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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Fifty-seventh session
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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda

REPORTS ON THE WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE: PROGRAMME BUDGETS, MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTROL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee
Submitted by the High Commissioner

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifty-sixth session in October 2005, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2006.¹ This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.

2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2006: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2005 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the different agenda items in 2006. This is provided in Annex I.

¹ A/AC.96/1021, paragraph 26.

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee in 2006 is contained in the following reports: *Report of the Thirty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1022); *Report of the Thirty-sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1032); and *Report of the Thirty-seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1034). A list of documents relating to these meetings is provided in Annex II.

II. ISSUES COVERED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN 2006

A. Programme budgets and funding

4. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee considered updates on overall programme budgets and funding through which it was kept informed of programme requirements, budgetary measures and funding levels. The Committee also adopted decisions at each of its meetings, as listed in section III below. At the June meeting, the Committee considered the final evaluation of the two-year pilot phase of Operational Reserve Category II and the Global Report on UNHCR's activities in 2005. At the September meeting, the Annual Programme Budget for 2007, including the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) were reviewed by the Standing Committee.

B. International Protection

5. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the implementation of the Agenda for Protection, as well as reports on statelessness and on issues related to women at risk. The June meeting included a debate on the Note on International Protection, including the latest information on implementation of the Agenda for Protection and a progress report on resettlement.

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6. Regional reviews of UNHCR's programmes and activities in all five regions – Africa and the Special Operations for Chad/Sudan; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; North Africa and the Middle East (CASWANAME); and Europe – were considered comprehensively at the Standing Committee's meeting in March. In addition to the regional reviews, the Committee also considered the Office's global programmes and partnerships, covering operational agreements with United Nations agencies as well as sector-specific initiatives. This review of regional and global activities was articulated around the global objectives contained in the Global Appeal for 2006 and emphasized progress and challenges encountered with respect to the implementation of the Agenda for Protection. The Committee also considered a report on emergency preparedness and response in March and received an update on staff safety and security in September.

D. Programme/Protection policy

7. At the March meeting, the Committee considered a report on HIV/AIDS and refugees and endorsed the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board and related Global Task Team's recommendations through the adoption of a decision. In June, the Committee received reports on refugee children: five global policy issues and on nutrition.

E. Coordination

8. The Committee considered elements for UNHCR's oral update to the 2006 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its June meeting and received an update on coordination issues at its September meeting. In June, it also considered a report on targeting development assistance, including international cooperation for finding durable solutions for protracted situations.

F. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources

9. In March, the Standing Committee gave further consideration to the Marnet Report on Management Reform and discussed follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for financial years 2002, 2003 and 2004. An oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office was also considered.

10. In June and September, the Committee received updates on UNHCR's structural and management change process. Also at its September meeting, the Committee was updated on human resources issues relating to workforce strategy and received a report on internal audit.

11. The September meeting also considered the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2005, and discussed measures taken or proposed in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2004.

G. Governance

12. In March, the Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2006 as proposed at its December 2005 planning meeting. In June, under governance issues, the Committee called on delegations to provide suggestions for issues to be included in the High Commissioner's opening statement at the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Committee.

H. Consultations

13. In accordance with its standard practice, the Standing Committee held informal consultative meetings in the course of the year on issues requiring in-depth discussion. These included consultations on the use of the Operational Reserve Category II; on the proposal to biennialize the programme budget; on criteria for mainstreaming or not Supplementary Programmes into the Annual/Biennial Budget; on preparations for drawing up UNHCR's budget

for 2007; on UNHCR's expanded role with regard to situations of internal displacement; on the functioning of the Office of the Inspector General; on improving the process for drafting ExCom conclusions, including a review of NGO engagement in the process; and on the issues to be covered in the two thematic conclusions on international protection for 2006.

III. STANDING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

14. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted a number of decisions which are annexed to the reports of the different Standing Committee meetings, as follows:

(a) *Report of the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1022)*

- (i) Decision on programme budgets and funding in 2006
- (ii) Decision on UNAIDS global task team recommendations

(b) *Report of the Thirty-sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1032)*

- (i) Decision on overall programme budgets and funding for 2006
- (ii) Decision on Operational Reserve Category II
- (iii) Decision on the five global priorities for refugee children
- (iv) Decision on ensuring adequate nutrition for refugees

(c) *Report of the Thirty-seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1034)*

- (i) Decision on UNHCR's programme in the United Nations Proposed Strategic Framework for the period 2008-2009
- (ii) Decision on staff safety and security management

ANNEX I

STANDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME CALENDAR FOR 2006 (English and French only)

