SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

SUBMITTED TO: The General Assembly Third Committee

The General Assembly Third Committee,

Climate change related natural disasters disproportionately impacting low-income Member States,

Forced evictions and unhoused populations,

Internal conflict, political unrest, and nonstate actors,

The Coronavirus Infectious Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, of which the Assembly has committed to providing vaccinations, testing and treatments for all individuals, including refugees and IDPs,

1. Emphasizes peaceful negotiations among and within Member States, regardless of conflicting beliefs;

2. Further emphasizes potential for exponential economic affluence for the African region, and the prioritization of developing Member States sovereign lands;

3. Strongly concerned with the UNHCR’s failure to adequately distribute allocated budgets through expenditures to aforementioned regions which specifically, in financial year of 2020, UNHCR distributed only:

   (a) 35% of the Operation Budget for Somalia;
   (b) 36% of the Operation Budget for Ethiopia;
   (c) 55% of the Operation Budget for Kenya;
   (d) 47% of the Operation Budget for Sudan;
   (e) 45% of the Operation Budget for Uganda, and;
   (f) Similar figures across Operation Budgets for West and Central Africa, East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, and Southern Africa regions;

4. Recommends that UNHCR commit to an increase in the portion of distributed Operation Budget expenditures by a minimum of 15% each fiscal year (FY) above 2020 levels, until full budget allocation is achieved, beginning no later than FY 2023, for West and Central Africa, East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes and Southern Africa regions;

5. Further requests UNHCR to continue robust increases in expenditures following changes in allocated budget following FY 2020;;

6. Reaffirms that in the full realization of the right to development:

   (a) The right to shelter is a basic human right, and emphasizes the urgent need for Member States to urgently implement national and international strategies to provide this right;
   (b) Health is essential for sustainable development, and the Assembly requests all Governments to take reasonable measures to achieve the realization of the right to such services;
   (c) Education is also an essential factor for the political, social, cultural and economic development of all people;
   (d) Access to employment is critical in providing continued access to shelter, health, education and other general livelihood necessities, and that it is the interest of all Member States to provide opportunities to work within their Member State;

7. Takes note of challenges currently facing refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including proliferations in:
(a) Climate change related natural disasters disproportionately impacting low-income Member States;
(b) Forced evictions and unhoused populations;
(c) Internal conflict, political unrest, and nonstate actors;
(d) The Coronavirus Infectious Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, of which the Assembly has committed to providing vaccinations, testing, and treatments for all individuals, including refugees and IDPs;

8. **Strongly encourages** Member States of West and Central Africa, East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes and Southern Africa regions to utilize expenditures for labor integration programs such as:
   (a) Education, specifically focusing on language based classes;
   (b) Vocational Training; specifically individualized integration plans involving language courses financed by the European Social Fund;
   (c) Healthcare, including vaccination against COVID-19 and advising the reinforcement of aid towards awareness of sexual and reproductive health rights and to support family planning in the region;
   (d) Housing;
   (e) Infrastructure, including roads, broadband, clean water, electricity and other basic physical and organizational structures and facilities;

9. **Strongly recommends** the integration of refugees into the informal economy, through similar integration programs as for the formal sector, seeing as that is a major part of African countries’ economies;

10. **Strongly requests** Member States of West and Central Africa, East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, and Southern Africa regions to recognize refugee’s right to repatriation, should they choose so and to utilize expenditures for such programs;

11. **Also encourages** Member States of these regions to utilize expenditures for climate resistant and sustainable infrastructure;

12. **Recommends** UNHCR provide additional funding for the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee, established in 2011, emphasizing distributing Operation Budgets;

13. **Further recommends** the Independent Audit Oversight Committee files an annual report which will detail progress in executing the contents of this resolution;

14. **Encourages** members of the African regions to consider increased cooperation on the grounds of trade following successfully increased expenditures;

15. **Declares accordingly** the integrity of African region importance in combating international supply-chain shortages caused by COVID-19 pandemic;

16. **Recommends** emphasis on cooperative trade agreements following successful labor integration of refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and IDPs;

17. **Urges** that funds and aid be allocated wisely;

18. **Affirms** the benefits of supervision and the reporting of how funds are used in order to increase trust from donors and the efficacy of their use;

19. **Establishes a platform** for Member States to report on the implementation of labor integration programs, including information on:
   (a) Educational attainment, such number of students currently enrolled in programs, graduation rates and employment after graduation rates;
   (b) Economic growth, such as GDP growth attributed to labor integration;
   (c) Trade prioritizations, such as quantity of products shipped to Member States, and increased transparency of negotiations with Member States on export policy;
   (d) Other essential data;
20. *Strongly urges* that this reporting system be enacted through independent commissions within each Member State, with sponsorship and funding provided by UNHCR;

21. *Implores* the United Nations to acknowledge the disparate impacts caused in part by influxes of displaced persons to neighboring countries and encourages Member States to establish policies that ensure quality of life for refugees, migrants, asylum seekers and IDPs;

22. *Reminds* Member States in Latin America, North America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Europe that commitments in supporting labor integration policies will be looked favorably upon by members of the African regions;

23. *Further reminds* the aforementioned Member States that labor integration has the capacity to provide increased economic and social affluence internationally through enhanced cooperation of trade;

24. *Invites* assistance from other Member States including Latin America, North America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Europe;

25. *Calls upon* Member States outside of the European Union to increase their financial and humanitarian support.

Passed, Yes: 29 / No: 3 / Abstain: 10