

DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA CM/2171 (LXXII)

Council:

1. TAKES NOTE of the report of the OAU Commission on Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa;
2. APPEALS to Member States to continue to address the root causes of the problem of refugees and displaced persons, and URGES the countries of origin to create the conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation of refugees, in accordance with the international legal instruments on refugees;
3. EXPRESSES ITS GRAVE CONCERN over the treatment of refugees in Africa who do not receive the necessary attention and resources, compared to the assistance granted to refugees in other regions of the world;
4. URGES the International Community to provide adequate support and assistance to refugees in Africa, comparable to the quantum of resources available to refugees in other parts of the world;
5. COMMENDS the asylum countries which continue to play host to and help refugees, in spite of their socio-economic difficulties made worse recently by natural disasters including floods, drought and famine; however, due to growing hostilities metted out on refugees in many asylum countries, FURTHER URGES those countries to develop programmes aimed at educating the host communities on the plight of refugees;
6. THANKS OAU Member States and the International Community, especially the humanitarian agencies which have provided assistance to flood, drought and famine stricken populations in the affected African countries, and APPEALS to them to continue to extend this assistance so vital in meeting the urgent needs of these populations and in implementing long term reconstruction programmes;
7. CALLS FOR the strengthening of co-operation between the OAU and the UN and its agencies, particularly the United Nations Humanitarian Affairs Co-ordination Office, with a view to streamlining their actions in the fight against the scourge of natural or man-made disasters in Africa;
8. ENDORSES the Global Implementation Plan adopted by the OAU/UNHCR Special Meeting of Government and Non-Government Technical Experts organized in Conakry,

Guinea from 27 to 29 March 2000, on the occasion of the Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the OAU Convention on Refugees, as well as recommendations of the 6th OAU/ICRC Seminar on International Humanitarian Law organized in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 15 to 16 May 2000;

9. APPEALS to Member States to ensure the full implementation and follow-up of the Comprehensive Implementation Plan (CIP) and the recommendations of the Sixth OAU/ICRC Seminar on International Humanitarian Law;

10. CALLS ON the International Community to provide the necessary resources and funds to implement the Plan and recommendations emanating from the two meetings;

11. ACCEPTS the proposal of the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the UNHCR to declare 20 June of each year as World Refugee Day.