Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/578)]

56/134. Follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States

The General Assembly,


Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,²

Reaffirming the importance and continuing validity of the Programme of Action, adopted in 1996 by the Regional Conference to Address the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Relevant Neighbouring States,³ as a basic guiding tool for future activities,

Recognizing the ongoing acuteness of the migration and displacement problems in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the necessity to follow up the Conference,

Recalling the decision of the Steering Group of the Conference at its fifth meeting to continue activities in the process entitled “Follow-up to the 1996 Geneva Conference on the Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Migration and Asylum Issues” for a period of five years,

Welcoming the Work Plan for the Thematic Issues, prepared jointly by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

¹ A/55/472.
Europe and the Council of Europe in accordance with the recommendations adopted
by the Steering Group at its fifth meeting,

Welcoming also the convening, at Kiev from 11 to 13 December 2000, of the
first meeting of experts within the framework of the newly launched thematic
process on citizenship and statelessness, as well as international efforts aimed at
improving migration and border management, with due respect to refugee protection
matters, and encouraging all lead agencies to continue to implement the Work Plan,

Reaffirming the view of the Conference that the primary responsibility for
tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries
themselves and that these issues are to be regarded as national priorities, while at
the same time recognizing the need for enhancing international support for the
national efforts of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States aimed
at the effective implementation of such responsibilities within the framework of the
Programme of Action adopted by the Conference,

Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in developing strategies and
practical tools for more effective capacity-building in countries of origin and
enhancing programmes to address the needs of various categories of concern to the
countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Taking note of positive results emanating from the implementation of the
Programme of Action,

Convinced of the necessity of further strengthening practical measures and of
continuing to maintain the regional approach for the achievement of effective
implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling that the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening
doctoric institutions are essential to prevent mass population displacement,

Mindful that adherence to the principles and the recommendations contained in
the Programme of Action should be facilitated and can be ensured only through
coeperation and coordinated activities undertaken in this respect by all interested
States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other actors,

1. Takes note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees;2

2. Calls upon the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of
Independent States, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the
Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to strengthen their efforts and
mutual cooperation relating to the follow-up to the Regional Conference to Address the
Problems of Refugees, Displaced Persons, Other Forms of Involuntary Displacement
and Returnees in the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and
Relevant Neighbouring States, and welcomes the positive results achieved by them in
the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference;3

3. Invites all States that have not yet done so to accede to and implement
fully the 1951 Convention4 and the 1967 Protocol5 relating to the Status of
Refugees;

5 Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
4. **Calls upon** States and interested international organizations, in a spirit of solidarity and burden-sharing, to provide appropriate forms and levels of support for activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

5. **Invites** international financial and other institutions to contribute to the financing of projects and programmes within the framework of such follow-up activities;

6. **Invites** the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to intensify bilateral, subregional and regional cooperation in maintaining the balance of commitments and interests in such activities;

7. **Calls upon** the Governments of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States to continue to strengthen their commitment to the principles underpinning the Programme of Action, in particular principles of human rights and refugee protection, and to lend high-level political support to ensure the implementation of activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

8. **Invites** the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration to enhance their mutual relationship with other key international actors, such as the Council of Europe, the European Commission and human rights, development and financial institutions, in order better to address the wide-ranging and complex issues in activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

9. **Welcomes** the progress made in building civil society, in particular through the development of the non-governmental sector and the development of cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Governments of a number of countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and notes in this regard the relationship between adherence to the principles of the Programme of Action and success in promoting civil society, especially in the field of human rights;

10. **Encourages** the involvement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the follow-up to the Conference, and invites them to demonstrate stronger support for the process of multinational constructive dialogue among a wide range of countries concerned;

11. **Emphasizes** the necessity of undertaking follow-up activities to the Programme of Action in relation to ensuring respect for human rights as an important factor in the management of migration flows, the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and stability;

12. **Recognizes** the importance of taking measures, on the basis of strict adherence to all of the principles of international law, including humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, to prevent situations that lead to new flows of refugees, displaced persons and other forms of involuntary displacement;

13. **Requests** the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the progress achieved in the implementation of activities undertaken in follow-up to the Programme of Action;

14. **Decides** to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-eighth session.