

AG/RES. 838 (XVI-0/86)

INTER-AMERICAN ACTION ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES

(Resolution adopted at the ninth plenary session,
held on November 15, 1986)

WHEREAS:

In its resolution AG/RES. 774 (XV-0/85), the General Assembly expressed its confidence that the States of the region would continue to cooperate toward effective international action in behalf of refugees, and recommended to the member states that they apply the Declaration of Cartagena on Refugees in dealing with refugees in their territories;

In 1986, the Geneva Convention of 1951 and its Protocol of 1967 were ratified by some of the member states of the OAS, and they continue to apply regional instruments in this field by means of fair and generous practices;

The number of refugees in some countries in the Central American area has increased during the current year as a consequence of armed conflicts and internal disorders in their countries of origin, and the magnitude and complexity of the problems affecting such persons is a matter of concern;

Emphasis should also be given to the positive work being carried out by the United Nations. Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in addition to that of the authorities of the recipient countries and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that offer their cooperation in this humanitarian task, both in dealing with the refugees and with their voluntary repatriation; and

The work being carried out by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the UNHCR is equally deserving of praise in the framework of the cooperation program established by both international organizations in 1982,

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its confidence that the countries of the region will continue to provide assistance and ensure international protection for refugees, particularly with reference to observance of the principle of non-refoulement to the giving of refuge to individuals or groups.

2. To stress the importance of humanitarian and apolitical criteria prevailing in dealing with refugees and their voluntary repatriation, and to emphasize the need for such criteria to be strictly observed by the

authorities of the recipient country, the country of origin of the refugees and other concerned parties.

3. To reiterate the request to 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.

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