

**Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme**

Distr.: General
21 December 2023
English only

Standing Committee

Eighty-eighth meeting

13 September 2023

Held at the Hôtel Mercure, Geneva

Summary record*, Thursday, 14 September 2023, at 3:44 p.m.

*Chairperson: Ms. Ahmed Hassan Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
Djibouti*

Contents

4. International protection
Oral update on the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum
5. Any other business

* Summary records, prepared by external service providers, summarize the discussions and record decisions taken. Though extensive, they do not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings. Corrections to a summary record should concern only errors made regarding, for example, an official title, and a statistic or a statement reflected from the discussion. A correction does not allow for any additions or for changes to be made of a political character. Any proposed substantive corrections will be checked against the sound recording of the meeting before any change can be made. Requests for corrections should be sent to the ExCom Secretariat: excom@unhcr.org, and any corrected records will be reissued with a new date. Feedback on the summary records may also be sent to the ExCom Secretariat for consideration in the preparation of future summaries.

Ms. Ahmed Hassan (Djibouti) took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3:44 p.m.

4. International protection

Oral update on the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum

1. The **2023 Global Refugee Forum Coordinator (UNHCR)** said that there were only 90 days remaining before the opening of the second Global Refugee Forum and that that great, whole-of-society gathering was an opportunity and challenge to make transformational pledges that would ease the pressures on countries hosting large numbers of the forcibly displaced and to work towards durable solutions for refugee situations.

2. He stated that the delegates were all aware of the scale of the refugee problem. But just as confounding was the fact that whereas in the past refugee situations began, and were eventually resolved, today, they seemed to persist, leaving millions in protracted exile for years and decades. It was urgent that the focus turned to the human lives that were wasted and squandered in indefinite limbo, and that the Global Refugee Forum was used to make a real difference to them, and to the societies that so generously and patiently hosted them.

3. The Global Refugee Forum was a collective platform, and pledges were the means by which results would be achieved. He said that UNHCR's strongest message to those present was to focus on pledging, pledging to operationalize international solidarity and burden sharing, pledging to unblock campuses and instigate action and pledging to rally us all behind the concept that hosting and protecting refugees was a global public good. Over these past months, in his function as the lead on diplomatic and external engagement for the Global Refugee Forum, working closely with the High Commissioner and the Assistant High Commissioners, the Deputy High Commissioner, and all senior management, he had had the privilege of working with many states and other stakeholder groups in identifying, conceptualizing and amplifying various pledge initiatives. It was deeply encouraging to see some of those coming to maturity, and he hoped to showcase more audacious and scalable demonstrations of international solidarity.

4. Drawing from the valuable lessons learned and successes of the inaugural forum of 2019, it was hoped that such new and innovative pledges would develop further, whether financial, material, technical or in the form of inclusive policies. Those pledges should be quantifiable, needs-driven and sustainable, forming a foundation for lasting engagement. For this second Global Refugee Forum to be a true milestone, and worthy of our efforts, it was hoped that some of those pledges would assume the legal level of what are referred to as mega pledges. That was a pledge that was truly transformational, inspirational, multistakeholder, multi-year and that measurably made a difference to refugees and their hosts.

5. There were also topics of pressing importance that were in search of leadership including, for example, climate, housing, land and property, health, and agriculture. With time pressing, and a sense of urgency in the air, UNHCR respectively called on its distinguished Executive Committee members, firstly, to sincerely explore taking leadership of pledges that currently lacked such leadership and, secondly, to advance pledge matching. Matching amongst stakeholders was what provides pledges a unity of purpose and the power to make a difference. The UNHCR website provided information on how to most effectively make and match pledges.

6. He wished to acknowledge at this point the particular role of the Global Refugee Forum co-conveners in exercising leadership in this process. He said that all UNHCR stakeholders had a role to play, but that its co-conveners this year had really stepped up and displayed a level of leadership and engagement that was truly commendable and UNHCR looked forward to continuing working with them until December. It was equally important that commitments made in 2019 continued to be

implemented as while much progress had been made, there remained more work to be done.

