

**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-ninth Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 20 to 25 February, 1989,

Recalling its Resolutions CM/Res.939 (XL) and CM/Res.1040 (XLIV) of July 1984 and 1989 respectively,

Having carefully considered the report of the Secretary-General on the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa held in Oslo, Norway, from 22 to 24 August 1988,

Welcoming the results obtained by the Conference, in particular the adoption of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action, which provide the international community with a collective strategy to bring relief to the refugees, returnees and displaced persons, as well as to achieve lasting solutions to the problem in Southern Africa,

Deeply concerned by the increasing and serious problem of large flows of refugees, returnees and displaced persons,

Concerned with the plight of internally displaced persons and the need to ensure the timely implementation and overall co-ordination of relief programmes for these people,

Noting that the root causes of the refugee and displaced persons' situation in Southern Africa are largely due to the apartheid system in South Africa, the illegal colonial occupation of Namibia, acts of aggression and banditry,

Fully aware of the economic and social dislocation and the burden borne by the Frontline and other neighboring States in the sub-region, as a result of the aggression of the racist regime,

Recognizing the need for international solidarity and responsibility and noting with satisfaction the wide participation of Member States of the OAU and of the United Nations, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the commitments and pledges made at the Conference:

- 1. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme for their commendable and collective efforts in organizing the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa;**
- 2. EXPRESSES ITS DEEP APPRECIATION to the Government of Norway for hosting the Conference and for the steps taken by it to ensure its success as well as to the Governments of Finland, Denmark and Sweden for the financial support they gave for the preparatory activities of the Conference;**
- 3. FULLY ENDORSES the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action of the International Conference on the Plight of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Southern Africa, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;**
- 4. CALLS ON the international community to maintain the spirit of the Oslo Declaration in relation to the expression of international solidarity and to commit themselves to providing increased and additional resources for programmes in favor of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa, as well as to work assiduously for the elimination of**

apartheid in South Africa and colonialism in Namibia, as outlined in the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action;

- 5. REQUESTS the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity to take appropriate measures in order to keep the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa under constant review and to ensure in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as well as relevant inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, the implementation of the provisions of the Oslo Declaration and Plan of Action, to the Fiftieth Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers on the action taken;**

- 6. REQUESTS the African Group at the United Nations to take urgent and necessary measures to ensure the implementation of paragraph 5 of the Plan of Action relating to internally displaced persons and to secure universal condemnation of military or armed attacks as contained in paragraph 15 of the Oslo Declaration;**

- 7. EXPRESSES FURTHER ITS GRATITUDE to the Frontline and other neighboring States for their continuous willingness to offer sanctuary and security as well as for their efforts to alleviate the plight of refugees, returnees and displaced persons;**

- 8. EXPRESSES ONCE AGAIN ITS SINCERE APPRECIATION to the international community and in particular to all donor countries, specialized agencies, regional organizations and inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations for their support and pledges to meet the cost of programmes in favor of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Southern Africa;**

- 9. REAFFIRMS the need for complementarity of refugees aid and development assistance in order to rebuild and strengthen the social and economic infrastructures of the countries of Southern Africa;**

- 10. INVITES the United Nations Specialized Agencies, having specific programmes for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, as well as the inter-governmental, international and regional organizations and voluntary agencies involved in humanitarian work, to pursue and intensify their activities and programmes in support of refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and to promote effective co-operation among their respective central and field/branch offices, for the benefit of refugees and displaced persons.**