General Assembly

Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme
Sixty-first session
Geneva, 4-8 October 2010
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports on the work of the Standing Committee

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee

Report of the Secretariat

Contents

I. Introduction

1.   At its sixtieth session in October 2009, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2010.[1] This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.

2.   The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2010: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2009 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the different agenda items in 2010. This is provided in Annex I.

3.   A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee in 2010 is contained in the following reports: *Report of the forty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1084); *Report of the forty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1092); and *Report of the forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1093). A list of documents relating to these meetings is provided in Annex II.

II. Issues covered by the Standing Committee in 2010

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, as listed in section III below. At the June meeting, the Committee also considered the Global Report on UNHCR's activities in 2009. In its September meeting, the Standing Committee reviewed the Revised Biennial Programme Budget for 2010 and 2011, and discussed the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on the budget for 2010-2011.

B. International Protection

5.   In March, the Committee heard a presentation on birth registration, a topic considered for an Executive Committee conclusion on international protection. The June meeting included a debate on the Note on International Protection, as well as progress reports on resettlement; protection capacity and delivery; and on the Agenda for Protection: review and way forward.

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6.   Regional reviews of UNHCR's programmes and activities in all five regions: Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; the Middle East and North Africa; and Europe, were considered comprehensively at the Standing Committee's meeting in March. In addition to the regional reviews, the Committee discussed the Office's global programmes and

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[1] A/AC.96/1078, paragraph 15.

partnerships. The Committee also received a report on UNHCR's emergency preparedness and response, and an update on the global needs assessment/prioritization. In June, the Committee received an update on staff safety and security issues, including refugee security.

D. Programme/Protection policy

7.   In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the third meeting of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which took place in December 2009. In June it received updates on children of concern, and age, gender and diversity mainstreaming; and it considered UNHCR's programme in the United Nations: proposed strategic framework for the Biennium 2012-2013.

E. Coordination

8.   The Committee considered elements for UNHCR's oral update to the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council at its June meeting. An update on coordination issues and strategic partnerships was discussed in the September meeting.

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

9.   At each meeting, the Standing Committee received an update on UNHCR's structural and management change process. In March, the Committee received a report on follow-up measures taken in response to the recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2008. It also received oral updates on the work of the Inspector General's Office, and on progress made in achieving gender equity in UNHCR staffing. In June, the Committee was apprised of progress made on the introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and of strategies envisaged for funding end-of-service and post-retirement benefits.

10.   In September, the meeting considered the Report of the Board of Auditors on UNHCR's accounts for 2009, discussed measures taken or proposed in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2009 and previous years and received a summary report on main risk areas raised in the Report of the Board of Auditors. The Office of Internal Oversight Services presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken at UNHCR for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. It also received an update on human resources issues.

G. Governance

11.   In March, the Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2010 as proposed at its December 2009 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 sixty-first session of the Executive Committee.

H.   Consultations

12.   In accordance with its standard practice, the Standing Committee held informal consultative meetings and briefings in the course of the year on issues requiring in-depth discussion or necessary action. In 2009, the Standing Committee held an informal consultative meeting in November to discuss the proposed revision to the financial rules; and in December it received a briefing on refugee protection and solutions in urban areas and other international protection developments. In 2010, the Standing Committee held an informal consultative meeting in January to discuss proposals for a conclusion on international protection in 2010, and in February it received two briefings: one on the Policy Development and Evaluation Service's workplan for 2010 and another on the Inspector General's Office. In August, the Standing Committee was briefed on assistance provided to flood affected Afghan refugees in Pakistan following the devastating floods. Finally, in September, there was an informal consultative meeting held to discuss the Revised 2011 Budget.

III.   Standing Committee decisions

13.   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 forty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1084)

   - Decision on programme budgets and funding in 2010

   (b)   Report of the forty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1092)

   - Decision on UNHCR's Programme in the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013

   - Decision on overall programme budgets and funding for 2010

   (c)   Report of the forty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1093)

