

UNHCR's governing body – the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom) – was created in 1958, pursuant to a request by the General Assembly. Its main tasks are to approve the High Commissioner's assistance programmes, advise the High Commissioner in the exercise of his/her functions (mainly on protection issues), and oversee the Office's finances and administration.

ExCom holds an annual session in Geneva every October. The fifty-third session was held from 30 September to 4 October 2002. Meetings of the Executive Committee's Standing Committee are held at various dates throughout the year.

Membership is on the widest possible geographical basis from those States (members of the United Nations and others) with a demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, the solution of refugee problems. In 2002, the 61 members were:

## Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Member States	Member States	Memberstates
Algeria	Holy see	Philippines
Argentina	Hungary	Poland
Australia	India	Republic of Korea
Austria	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Russian Federation
Bangladesh	Ireland	Somalia
Belgium	Israel	South Africa
Brazil	Italy	Spain
Canada	Japan	Sudan
Chile	Lebanon	Sweden
China	Lesotho	Switzerland
Colombia	Madagascar	Thailand
Côte d'Ivoire	Mexico	Tunisia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Morocco	Turkey
Denmark	Mozambique	Uganda
Ecuador	Namibia	United Kingdom
Ethiopia	Netherlands	United Republic of Tanzania
Finland	New Zealand	United States of America
France	Nicaragua	Venezuela
Germany	Nigeria	Yugoslavia <sup>1</sup>
Greece	Norway	
Guinea	Pakistan	

<sup>1</sup> Change of name in early 2003 to Serbia and Montenegro.