

AG/RES. 951 (XVIII-O/88)

CENTRAL AMERICAN REFUGEES AND REGIONAL EFFORTS
TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS

(Resolution adopted at the thirteenth plenary session,
held on November 19, 1988)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That resolutions AG/RES. 774 (XV-O/85), AG/RES. 838 (XVI-O/86) and AG/RES. 891 (XVII-O/87) have paid special attention 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;

That in accordance with paragraph 8 of the Procedure for Establishing Firm and Lasting Peace in Central America (Esquipas II), the states of the Central American region undertook to deal on an urgent basis with the refugee problem and possible solutions thereto, particularly voluntary repatriation;

That through the Communiqué of San Salvador of September 9, 1988, the governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Nicaragua have called an International Conference on Central American Refugees, to be held in Guatemala City in May of 1989;

That those governments have committed themselves to insist upon the humanitarian and apolitical approach that should prevail in addressing and solving the problems of refugees, repatriated and displaced persons and that all the parties concerned should observe that approach;

That the imperative task of finding concrete solutions to the problems of refugees, repatriated and displaced persons in Central America take duly into account the development requirements of the areas and countries directly affected by the massive influx of such persons;

That the United Nations General Assembly has given special importance to the situation concerning refugees, repatriated and displaced persons in the area, a topic that is also the object of a chapter in the Emergency Program of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (Resolutions 42/1, 42/110, 42/204 and 42/231) of the United Nations General Assembly;

That likewise, the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported, at its thirty-ninth session, a conclusion that concerns specifically the topic of the International Conference;

That emphasis should also be placed on the tripartite mechanisms, with the participation of the IACHR, which the countries of asylum and origin have instituted to encourage voluntary repatriation;

That similar recognition should be given to the studies currently being conducted by the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the framework of the program of cooperation under way since 1982,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the decision taken by the Government of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua to convoke, with the cooperation of UNHCR, the International Conference on Central American Refugees to be held in Guatemala City in May 1989.

2. To endorse the commitment assumed by the aforementioned governments to continue addressing the problems of refugees and their voluntary repatriation or resettlement in third countries on the basis of humanitarian and nonpolitical considerations, as well as the preparatory work for the Conference and the Conference itself.

3. To urge the member states, the specialized inter-American organizations, and other regional, subregional, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations closely associated with the humanitarian effort on behalf of Central American refugees, as well as the international community to participate in the Conference and provide all the support needed for holding this event.