

67<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee  
Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme  
Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner  
Room XIX, Palais des Nations  
21-22 September 2016

*Introductory remarks to Agenda Item 5: Programme budgets and funding*

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

The next items on our agenda involve our budget for 2016-2017. Producing this document is an extensive process that involves estimating our needs, anticipating to the extent possible how situations may develop, and, of course, incorporating your own comments and recommendations during past consultations. After my remarks, UNHCR's Controller and Director of Financial and Administrative Management will explain how our 2016 budget has evolved since its first iteration was approved last year at the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee. She will be joined by the Director of the Division of External Relations, as well as the outgoing and incoming Heads of the Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization Service.

I will highlight a few key points here. The 2016 budget is based on our estimates of situations that are by nature volatile

and unpredictable. Thus, specifying our budgetary needs is necessarily a moving target. Supplementary budget reflects how these needs evolve over time. For example, our expected 2016 budget grew approximately 10% since its initial approval in October 2015 until June of this year. This increase reflects over \$800 million in supplementary budgets as well as a reduction of about \$40 million for downward adjustments in Africa, the Middle East, and North Africa. The result is our current 2016 budget of \$7.3 billion, which we will continue to adapt in line with more recent developments since June.

Some of you have requested more information on how we assess these developments. As promised, we offer additional information on trends regarding the numbers of persons of concern in particular areas and how changes in these numbers affect our budgetary expectations.

Mr. Chairman,

I am compelled, once again, to report a daunting funding gap to this body. Our current projections set it at about half of the total budget. This will continue to have a profound effect on our operations. It jeopardizes access to preschool and

secondary education for most refugee children in the Central African Republic. It keeps asylum-seekers in Somalia in a legal limbo without adequate staff to process their claims. It means that refugees in Sudan will get less than half of the standard allowance of potable water per day. This funding gap forces us into very difficult decisions on a regular basis, and directly harms the people we serve. These are obviously just a few examples, and UNHCR's Controller will present more details on this gap, and its consequences on the people we serve, during her presentation later.

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Thank you again for your attention, and for your generous support of UNHCR. I look forward to hearing your comments and questions regarding these important documents.