

AG/RES. 2665 (XLI-O/11)

PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF STATELESSNESS AND PROTECTION
OF STATELESS PERSONS IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 7, 2011)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING resolution AG/RES. 1971 (XXXIII-O/03), “The Protection of Refugees, Returnees, and Stateless and Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas,” as well as the appeal made for ratification of the international conventions on statelessness in resolutions AG/RES. 1693 (XXIX-O/99), “The Situation of Refugees and Returnees in the Americas”; AG/RES. 1762 (XXX-O/00), “The Situation of Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas”; AG/RES. 1832 (XXXI-O/01) and AG/RES. 1892 (XXXII-O/02), “The Protection of Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons in the Americas”; AG/RES. 2511 (XXXIX-O/09), “Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas; and, in particular, resolution AG/RES. 2599 (XL-O/10), “Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons in the Americas”;

CONSIDERING that in the Brasilia Declaration on the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons in the Americas of November 11, 2010, it was resolved to “urge countries in the Americas to consider acceding to the international instruments on statelessness, reviewing their national legislation to prevent and reduce situations of statelessness, and strengthening national mechanisms for comprehensive birth registration”;

CONVINCED that statelessness is a serious global problem that calls for broad international cooperation and the development of related programs;

RECOGNIZING that it is essentially the responsibility of states to prevent and reduce statelessness;

EMPHASIZING the tradition in the countries of the Americas to prevent and reduce statelessness by granting nationality through the combined application of the principles of *ius soli*, for children born in their territories, and of *ius sanguinis*, for those born in other countries;

RECOGNIZING that some countries of the region have recently introduced legislative amendments or practices to determine the status of, or to provide protection to, stateless persons;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that 13 member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have acceded to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and that six are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;

EMPHASIZING the importance of the right to nationality in the Americas, recognized in Article XIX of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and in Article 20 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as well as the relevance of promoting accession to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the Right to Identity, given that recognition of the identity of persons is one of the means through which observance of the rights to legal personhood, a name, a nationality, civil registration, and family relationships is facilitated, among other rights recognized in international and inter-American instruments; and

EMPHASIZING that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and expressing its appreciation to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for its technical and financial cooperation and for its efforts in the Americas to help states prevent and reduce statelessness and to extend its protection to stateless persons,

RESOLVES:

1. To emphasize the importance of the universal instruments for the protection of stateless persons: the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

2. To urge those member states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as the case may be, the international instruments in the area of stateless persons, and to promote the adoption of procedures and institutional mechanisms for their application, in accordance with those instruments.

3. To urge member states, without prejudice to their ratification of, or accession to, the international instruments on statelessness, to consider adoption of domestic legal provisions to prevent and reduce statelessness and protect stateless persons.

4. To urge those member states that have not yet done so, in accordance with the international instruments on statelessness to which they are party, to review their national legislation with a view to preventing and reducing statelessness and to strengthening national mechanisms for universal birth registration.

5. To urge the member states and the international community to collaborate on and support strengthening and consolidation of the programs of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the area of identification, prevention, and reduction of statelessness and international protection of stateless persons.

6. To reaffirm the importance of international cooperation in the provision of appropriate technical and advisory services to prepare and implement legislation regarding nationality and effective protection to stateless persons.

7. To instruct the Permanent Council, through the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs and with support from the Department of International Law of the General Secretariat and technical and financial cooperation as may be provided by the UNHCR, to emphasize the topic of statelessness in its promotional and training activities, particularly in view of the fact that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

8. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities

envisaged in this resolution will be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.