

AG/RES. 2232 (XXXVI-O/06)

PROTECTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS, REFUGEES, AND RETURNEES IN THE
AMERICAS

(Adopted by the Plenary at its fourth session, held on June 6, 2006)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING its resolution [AG/RES. 2047 \(XXXIV-O/04\)](#), “Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Returnees, and Stateless Persons in the Americas,” and its resolutions [AG/RES. 1762 \(XXX-O/00\)](#), [AG/RES. 1832 \(XXXI-O/01\)](#), [AG/RES. 1892 \(XXXII-O/02\)](#), and [AG/RES. 1971 \(XXXIII-O/03\)](#);

WELCOMING the fact that [*insert exact number*] member states of the Organization of American States have acceded to the [1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#) and [*insert exact number*] to [its 1967 Protocol](#), and that Bolivia, El Salvador, and Venezuela have adopted new domestic legal provisions for the protection of refugees, while Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Uruguay are in the process of adopting new domestic legislation on refugees;

RECOGNIZING the commitment assumed by OAS member states to continue extending protection to asylum seekers, refugees, and returnees, on the basis of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and to seek lasting solutions to their situation;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that efforts to provide protection and assistance and find lasting solutions for refugees in the region are inspired by humanitarian principles, are consistent with international refugee law, and are guided by the spirit of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing, as appropriate, with the support of international cooperation;

RECOGNIZING the efforts that countries of origin have been making, with support from the international community, to deal with the circumstances that generate waves of persons seeking asylum, and the importance of persisting in those efforts;

EMPHASIZING ALSO the efforts made by some receiving countries of the region, faithful to their generous tradition of asylum even under difficult socioeconomic conditions, to continue extending protection to asylum seekers and refugees;

UNDERSCORING the presentation made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on February 17, 2005, entitled “International Protection of Refugees in the Americas: Recent Developments,” on the complexity and the dimensions of forced displacement in the Americas, which primarily affects refugees and internally displaced persons in Latin America and the Caribbean;

UNDERSCORING the importance of the consultative process carried out by the UNHCR, cosponsored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IHR), and the

Norwegian Refugee Council, on the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the [1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees](#), which enabled the governments of Latin America, international organizations, regional experts, and civil society representatives to examine and discuss current challenges and opportunities for strengthening the international protection of asylum seekers, refugees, and returnees in the region;

WELCOMING the adoption by 20 Latin American states, on November 18, 2004, in Mexico City, of the [Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America](#), whose Plan of Action puts forward specific measures for strengthening the protection of refugees and achieving lasting solutions in Latin America;

WELCOMING ALSO the initiatives taken in accordance with that Plan of Action by Argentina and Brazil to establish a regional solidarity resettlement program; and

Recognizing the responsibility of States to provide international protection to refugees as well as the need for international technical and financial cooperation to find durable solutions within the framework of a commitment to consolidate the rule of law in Latin American countries, universal respect for human rights and the principles of international solidarity and responsibility sharing,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm its support for, and emphasize the relevance and fundamental importance of, the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and/or its 1967 Protocol, as the principal universal instruments for the protection of refugees; and to urge the member states that are parties thereto to continue to fulfill effectively all of their obligations in that regard.

2. To urge those states parties that have not yet done so to consider, as the case may be, signing, ratifying, or acceding to the aforementioned instruments, in addition to promoting the adoption of procedures and institutional mechanisms for their effective application, in accordance with those instruments.

3. To support the Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America; and to continue implementing it fully and effectively, with support, as appropriate, from the international community and from the UNHCR.

4. To urge member states and the international community to support and collaborate in the establishment and consolidation of the Regional Solidarity Resettlement Program, proposed in the Mexico Plan of Action, which constitutes an innovative regional solution based on the principles of international solidarity, responsibility-sharing, and international cooperation.

5. To call on member states and the international community to increase technical and economic cooperation to the countries of the Hemisphere that receive refugees and that so require, and to work in cooperation with the UNHCR to provide effective protection to asylum seekers and refugees in the region.

6. To urge member states to continue to apply protection measures that are consistent with international principles of international refugee protection, including, *inter alia*, *non-refoulement*, family unity, and confidentiality in cases of asylum.

7. To recognize the efforts and the progress that the countries of origin have been making and to urge them, to the extent of their ability and with support from the UNHCR and the international community, to continue making efforts to deal with the circumstances that generate waves of persons seeking asylum.

8. To recognize the efforts and the progress that the countries of the region that receive refugees have been making in implementing protective mechanisms, in accordance with international refugee law and the international principles of refugee protection.

9. To underscore the importance of cooperation among the organs of the inter-American system and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in an effort to ensure that innovative regional approaches are taken regarding refugee issues in the Americas.