7. He said that UNHCR attaches a great deal of importance to including refugees in all decision-making processes which remain a priority, and was pleased to announce that two thirds of the activities provided for the participation of refugees, in accordance with its common objective of ensuring that refugees and refugee-led organizations should be involved throughout the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum and during the forum itself. It was hoped that the results of the discussions would reflect UNHCR's commitment to the four objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, one that harnessed international solidarity and mobilized political will towards its goal of addressing the global refugee situation.

8. Lastly, he wished to point out some specific actions that Member States may wish to consider to demonstrate sustained engagement in the forum. These were: 1) to implement individual past pledges that had been made during the first Global Refugee Forum of 2019; 2) to develop new, high quality, ambitious and measurable pledges, and to amplify your ambition towards making mega pledges; 3) to contribute to or co-lead multistakeholder pledges; 4) to prioritize pledge matching to support host country policies, including through multistakeholder pledges; 5) to adopt a whole-of-government approach; 5) to include a refugee advisor as part of your delegations and; 7) to participate at a high level at the upcoming Global Refugee Forum. He thanked those present very much for their attention and looked forward to their continuing commitment.

9. The representative of the **Netherlands (Kingdom of the)** thanked the Chair and her team, not only for the presentation now, but also for the very hard work that they were doing and for remaining accessible at the same time. It was very much appreciated and without such efforts, the international community could not be doing what they were doing. He also thanked UNHCR for the update and said that it was very good to see the good progress in Global Refugee Forum preparations. His delegation was delighted to see an updated draft program presented at the best preparatory meeting, as that provided a more concrete picture of everything that would transpire during the three days of the Global Refugee Forum. He said that his country was also looking into the list of side events to see where it could offer its help and participation. Regarding its concrete pledges, his delegation was concentrating on those pledges where it could really bring something to the table. So, it was focusing on the economic inclusion pledge with a prospects program to support the forcibly displaced and the communities hosting them, and on the health pledge with a view to strengthening mental health and psychosocial support. Moreover, his country was involved in a crosscutting pledge in localization, and meaningful refugee participation and as a Vice-Chair of the Solution Strategy for Afghan Refugees was also looking into possible pledges on the debt banner.

10. He said that his country had also just raised its unearmarked contribution to UNHCR and wished to encourage others to raise their unearmarked contributions as well, which was why it was also thinking of trying to raise support for a pledge on unearmarked funding. His country was in discussions on how this could best take form. He said that the Global Refugee Forum should not only be about funding, but also about partnerships and how we best work together to help the forcibly displaced, with a more transformational approach as was previously mentioned. In that sense, his country welcomed the recent Japanese Humanitarian Development and Peace Nexus pledge, which seemed very much in line with what it was trying to achieve with the prospects program in terms of new ways of working and hoped that all of these valuable discussions on pledges and partnerships would be repeated and used as a vehicle to track pledges and to improve and coordinate our efforts in the coming four years running up to the next Global Refugee Forum. He said that of course it would be preferable for this to occur with a less intensive frequency but that it would be a shame if all of such effort and progress would not be continued next year.

11. The representative of **the United States of America** thanked the Chair and the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum team for its updates. She said that the Global

Compact on Refugees was really about taking a comprehensive approach to refugee situations and wished to emphasize a primary concept of the Compact, refugee inclusion, at the second Global Refugee Forum. This really meant working with a broad coalition of development private sector and civil society actors and most importantly refugees themselves to help the international community respond to refugee crises more effectively. To further this strategy, the United States and others were co-leading the Global Refugee Forum mega pledge on economic inclusion and social protection together with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative, and UNHCR. She said that as many might be aware, that mega pledge would advocate for inclusive laws and policies and promote self-reliance and protection, including through refugee access to labour markets and social protection programs. His country hoped to showcase at the Global Refugee Forum concrete outcomes that improved the lives of refugees. In Kenya, for example, the United States of America was partnering with the World Economic Forum and its private sector partners to identify new investment opportunities in the primary refugee hosting areas of Kakuma and Dadaab.

