

RESOLUTION ON THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PLIGHT OF REFUGEES,
RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Forty-seventh Ordinary Session, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 22 to 27 February 1988,

Having considered the report of the OAU Commission of Fifteen on Refugees on the general situation of refugees in Africa and especially with regard to the preparations underway for the holding of an International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa,

Recalling its Resolution CM/Res.1117 (XLVI) of July 1987, on the grave and deteriorating situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Southern Africa region, and the consequent heavy burden borne by the countries of the region,

Noting with appreciation the steps so far taken by the Secretary-General towards the convening of the International Conference with a view to: sensitizing the international community to the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa;

Noting with satisfaction the co-operation and support of the United Nations Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees which have culminated in the adoption of UN General Assembly Resolution 42/106 of December 1987, calling on the United Nations system for its support in the preparation and organization of the Conference,

Emphasizing the need for all Member States of the OAU to fully participate at the Ministerial level, in the said Conference,

Recognizing the importance and urgency to prepare comprehensive and exhaustive documentation reflecting the situation and magnitude of the burden

borne by the countries of the region as well as the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH APPRECIATION** of the reports of the OAU Commission of Fifteen on Refugees and of the OAU Secretary-General highlighting the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa in particular;
2. **EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION** to the Secretary-General for the action so far taken towards the convening of the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa;
3. **EXPRESSES FURTHER ITS GRATITUDE** to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UNDP Administrator for their support, co-operation and the concrete contributions they are making towards the realization of the Conference;
4. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the gesture demonstrated by the Government of Norway in accepting to host the Conference in Oslo, from 29 to 31 August 1988;
5. **COMMENDS** the Steering Committee of the Conference for the initiatives and actions so far taken to mobilize human, financial and material resources needed for the preparation of the said Conference and **URGES** it to continue with its efforts to ensure the success of the Conference;
6. **APPEALS** to the Frontline and other neighboring independent States in Southern Africa to give all the needed assistance and co-operation to the inter-agency missions which will soon visit these States for the purpose of preparing technically sound and comprehensive documentation for presentation of the Conference;

- 7. EXHORTS all Member States of the OAU and all the National Liberation Movements recognized by the OAU to ensure their full and effective participation in the said Conference and accordingly URGES all Member States to be represented at Ministerial level;**

- 8. CALLS FURTHER on the Member States of the United Nations and the international community, including non-governmental organizations which contribute to humanitarian programmes in Africa, to demonstrate their commitment and adherence to the principles of burden sharing and international solidarity by fully participating in the Conference and by making concrete contributions to the realization of the Conference's objectives.**