Recognizing the need to take steps to assist African States to improve the security of refugees and to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements in accordance with international refugee, human rights and humanitarian law,

Stressing the particular security needs of women, children and the elderly, who are the most vulnerable groups in refugee camps and settlements,

Recalling resolutions 52/103 and 52/132 of the General Assembly regarding, respectively, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and human rights and mass exoduses,

1. Reaffirms the importance of the principles relating to the status of refugees and the common standards for their treatment contained in the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as modified by the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees of 31 January 1967;

2. Underlines the particular relevance of the provisions contained in the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa of 10 September 1969;

3. Affirms the primary responsibility of States hosting refugees to ensure the security and civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements in accordance with international refugee, human rights and humanitarian law;

4. Calls upon African States further to develop institutions and procedures to implement the provisions of international law relating to the status and treatment of refugees and the provisions of the OAU Convention, especially those relating to the location of refugees at a reasonable distance from the frontier of their country of origin and the separation of refugees from other persons who do not qualify for international protection afforded refugees or otherwise do not require international protection, and in this regard urges African States to seek international assistance, as appropriate;

5. Recognizes the primary responsibility of the UNHCR, with the assistance of other relevant international bodies and organizations, to support African States in their actions directed towards the full respect and implementation of the provisions of international law relating to the status and treatment of refugees, and requests the UNHCR, as needed, to keep in close touch with the Secretary-General, the OAU, subregional organizations and the States concerned in this regard;

6. Notes that a range of measures by the international community are needed to share the burden borne by African States hosting refugees and to support their efforts to ensure the security and civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, including in the areas of law enforcement, disarmament of armed elements, curtailment of the flow of arms in refugee camps and settlements, separation of refugees from other persons who do not qualify for international protection afforded refugees or otherwise do not require international protection, and demobilization and reintegration of former combatants;

7. Notes also that the range of measures referred to in paragraph 6 above could include training, logistical and technical advice and assistance, financial support, the enhancement of national law enforcement mechanisms, the provision or supervision of security guards and the deployment in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations of international police and military forces;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to respond, as appropriate, to requests from African States, the OAU and subregional organizations for advice and technical assistance in the implementation of international refugee, human rights and humanitarian law relevant to the present resolution, including through appropriate training programmes and seminars;

9. Urges the UNHCR, other relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, Member States, the OAU and subregional organizations to initiate coordinated programmes to provide advice, training and technical or other assistance, as appropriate, to African States which host refugee populations, with a