12. Separately, on third country resettlement and development of lawful pathways, her country had created an innovative private sponsorship program called Welcome Corps that enables everyday Americans to directly sponsor refugees from around the world to resettle in their communities. While it was key to deliver on new strategic outcomes at the Global Refugee Forum, her country was also heeding the Global Refugee Forum Coordinator's call to implement its existing pledges. For example, as part of its commitment to increase resettlement and complementary pathways, the United States of America aspired to welcome up to 125,000 refugees in 2023 and pledged to enhance protection for stateless persons the United States. Previously it had successfully issued new guidance to assist stateless non-citizens in the United States of America who wished to obtain immigration benefits.

13. As part of its commitment to more meaningful refugee participation, her country would continue to include refugee advisors as members of its delegations to key meetings, including the Global Refugee Forum. She said that in line with her country's commitment at the high-level officials meeting to match 10 existing host country pledges, it had exceeded its target and had matched 12 pledges to date, resulting in partnerships in Chad, Kenya, Mexico, Türkiye and elsewhere. She strongly urged all stakeholders to take advantage of the Global Refugee Forum to advance concrete outcomes that would tangibly improve the lives of refugees and demonstrate real solidarity with host countries.

14. The representative of **France** wished to thank the Global Refugee Forum Coordinator for his work and the work of his team to make this forum a success. He said that in this final straight, the information that had just been shared was extremely encouraging. France, together with the UNHCR and other co-organizing and co-sponsoring states hoped that the forum would be a great event for multilateralism, in order to find concrete solutions, as the representative of the United States had just said, and for that all the cooperation of the private sector, and civil society and all stakeholders were required. She was happy to be able to confirm the participation of the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, as he had recently confirmed to the High Commissioner when they met in Paris.

15. Apart from new commitments at the national level, France would be launching an initiative for women refugees in order to provide them with better protection from human traffickers during the journey to exile and to enable them to gain more integration in terms of professional work and sports activities. She thanked the originators of that initiative.

16. The representative of **Jordan** wished to thank the High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as the Global Refugee Forum team, for their unerring support and efforts to assist countries that were participating in organizing the next Global Refugee Forum and to coordinate with all countries to ensure the success of the Global Refugee Forum and to obtain the objectives hoped for. Jordan hoped, as one of the Global

Refugee Forum organizing countries and as one of the largest refugee hosting countries, that the next Global Refugee Forum would reduce the pressures on refugee hosting countries and find solutions for third countries and help them find the appropriate environment for the return of refugees with dignity to their countries, according to clear commitments that were applicable.

17. The second Global Refugee Forum was a good opportunity to discuss the results of the first Global Refugee Forum and to learn from past lessons, which contributed to making a difference to the daily lives of refugees and host communities. The Global Refugee Forum was an opportunity to measure the efficiency of such commitments and how these could be improved, so that they might be effectively linked to the real needs of refugees and host communities. Burden- and responsibility-sharing to provide protection to refugees and the capacity of hosting communities to help them was essential and this had to be discussed at the next Global Refugee Forum to ensure the international community might ensure fair burden sharing. This would reduce the great pressures that were imposed on the host communities by providing the necessary support so that the UNHCR could fulfil the needs of refugees and host communities and provide the appropriate financial, technical and humanitarian means. Finally, Jordan supported the High Commissioner and would cooperate with all Global Refugee Forum participants in order to ensure the success of the Global Refugee Forum and to achieve its objectives and build on to strengthen those achieved since the first Global Refugee Forum.

18. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** thanked the Chair and the Global Refugee Forum Coordinator for the update. She said that her country wished to thank also the entire Global Refugee Forum coordination team, as well as UNHCR colleagues for all the work that has gone into the preparation so far. It was much appreciated, as was the update, which had provided delegates with a quite comprehensive overview of what to expect at December's forum. She stated that it was also very exciting to hear about what had been planned so far for the program. It was clear that the ambition and the expectation from earlier in the year was being followed through, and her country was greatly looking forward to coming together with the international community to drive through the transformative change so needed for forcibly displaced persons and the societies that host them. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland continued to focus its efforts on championing needs-driven pledge initiatives on access to climate finance, supporting energy transition, access to refugee and host community education, tackling gender-based violence, and meaningful refugee participation and continued efforts to consider where else it could expand the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland offer, including on wider programs. With three months before the event, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was pleased to see the enhanced focus and delighted to be filling up its schedule with the increased level of engagement, as it continued to work closely with UNHCR and others to make the forum a success.

19. The representative of **Burkina Faso** thanked the Chair and congratulated her on behalf of his delegation for her excellent coordination of the work of the current meeting, and also thanked the Office of the High Commissioner for the exhaustive presentation on the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum. He said that his country had made it clear that it was available to cooperate with UNHCR in order to ensure the successful organization of this important refugee meeting and congratulated the High Commissioner on the initiative taken to hold preparatory meetings for the forum, which were intended to be participatory and inclusive frameworks that afforded an opportunity for Member States and all stakeholders to express their expectations as regards the Global Refugee Forum.

20. He stated that the organization of the next Global Refugee Forum was taking place in a context in which the world was increasingly faced with challenges due to the exponential growth in the number of refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons, and that such cases of forced and growing human mobility were essentially caused by climate change and insecurity. This raised the problematic issue

of the protection to which all these vulnerable populations are entitled. The difficulty was linked to the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons which States and humanitarian organizations, in particular UNHCR, were being confronted with facing in the light of such complex and numerous crises. He said that that highlighted the importance of bringing together the actors, including refugees themselves and internally displaced persons, in order to conduct a review of the progress accomplished and to share good practice and renew commitments to ensure more burden- and responsibility-sharing.

21. The persistence of the security threat in the Sahel was a major concern for all the countries in the area. Indeed, the phenomenon of insecurity, marked as it was by terrorist attacks, was by far the main cause of forced human mobility in this area, leading to millions of refugees, stateless persons, and internally displaced persons in search of assistance and solidarity. He said that that was why his delegation would like to take this opportunity to make a plea. He called for the security issue to be included in the agenda of the next forum in a similar manner to the issue of climate change so as to better highlight the challenges facing the populations and Governments of these countries, and to seek together appropriate and sustainable solutions.

22. Rightly considered to be one of the most neglected humanitarian crises in the world, the humanitarian situation in Burkina Faso, similarly to that of the central Sahel in general, called for a global approach founded on strengthening the protection environment for target sections of the population, by implementing new mechanisms, in particular, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. He said that he wished already to assure others that his country attached great importance to the preparations for this forum, by means of updating those commitments; and the validation process would be the topic of at a workshop to be held in the next few days. He stated that he wished to renew the commitment and determination of Burkina Faso to respect its national and international commitments to protect and promote humanitarian international law.

23. The representative of **Canada** thanked the Chair and said that her country considered that the Global Refugee Forum was an important opportunity to continue to implement the Global Compact on Refugees. By means of its contribution, Canada intended to give a high profile to expand its societal approach to refugees. She stated that Canada wanted to contribute to the international system of burden- and responsibility-sharing in order to help refugees. That would include in particular measures for traditional resettlement, additional access pathways, and humanitarian and development assistance. He country had made good progress to implement its promises and commitments made in 2019 but was also aware that a lot more work remained to be done. She said that her country stood in solidarity with UNHCR, with refugees, the host communities and members of the executive bodies and hoped that the upcoming Global Refugee Forum would be a success, and that some targeted and concrete results would result from it. Canada remained committed and willing to provide its support.

