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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Fifty-sixth session
3-7 October 2005

REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME
HELD AT GENEVA ON 13 APRIL 2005

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

1. An extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme was held on 13 April 2005 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Hernán Escudero Martínez (Ecuador), Chairman of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. The meeting was convened in order to elect a new Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee.

B. Opening of the Meeting

2. The Chairman opened the meeting. Before proceeding with the agenda, the Chairman expressed to the representative of the Holy See the condolences of the Executive Committee for the loss of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, whom he described as one of the most remarkable men our time, a spiritual leader who fought with immense faith and profound conviction for world peace and human dignity.

C. Representation on the Committee

3. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chili, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, India, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, New-Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America and Yemen.

D. Adoption of the Agenda

4. The Executive Committee adopted by consensus the following agenda (A/AC.96/1004):

1. Opening remarks by the Chairman
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of a Vice-Chairman
4. Any other business
5. Closing remarks by the Acting High Commissioner and the Chairman

II. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

5. The Committee by acclamation elected as Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee His Excellency Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki (Japan), who had been nominated by the representative of the Philippines and seconded by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America.

6. The Chairman subsequently informed the Committee that he might not be able to continue serving the Committee as Chairman beyond some weeks. If this was confirmed, he would consult with members on timing and arrangements for electing a new Chairman.

7. A full account of the deliberations of the Committee is contained in the summary record of the meeting (A/AC.96/SR. 588).