

AG/RES. 1021 (XIX-O/89)

CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES

(Resolution adopted at the ninth plenary session,
held on November 18, 1989)

WHEREAS:

Resolutions AG/RES. 774 (XV-O/85), AG/RES. 838 (XVI-O/86), AG/RES. 891 (XVII-O/87), and AG/RES. 951 (XVIII-O/88) have paid special attention to and followed closely the situation of the refugees who, by virtue of world and regional international instruments and the 1984 Declaration of Cartagena on Refugees, have received protection and assistance in several Central American countries and Mexico;

Under point 8 of the Procedure for Establishing Firm and Lasting Peace in Central America, which was later ratified by the Joint Declaration of the Central American Presidents at Costa del Sol, El Salvador, of February 14, 1989, the countries of the region that have been affected by the massive influx of refugees proposed organizing the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) to promote programs to improve the situation of refugees, repatriates, and displaced persons, with due regard for development needs, use of available manpower, optimum use of natural resources, and reestablishment of the ecological balance of adjacent communities and areas;

That Conference was held on May 29-31, 1989, in Guatemala City, at which time the Declaration of the Conference was adopted by acclamation and the Concerted Plan of Action in favor of Central American Refugees, Repatriates, and Displaced Persons was approved as a contribution to firm and lasting peace in Central America;

Pursuant to the Plan of Action, the countries affected have begun to establish and put into operation the mechanisms provided for at the national and international levels; a preparatory meeting of the Follow-up Committee of CIREFCA was held in San José, Costa Rica, on September 20, 1989, under the chairmanship of Costa Rica, and an informal meeting with the group of participants in the endeavor was held in Geneva on October 12 within the framework of the fortieth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

Additionally, the United Nations General Assembly has assigned special importance to the status of refugees, repatriates, and displaced persons in the region, a topic to which a chapter is devoted under the

Emergency Program of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC), which is taking the form of regional activities such as the Development Project for Refugees, Repatriates, and Displaced Persons (PRODERE);

Note should be taken of the significant cooperation provided by the UNHCR in preparing for and following up on the Conference and of the support afforded by other international agencies, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in particular; and

Pursuant to resolution AG/RES. 951 (XVIII-O/88) entitled "Central American refugees and regional efforts to resolve their problems," the Organization of American States welcomed the CIREFCA initiative and urged all the member states, the Inter-American Specialized Organizations, and other regional and subregional, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations closely associated with the humanitarian effort in behalf of Central American refugees to participate in the Conference and provide all the support needed to hold that event,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the Declaration and the Concerted Plan of Action in favor of Central American Refugees, Repatriates, and Displaced Persons adopted by the International Conference on Central American Refugees (CIREFCA) and to voice its deep sense of satisfaction with that Conference, held in Guatemala City from May 29 through 31, 1989.
2. To support the programs developed by the governments of the countries participating in the Concerted Plan of Action of CIREFCA and to continue full observance of the principles of international protection and of basic human rights.
3. To welcome the establishment of the CIREFCA follow-up mechanisms, at the national and international levels, and the plan to hold the next meeting of the CIREFCA Follow-up Committee in the early months of 1990.
4. To express its thanks for the valuable contribution from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for the preparation and holding of the Conference and for the implementation of the Plan of Action, and for the support received from other international organizations, the United Nations Development Programme in particular.
5. To urge all the member states, the Inter-American Specialized Organizations, and other national and subregional, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, and the international community in general to participate in the Plan of Action and provide all the support needed to carry it out.

6. To renew its support for the Cooperation Program that the General Secretariat is conducting with the UNHCR, and to request the General Secretariat to report on that Cooperation Program to the General Assembly at its twentieth regular session.