

CMDec.459 (LXX) Decision on the Report of the Secretary-General on the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the OAU Commission on Refugees, on the Situation of Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa (Doc.CM/2105 (LXX))

Council:

TAKES NOTE of the Report of the Thirtieth Ordinary Session of the OAU Commission on Refugees, on the Situation of the Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa;

EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN over the persistence of the problem of refugees and displaced persons on the African Continent, and the growing deterioration of the humanitarian situation of these disadvantaged people;

REQUESTS Member States to resolutely address the root-causes of refugees and displaced persons;

EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to Member States hosting refugees in a humanitarian spirit, as well as in the spirit of African solidarity and brotherhood;

URGENTLY APPEALS to Member States to sign and/or ratify the OAU Convention Government the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa if they have not yet done so;

INVITES Member States to take the necessary steps to implement the Declaration and Recommendations adopted by the OAU Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons held in Khartoum, the Sudan from 13 to 14 December 1998;

APPEALS to the International Community within the context of burden sharing to step up its material, financial and technical assistance to the countries affected by the problem of refugees and displaced persons;

INVITES the International Community to help the African countries affected by the presence of refugees in formulating and implementing programmes and projects intended to bring about a rapid transition towards rehabilitation and restructuring, as part of the process aimed at ensuring the resumption of development as early as possible;

URGES Member States as well as the International Community, in collaboration with the UNHCR to commemorate on 10 September, 1999, the Thirtieth Anniversary of the adoption of the OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees Problems in Africa;

APPEALS to the International Community to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to countries faced with the problem of refugees and internally displaced persons by contributing to emergency

projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight;

REQUESTS Member States to take appropriate steps to reinforce security in refugee camps and ensure the protection of humanitarian workers, on the understanding that humanitarian organisations should respect the domestic legislations of the countries in which they operate.