   - Decision on overall programme budgets and funding for 2010

Annex I

Standing Committee work programme calendar for 2010

	47th Meeting 2-4 March 2010	48th Meeting 22-24 June 2010	49th Meeting 21 September 2010
PROGRAMME BUDGETS AND FUNDING	• Update on programme budgets and funding in 2009 and projections for 2010	• Update on programme budgets and funding for 2010 • Global Report (2009)	• Update on programme budgets and funding for 2010 • Revised Biennial Programme Budget for 2010-2011 • Report of the ACABQ on the budget for 2010 -2011
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION	• Presentation on birth registration, a topic proposed for an ExCom conclusion on international protection	• Note on International Protection • Progress report on Resettlement • Protection capacity and delivery • Agenda for Protection: review and way forward	
REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES	• Strategic presentations on Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa as well as on global programmes and partnerships • UNHCR Emergency response and preparedness in 2009 and 2010 • Global needs assessment : prioritization	• Staff safety, welfare and security issues, including refugee security	
PROGRAMME / PROTECTION POLICY	• Oral update on the High Commissioner's 2009 Dialogue on persons of concern in urban settings	• Children of concern • Age, gender and diversity mainstreaming, (AGDM) • UNHCR's programme in the United Nations: Proposed Strategic Framework for the Biennium 2012-2013	

	47th Meeting 2-4 March 2010	48th Meeting 22-24 June 2010	49th Meeting 21-22 September 2010
MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTROL, ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES	• Oral update on UNHCR's structural and management change process • Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2008 and previous years • Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office • Oral update on progress in achieving gender equity in UNHCR staffing	• Update on International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) • Progress report on funding end-of-service and post-retirement benefits Update on UNHCR's structural and management change process	• Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 2009 • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Acco unts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2009 • Measures taken or proposed in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2009 and update on measures taken on recommendations in previous years • Summary report on main risk areas raised in the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2009 • Report on internal audit in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees • Proposal for a revision of the Financial Rules • Human resources issues • Oral update on UNHCR's structural and management change process
COORDINATION		• Elements for UNHCR's oral update to ECOSOC	• Update on Coordination: strategic partnerships
GOVERNANCE	• Adoption of work programme for 2010	• Suggestions on issues for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 61st session of the Executive Committee	• Elements of the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 61st session of the Executive Committee

61st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME:
(4-8 October 2010)

Annex II

Standing Committee documentation issued during 2010

47th Meeting (2-4 March 2010)

EC/61/SC/CRP.1/rev.1 (English only)	Provisional Annotated Agenda;
EC/61/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2010;
EC/61/SC/CRP.3	Emergency preparedness and response in 2009 and 2010;
EC/61/SC/CRP.4	Global needs assessment: prioritization;
EC/61/SC/CRP.5	Birth registration: a topic proposed for an Executive Committee conclusion on international protection;
EC/61/SC/CRP.6	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2008 and previous years;
EC/61/SC/CRP.7 and Corr.1 (English only)	Update on Programme budgets and funding in 2009 and projections for 2010

Regional Strategic overviews on:

- Africa
- Americas
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- The Middle East and North Africa
- Global Programmes and Partnerships

Oral updates:

- Oral update on the High Commissioner's 2009 Dialogue on persons of concern in urban settings
- Oral update on UNHCR's structural and management change process
- Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office
- Oral update on progress in achieving gender equity in UNHCR staffing

48th Meeting (22-24 June 2010)

EC/61/SC/CRP.8	Draft report of the 47th meeting of the Standing Committee;
EC/61SC/CRP.9	Provisional annotated agenda;
EC/61/SC/CRP.10	Note on international protection;
EC/61/SC/CRP.11	Progress report on resettlement;
EC/61/SC/CRP.12	Protection capacity and delivery;
EC/61/SC/CRP.13	International protection of children of concern;
EC/61/SC/CRP.14	Age, gender and diversity mainstreaming;
EC/61/SC/CRP.15 and Add.1	UNHCR's programme in the United Nations: Proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013;
EC/61/SC/CRP.16	Staff safety and security issues, including refugee security: UNHCR security management plan of action and strategy for implementation;
EC/61/SC/CRP.17	Update on UNHCR's structural and management change process;
EC/61/SC/CRP.18	Update on the introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS);
EC/61/SC/CRP.19	Progress report on funding of end-of-service and post-retirement benefits;
EC/61/SC/CRP.20	Update on programme budgets and funding in 2009 and 2010;
EC/61/SC/INF.1	Agenda for Protection: review and way forward.

Elements for UNHCR's oral update to the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

49th Meeting (21 September 2010)

EC/61/SC/CRP.21	Draft report of the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee;
EC/61SC/CRP.22/Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda;
EC/61/SC/CRP.23	Summary report on main risk areas raised in the Board of Auditors report on the accounts for 2009;
EC/61/SC/CRP.24	An update on human resources issues;
EC/61/SC/CRP.25/Rev.1	Update on programme budgets and funding;
EC/61/SC/CRP.26	Update on coordination issues: strategic partnerships;
EC/61/SC/CRP.27	Report by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
EC/61/SC/CRP.28	Draft report of the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Oral update on UNHCR's structural and management change process