

AG/RES. 774 (XV-0/85)

LEGAL STATUS OF ASYLEES, REFUGEES, AND DISPLACED PERSONS
IN THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE

(Resolution adopted at the third plenary session,
held on December 9, 1985)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That several member states of the OAS have recognized the international protection extended to refugees under the 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol and have applied the fair and generous practices on asylum deriving from regional instruments on this matter;

That although the number of refugees in the American region has stabilized, the extent and complexity of the problems affecting persons who in earlier years fled their countries because of armed conflict and internal unrest is still cause for concern;

That in November 1984, the colloquy on the International Protection of Refugees in Central America, Mexico and Panama, sponsored by the Government of Colombia and cosponsored by the Universidad de Cartagena de Indias, the Regional Center for Third World Studies, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), was held in Cartagena;

That the colloquy in reference adopted the Declaration of Cartagena on Refugees, the conclusions of which include recommendations that are consistent with the basic standards on refugees set forth in various international instruments and could contribute to the adoption of appropriate measures for the security and protection of this category of persons in the American region;

That the positive effort the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been undertaking together with the authorities in the countries offering asylum and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that are cooperating in this humanitarian task should also be pointed out; and

That the effort of the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Office of the UNHCR under the cooperative program established by the two agencies in 1982 should also be commended,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its confidence that the countries of the region will continue to cooperate in an effective international endeavor on behalf of refugees.

2. To call upon the member states to create conditions and mechanisms that will permit the voluntary repatriation of refugees in the hemisphere as a definitive solution to the distressing problem that affects them.

3. To underscore the importance of the Declaration of Cartagena on Refugees and recommend to the member states that they apply that Declaration in dealing with the refugees in their territory.

4. To note with satisfaction the progress of the work being carried out under the joint UNHCR/OAS program and to thank the General Secretariat for its cooperation in this effort.