

ECDC/ARN
Eighth National Conference
May 13-15, 2002
African Refugees: The Search for Solutions in a Changing World

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the suspension of the United States refugee resettlement program and its slow recovery in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks has produced tragic consequences for many African refugees who were anticipating reunions with family members already living here; and,

WHEREAS, millions of additional refugees still languish in camps throughout Africa where malnutrition is rampant, housing inadequate, health care minimal and abuse of women and children a growing reality; and,

WHEREAS, resettlement to a third country is the only viable solution for many of these refugees, and for other urban refugees stranded in such areas as Moscow and Cairo where they are increasingly being brutalized by hate groups, and,

WHEREAS, the annual admissions ceilings for Africa has traditionally lagged behind other areas, even though they account for more than 30 percent of refugees worldwide,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the United States increase its support for refugee protection and assistance by allocating a minimum of \$841 million for the Department of State's Migration and Refugee Assistance account for fiscal year 2003, an amount that would provide \$581 million for overseas assistance, and accommodate an overall admissions level up to 90,000 refugees; and,

that the African refugee admissions ceiling be increased to at least 50,000 over the next two years to make up for the shortfall resulting from the interrupted flow this year, and adjusted annually thereafter to a level more consistent with their numbers and needs.

Unanimously approved by attendees of the conference with grateful acknowledgment of the generous support our new homeland has historically provided to refugees, immigrants and asylees and with confident hope that the tragic events of September 11 will not erode America's tradition of hospitality and welcome for the world's dispossessed.

Approved this 15th day of May, 2002 in Washington, D.C.