

**RESOLUTION ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND  
DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**

The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixty-first Ordinary Session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 23 to 27 January 1995,

Having considered the report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons,

Having also considered the document entitled “The Addis Ababa Document on Refugees and Forced Population displacements in Africa” emanating from the International Symposium organized by the OAU and the UNHCR to commemorate the Twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of the Refugee Problems in Africa and the Twentieth anniversary of its coming into force on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1974,

Recalling Resolution CM/Res.1527 (LX) on the Organization of a Regional Conference on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes Region,

Deeply concerned about the seriousness of the situation of the refugees and displaced persons,

Appreciating the great sacrifices the countries of asylum are making for refugees in the spirit of African solidarity and traditional hospitality,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by the Heads of State and Government of the Great Lakes countries and the neighbouring countries during the Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 7 January 1995,

Hailing the steps so far taken by the African countries and the international community to alleviate the problems of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Region,

Desirous of finding an African solution to the problem of refugees and displaced persons:

- 1 TAKES NOTE of the Report of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees and EXPRESSES its thanks to the Member states, United Nations, Member States of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations as well as academicians who participated in the joint OAU/UNHCR Symposium on Refugees and Forced Population Displacements in Africa held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 8 to 10 September 1994;
- 2 WELCOMES the recommendations adopted by the OAU/UNHCR Symposium as an important contribution to tackling the problems and challenges of forced population displacements in Africa and commends these recommendations to the OAU Commission of Fifteen on Refugees for consideration and subsequent promotion of their implementation by Member States;
- 3 FURTHER EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION at the on-going preparations to ensure the success of the Regional Conference on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and displaced persons scheduled for Bujumbura, Burundi, from 12 to 17 February 1995;
- 4 EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to Member States for continuing to host refugees and displaced persons in spite of the security, economic, environmental and social burdens on most African countries;

- 5       **COMMENDS** the OAU Member States, donor countries as well as UNHCR and ICRC for the assistance provided to the refugees, displaced persons and returnees and **CALLS ON** the international community to further increase its assistance and to also support the efforts underway to promote voluntary repatriation;
  
- 6       **HAILS** the recommendations adopted by the Nairobi Summit on 7 January 1995, aimed at finding a solution to the problem of refugees, returnees and displaced persons as well as the commitment to continue to give the necessary assistance to the refugees, the returnees and the displaced persons;
  
- 7       **COMMENDS FURTHER** Member States that have so far ratified the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees and its 1967 protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention on Refugees, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols, as well as the 1986 African Charter on Human and People's Rights and **APPEALS** once again, to those Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying these humanitarian international instruments, as soon as possible, and adhere to all their provisions;
  
- 8       **CALLS UPON** the international community to redouble its efforts in providing both material and moral support to the OAU and the Member States in promoting lasting solutions to the African refugee problem, especially in tackling conflicts so as to enable the voluntary repatriation of refugees.