	35th Meeting 7 - 9 March 2006	36th Meeting 27 – 29 June 2006	37th Meeting 20 – 21 September 2006
PROGRAMME BUDGETS AND FUNDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on budgets and funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on budgets and funding Global Report (2005) Final evaluation of 2-year pilot phase of Operational Reserve Category II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Programme Budget for 2007, including revised budget for 2006, update on funding for 2006 and the Report of the ACABQ on the draft budget for 2007
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral update on implementation of the Agenda for Protection Statelessness Issues related to women at risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note on International Protection, including information on implementation of Agenda for Protection UNHCR's expanded role in support of the inter-agency response to internal displacement situations Resettlement 	
REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic presentations on Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, CASWANAME, and Europe² Global Programmes and Partnerships Emergency response and preparedness 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff safety and security issues
PROGRAMME / PROTECTION POLICY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIV/AIDS and Refugees³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refugee Children: Five Global Policy Issues Nutrition 	

¹ Draft conclusions on international protection to be prepared for ExCom's 57th session may include: the general conclusion on international protection, a conclusion on statelessness (proposed by a member State) and a conclusion on women at risk (proposed by UNHCR).

² These and the following presentation on Global Programmes and Partnerships will be closely referenced to the Global Objectives and Agenda for Protection, including where applicable the analysis of protracted situations and updates on international burden/responsibility sharing in mass influx situations.

³ The Committee will be requested to endorse the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) and related Global Task Team's (GTT) recommendations.

	35th Meeting 7 - 9 March 2006	36th Meeting 27 - 29 June 2006	37th Meeting 20 - 21 September 2006
MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTROL, ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Commissioner's further consideration of the Mannet report • Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2004 and previous years • Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 2005 • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2005 • Measures taken or proposed in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2005, and update on measures taken on recommendations in previous years • Internal Audit • Human Resources issues: Workforce Strategy
COORDINATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting development assistance, including international cooperation for finding durable solutions for protracted situations⁴ • Elements for UNHCR's oral update to ECOSOC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on coordination issues
GOVERNANCE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions on issues for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 57th session of the Executive Committee 	

**57th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME:
2 - 6 OCTOBER 2006**

⁴ As related to the Convention Plus initiative. Other aspects of Convention Plus may be debated under the review of regional activities at the 35th meeting as well as under the Resettlement item at the 36th meeting.

ANNEX II

STANDING COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION ISSUED DURING 2006

35th Meeting (7-9 March 2006)

EC/57/SC/CRP.1/Rev.2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/57/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2006
EC/57/SC/CRP.3	Management Reform: Further consideration of the Marnet Report
EC/57/SC/CRP.4	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2002, 2003 and 2004
EC/57/SC/CRP.5	Programme budgets and funding in 2005, and projections for 2006
EC/57/SC/CRP.6	Statelessness: prevention and reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons
EC/57/SC/CRP.7	Issues related to women at risk: discussion paper on a possible Executive Committee conclusion on displaced women and girls at risk
EC/57/SC/CRP.8 and Corr. 1	Emergency preparedness and response
EC/57/SC/CRP.9	HIV/AIDS and Refugees

36th Meeting (26-28 June 2006)

EC/57/SC/CRP.10 and Corr.1 (English only)	Draft report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/57/SC/CRP.11 and Corr.1 and 2	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/57/SC/CRP.12	Update on programme budgets and funding for 2006 and projections for 2007
EC/57/SC/CRP.13 and Corr.1	Report on final evaluation of Operational Reserve Category II

EC/57/SC/CRP.14	Note on International Protection
EC/57/SC/CRP.15	Progress report on resettlement
EC/57/SC/CRP.16	Report on refugee children: five global policy issues
EC/57/SC/CRP.17	Nutrition
EC/57/SC/CRP.18	UNHCR's expanded role in support of the inter-agency response to internal displacement situations
EC/57/SC/CRP.19	Targeting development assistance, including international cooperation for finding durable solutions for protracted refugee situations

37th Meeting (20-21 September 2006)

EC/57/SC/CRP.20	Draft report of the thirty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee (27-29 June 2006)
EC/57/SC/CRP.21/Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/57/SC/CRP.22	UNHCR's programme in the United Nations Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2008-2009
EC/57/SC/CRP.23	Update on programme budgets and funding for 2006
EC/57/SC/CRP.24	Staff safety and security management
EC/57/SC/CRP.25	Update on human resources issues: Workforce Strategy
EC/57/SC/CRP.26	Update on Coordination Issues
EC/57/SC/CRP.27	Draft report of the thirty-seventh session of the Standing Committee (20-21 September 2006)