

Forum: The General Assembly

Question of: Enhancing Strategies to End Statelessness

Submitted by: Sweden



Co-submitted by: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte D'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, St Lucia, Swaziland, Togo, Trinidad And Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Vanuatu

1 The General Assembly,

2

3 *Noting with deep regret* the large number of stateless persons worldwide (an estimate of
4 over 10 million) and the reported figure of over 10,000 stateless persons in 20 countries in
5 2013, which is the cut-off point for what is considered to be significant stateless population
6 according to the UN,

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8 *Recalling* that 97.6% of the stateless persons reported in UNHCR statistics globally can be
9 found in these 20 countries,

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11 *Noting with great concern* the exacerbation of the situation resulting from conflicts forcing
12 many to seek asylum and refuge as well as complicated nationality transfer procedures
13 resulting from state succession following political reformation,

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15 *Recalling* the existing two conventions, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of
16 Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reducing of Statelessness, which only
17 less than half of all states are party of,

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19 *Noting* the difficulty in encouraging all states to become party of the conventions due to
20 differences in laws and regulations as well as different political agenda,

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22 *Taking into account* that the Global Action Plan by the UNHCR is in place and the goals are
23 continuously, yet slowly, worked towards by the UN and its member states,

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25 *Stating with satisfaction* the successful reformation of nationality and naturalization laws in
26 states such as Côte d'Ivoire and Sweden, allowing the stateless to acquire citizenship more
27 easily than before,

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29 *Emphasising* the importance of communication and mutual understanding between the
30 states and their residents in identifying stateless individuals, their specific problems and
31 coming to agreement on the legal solutions,
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33 *Noting* that stateless persons do not have any means of identification, and certain
34 documents for the stateless persons are not accepted and acknowledge by all member
35 states of the UN,
36

37 **1. Urges** all states to become parties of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of
38 Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reducing of Statelessness, in turn
39 amending their national conventions and laws as appropriate in order to be in line with
40 these UN Conventions, including but not limited to:

- 41 a. Loosening the legal procedures and reducing the requirements for
42 naturalisation in the interest of stateless persons, especially children,
- 43 b. Implementing the standards of treatment and legal framework
44 considering the rights of the stateless persons;
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46 **2. Further urges** all States to become parties of the 1957 Convention on the Nationality
47 of Married Women, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
48 Discrimination Against Women, the 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of
49 All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child in
50 order to respect the rights of the groups in question;
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52 **3. Strongly stresses** the importance of awareness in terms of rights and procedures in
53 the part of the stateless persons, which allows the pro-active approach from the
54 stateless in seeking their nationality, therefore **encourages**:

- 55 a. Awareness campaigns about statelessness, not only to the stateless but
56 also the general public, providing information on the rights of the
57 stateless and ways by which the general public can aid stateless persons,
- 58 b. Volunteering groups, facilitated by the UNHCR and NGOs, such as the
59 European Network on Statelessness (ENS), to explain the legal procedures
60 of the state in question and to help the stateless in reaching the
61 appropriate authorities;
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63 **4. Further stresses** the importance of communication between the stateless persons and
64 their interested state authorities (whether it be the state of residency or state of
65 descent), with further emphasis on improving the media of communication and
66 feedback through ways such as but not limited to:

- 67 a. Implementing an open and direct line of communication between the
68 stateless and the authorities through subordinate bodies specialised in
69 advising and aiding the stateless,
- 70 b. Establishing networks of communication intra and inter-states, such as
71 the ENS, which could either be governmental or non-governmental,
72 allowing national and international co-operation in making the voices of

73 the stateless heard and maximising their chances of obtaining a
74 nationality;

75
76 **5. Recommends** the targeting of the 20 countries where 97.6% of the number of
77 stateless persons can be found in, through ways such as but not limited to:

- 78 a. Tailoring action plans for each of these countries in terms of amendment
79 to conventions and legislations, the implementation of such laws and the
80 establishment of specialised authoritative bodies and networks,
- 81 b. Directing the majority of campaigns and aid from the UNHCR, NGOs and
82 more economically developed countries to these 20 countries;

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84 **6. Calls for** the creation of regional UNHCR bodies and NGOs, allowing tighter and more
85 rigorous monitoring of the situation, whose purpose is to enhance the awareness and
86 communication of the stateless persons by:

- 87 a. Appointing personnel to identify areas where the stateless persons reside
88 in the region and emerging areas,
- 89 b. Posting authoritative personnel in concentrated areas of the stateless
90 persons, such as refugee camps and areas of extreme poverty,
- 91 c. Ensuring that in the process of seeking and obtaining a nationality, the
92 stateless' well-being is sustained through entitlement to healthcare,
93 employment and education in the state of residency through
94 opportunities created by the state and/or the UN,
- 95 d. Ensuring that the stateless' voices are heard and their rights are being
96 respected by the state's authorities;

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98 **7. Strongly urges** all states to work in co-operation with the UNHCR and NGOs in order
99 to:

- 100 a. Provide statistics regarding the stateless,
- 101 b. Obtain the goals and reaching the milestones of the UNHCR's Global
102 Action Plan in the time frame given;

103
104 **8. Encourages** the UNHCR to amend the Global Action Plan every 2 years, where
105 appropriate, to allow targets and goals to be more updated to the current situation
106 concerning the stateless;

107
108 **9. Urges** the creation of documentation for the stateless that is internationally accepted
109 by all members of the UN in order to guarantee:

- 110 a. A clear definition and status of the stateless persons,
 - 111 b. Simple rights and care for the stateless persons, ensured by the state
112 authorities and UNHCR,
 - 113 c. Legally binding conditions for the stateless which help ensure the respect
114 of their basic rights but also of international laws;
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10. Recommends all member states to accept the identification documents held by residents of non-state areas.