24. The representative of **Switzerland** thanked the Chair and Mr. Jamal for his presentation on the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum. He said that Switzerland as a co-host country looked forward to welcoming you all in Geneva in December. Preparations were progressing well but a collective effort was required to make our respective commitments more concrete and to finalize them. He stated that Member States needed to be ambitious and think out of the box in order to cope with the extraordinary and worrying developments in more and more contexts around the world. The principle of burden- and responsibility-sharing remained as valid as ever. However, this principle remained a reactive one and reactivity alone was no longer enough. He said that Member States needed to become more proactive: on the one hand to strengthen prevention and resolution of the causes that lead to forced displacement, and, on the other hand, as forced displacements also presented opportunities for the people concerned, for the host communities and for solutions in third countries. Achieving such closer cooperation with the private sector was key and

the framework conditions at the national and international level needed to be improved. He stated that any progress in such areas was welcome and wished also to stress the multistakeholder nature of the forum and called on Member States to include actors who reflected the whole of society in their respective delegations. This applied in particular to refugees, whose active participation in the debates and decisions that concern them was not only of crucial importance in terms of accountability, but also in terms of the operational response. With this in mind, Switzerland had decided to substantially support the efforts of UNHCR. He said that it was vital to ensure that refugees were not only well represented at the next forum, but that they also had sufficient space to talk about their experiences and describe their grievances and needs. The opportunity to present best practices and new commitments whether in person or via digital means was essential if Member States were to make the most of the opportunities for sharing and mobilization that the forum would present. He therefore encouraged UNHCR to continue to intensify its efforts to ensure that the practical arrangements were clear and known in good time.

25. The representative of the **European Union and its member States** (group statement) said that, at a time of record forced displacement, ambitious, joined-up solutions were vital to address the associated challenges worldwide. As a major partner in supporting refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, the European Union followed a dual approach of international support and domestic integration. The Global Refugee Forum represented an important stepping stone for actors to express strong commitment and cooperation with a view to achieving sustainable positive change for forcibly displaced and stateless persons; resource mobilization and host country support would be paramount in that regard, as would the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Refugees and refugee-led organizations should also be empowered to meaningfully participate in the Forum, to ensure they had a voice in decision-making processes.

26. For the European Union, the second Global Refugee Forum was an opportunity to discuss best practices and demonstrate its commitment to sharing responsibility for refugees, including by offering protection both within and outside Europe. A recent example of that commitment was the swift, united response to the war in Ukraine, with the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive ensuring that displaced persons received immediate protection with minimal bureaucracy. However, the European Union's engagement did not stop there; its humanitarian and development funding had contributed to addressing the protracted crises in Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Through advocacy for the humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach, the European Union remained committed to enhancing global burden- and responsibility-sharing for refugees, while seeking to address the underlying causes of forced displacement.

27. Beyond the pledges and financial commitments of the Forum, the learning and stocktaking pillars would be particularly important. Stocktaking would make it possible to monitor the progress made in relation to commitments since 2019, thereby promoting transparency and trust among stakeholders, while learning would allow strategies to be refined and evidence-based solutions applied for refugee support and empowerment. In that regard, how would UNHCR ensure that all three pillars were given due consideration at the Forum?

28. The representative of **Australia** announced that her Government would be joining the Governments of Germany and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as co-lead of the multistakeholder pledge on gender equality and protection from gender-based violence, as part of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies.

29. The representative of **Colombia** announced that the Vice President of Colombia would lead the country's delegation to the Global Refugee Forum.

