

AG/RES. 1039 (XX-0/90)

THE LEGAL SITUATION OF REFUGEES, REPATRIATED
AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE

(Resolution adopted at the eighth plenary session,
held on June 8, 1990)

WHEREAS:

Through resolutions AG/RES. 774 (XV-0/85), AG/RES. 838 (XVI-0/86), AG/RES. 891 (XVII-0/87), AG/RES. 951 (XVIII-0/88), and AG/RES. 1021 (XIX-0/89), the General Assembly expressed its concern for those persons who, as refugees, repatriated or displaced persons, have received protection and humanitarian assistance throughout the Americas;

In the last year, thousands of refugees from Central American States and Chile have voluntarily returned to their countries of origin;

While material assistance to uprooted persons comes by way of various organizations in the form of emergency humanitarian assistance, reconstruction or development, the international protection of refugees and the quest for solutions to their problems are functions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and in finding those solutions, the principles of international protection of refugees must be observed;

The Declaration of Cartagena de Indias on refugees makes an important contribution to solving the problem of refugees in the Americas and to the advancement of the International Law of Refugees;

Document CIREFCA/9 of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, titled "Principles and Criteria for the Protection of and Assistance to Central American Refugees, Repatriated and Displaced Persons in Latin America," is an important frame of reference for the member states of the OAS affected by the Central American refugee problem, and for the international community, in dealing with the topic; and

The OAS-UNHCR Cooperation Program on the legal situation of refugees in the American hemisphere has been highly useful and must be continued in order to contribute to the legal focus on the issues raised in the CIREFCA concerted Plan of Action,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES:

1. To express its satisfaction with the goodwill demonstrated by those governments that have made possible the voluntary repatriation of thousands of Latin American refugees in the last year, and also its hope that those persons will be able to be fully reintegrated into their countries of origin.

2. To reiterate the OAS' concern for the protection of refugees, repatriated and displaced persons in the region.

3. To urge the member states of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Specialized Organizations, regional and subregional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the First International Meeting of the CIREFCA Follow-up Committee to be held shortly in New York, and to lend their support to projects developed in the context of CIREFCA.

4. To renew its support for the Cooperation Program that the General Secretariat has been developing with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and to request it to present a report on that Cooperation Program to the General Assembly at its twenty-first regular session.

5. To ask the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to continue its studies on the Rights of Refugees and the Right of Asylum within the inter-American system.