

ITEM 6

DPSM Deputy Director's Introductory Remarks UNHCR's Programme in the UN's Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2016—2017 (EC/65/SC/CRP.7)

6 March 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to introduce Conference Room Paper 7, which presents UNHCR's biennial Programme Plan in the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017.

UNHCR's Programme sets out the expected accomplishments that UNHCR will pursue in relation to international protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees and other people of concern to the High Commissioner – within the broader objectives of the United Nations – during the forthcoming biennium. The purpose of the document is to support UNHCR's proposals to the General Assembly for the allocation of funds from the UN Regular Budget for this period.

Before introducing the main elements of the Programme, I would like to highlight two important points that provide the context for our biennial programme plan.

First, UNHCR works in a highly dynamic and constantly changing global environment. 2013 was marked by a continuation of multiple refugee crisis, reaching levels unseen in the previous decade. UNHCR therefore has constructed the programme plan for the 2016-2017 biennium along broad themes that afford a significant measure of flexibility.

Second, UNHCR relies fundamentally upon the cooperation of the Member States in pursuing the results expected from the programme plan. During the implementation of the current Framework, we have witnessed tremendous solidarity with refugees and UNHCR. Unless the ever greater demands are met with increased resources, UNHCR must give the humanitarian imperative of saving lives priority over investment in some of the broader strategic directions reflected in the programme plan for 2016—2017.

UNHCR's biennial Programme Plan for 2016—2017 is aligned with the Global Strategic Priorities and the broader strategies and policy initiatives that have been established – and approved by the Executive Committee – for the current biennium.

UNHCR's overall strategy for 2016—2017 includes the pursuit of comprehensive solutions strategies, efforts to strengthen the international protection regime and host country capacities to provide asylum and protection, ensuring effective emergency preparedness and response – including responding to the needs of internally displaced persons as part of the interagency response under the Transformative Agenda – the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and ensuring the

security and safety of refugees and others of concern and UNHCR staff and other humanitarian workers.

The Programme incorporates the High Commissioner's policy priorities in areas such as age, gender and diversity, UNHCR's responses to protracted displacement situations, the growing out-of-camp population and the challenges of ensuring protection within broader migratory movements. The Programme also highlights UNHCR's commitment to results and evidence-based planning and builds upon our achievements and new strategies for public health, settlement & shelter and livelihoods.

Effective operational and strategic partnerships will remain a priority for the Office, as a means of enhancing protection, increasing efficiency and strengthening local capacities for response.

UNHCR will present the Programme to the United Nations Committee for Programme and Coordination in June or July this year. Review and approval by the General Assembly should follow toward the end of the year. In 2014, UNHCR's regular budget submission for the 2016—2017 biennium, based on the Programme Plan, will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), prior to discussion at the 5th Committee and adoption by the General Assembly in late 2015.

We would like to request the continuing support of the Executive Committee Member States – through their New York delegations – during the process of reviewing and approving the UNHCR's Programme Plan for 2016—2017.

UNHCR will be accountable to the General Assembly for the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement established by the Programme during the 2016—2017 biennium.

Mr Chairman, I would like to express appreciation for the support shown to date by the Member States for the work of UNHCR and look forward to any observations that the delegations may have regarding UNHCR's Programme in the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.