O/92); AG/RES. 1214 (XXIII-O/93); AG/RES. 1273 (XXIV-O/94); AG/RES. 1336 (XXV-O/95); AG/RES. 1416 (XXVI-O/96); AG/RES. 1504 (XXVII-O/97); AG/RES. 1602 (XXVIII-O/98); and AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02);

REITERATING the principles established in the Inter-American Democratic Charter, especially those referred to in its Chapter III, “Democracy, Integral Development, and Combating Poverty;

RECALLING the pertinent international norms on human rights, humanitarian law, and refugee law, and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been reinforced by the identification, reaffirmation, and consolidation of specific protective standards, in particular the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, prepared by the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons;

RECALLING ALSO that, according to the those guiding principles, internally displaced persons are “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”;

EMPHASIZING that the states have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address, as appropriate, the root causes of the internal displacement problem and to do so, when so required, in cooperation with the international community;

TAKING NOTE that several countries in the Hemisphere are using the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, prepared by the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, including those on the development of national policies and strategies;

UNDERSCORING the holding of the Regional Seminar on Internal Displacement in the Americas, in Mexico City in February 2004, which made it possible to evaluate and identify possible solutions to the problem of internal displacement in the region;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the problem of internally displaced persons is of significant proportions and that their needs, particularly with regard to protection and assistance, require immediate attention;

UNDERSCORING the importance of implementing effective policies for preventing and averting forced internal displacement and for protecting and assisting internally displaced persons during displacement, their return or resettlement, and their reintegration;

UNDERSCORING ALSO that to promote enhanced protection for internally displaced persons, comprehensive strategies and lasting solutions are needed, which include, among other aspects, the safe and voluntary return of internally displaced persons, promotion and protection of their human rights, and their resettlement and reintegration, either in their place of origin or in the receiving community; and

REAFFIRMING the importance of international cooperation, both from governments and from civil society institutions and organizations, in addressing fully and effectively the needs of internally displaced persons,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge member states to include, as appropriate, in their sectoral plans and programs the special needs of internally displaced persons.
2. To appeal to member states to consider the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, prepared by the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, in designing public policy on this matter.
3. To urge member states to make every effort, as far as possible, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, other international organizations, and the international community, to address the root causes of the internal displacement of persons.
4. To encourage member states to provide, on the basis of comprehensive and lasting strategies, protection and assistance to internally displaced persons and to facilitate the efforts of and access by appropriate United Nations agencies, as well as humanitarian organizations.