30. The representative of the **International Council of Voluntary Agencies, speaking on behalf of non-governmental organizations** (group statement), highlighted the increasingly distressing situation faced by refugees worldwide in

terms of their media portrayal. It was highly concerning that discrimination against forcibly displaced persons was growing in some local communities, with certain media outlets exacerbating the issue. The recent surge in displacement had forced millions of refugees to flee persecution, conflict and environmental disasters; it was disheartening that they were then confronted with discrimination and hostility during their journey and upon arrival in host countries. Although local populations were often generous towards refugees, they faced challenges of their own, which could lead to misconceptions, fear and mistrust, resulting in discriminatory practices and hindering the integration of forcibly displaced populations. The role of the media in shaping public opinion could not be overlooked. It was regrettable that some media outlets had chosen to portray forcibly displaced populations in a negative light, sensationalizing isolated incidents and fuelling unfounded fears, rather than highlighting their resilience and positive contributions. Such biased reporting not only perpetuated discrimination, but also undermined efforts to foster understanding and compassion between refugees and local populations.

31. His group therefore called upon UNHCR and Member States to address the matter by strengthening efforts to raise awareness about the rights and vulnerabilities of refugees, and promote understanding and empathy by facilitating exchanges between refugees and local populations. The Office should also work with media outlets, bodies regulating the media, and social media platforms to promote responsible journalism and limit misinformation and stereotyping; a mechanism to monitor media ethics should be established to promote adherence to ethical reporting standards and flag instances of discriminatory content, while promoting balanced and accurate coverage. Advocacy for strengthened legal protections against discrimination based on refugee status in host countries – through collaboration with Governments, non-governmental organizations and local actors – would help change the narrative and ensure that refugees and other forcibly displaced populations were granted equal access to essential services and opportunities. Affected populations should also be given the opportunity to speak freely, without relying on indirect representation by others; the voices of forcibly displaced persons were rarely heard in the media.

32. It was also critical to avoid merely token representation at high-level events; UNHCR should contribute to the portrayal of forcibly displaced persons as experts by sharing authentic, reliable stories and enabling them to make informed contributions to panels and discussions. His group welcomed the constitution of a delegation of forcibly displaced persons during the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum; it was vital to ensure their voices were heard, and that they were at the centre of discussions and the development of pledges. The Forum exhibition space and media zone should also be used effectively and ethically to highlight the contributions made by refugees and other forcibly displaced populations. UNHCR had an important role in setting an example for the portrayal of forcibly displaced populations; by changing the narrative, it could work alongside other international actors to create a more inclusive and compassionate global community.

33. **The Coordinator for the Global Refugee Forum 2023 (UNHCR)** took note of the announcements made by delegations and thanked them for their encouragement and support, particularly with regard to refugee participation at the Forum. Further work would be done to involve the private sector, and to fully address all pillars of the Forum, including stocktaking and learning. Consideration would also be given to the issues of security and of refugee portrayal in the media. In the run-up to the Forum, it would hopefully be possible to build momentum to finalize the more mature pledges in areas such as education, economic inclusion and social protection, labour mobility, which could become mega pledges. He would also like to secure further support for other pledges on climate, peace, housing, land and property, and on regional challenges, which had garnered a lot of interest, but were lacking the right leadership or coalition. Lastly, he stressed that the Global Refugee Forum was worth investment and high-level representation as a major multilateral event.

34. **The Senior Policy Adviser on the Global Compact on Refugees (UNHCR)** said that the Global Refugee Forum was an opportunity to set the agenda for the next

four years as part of the wider process to achieve the aims of the Global Compact on Refugees. Although significant progress had been made in developing multistakeholder pledges, more work was needed to secure leadership for those pledges, including from the private sector, non-governmental organizations, refugees and others; further information was available online or could be provided on a bilateral basis.

35. She agreed on the importance of learning and stocktaking, observing that they had been incorporated into the pledging development process to ensure that any system changes, arrangements or partnerships needed for further progress could be identified and addressed. The high-level events at the Global Refugee Forum had been planned with that in mind, namely, to tell the story of what had been achieved and learned since 2019.

36. The Forum programme was still under development but would be shared shortly; she urged Member States to come forward with any questions they had in that regard. The next opportunity to discuss the Forum would be the informal briefing to be held virtually on 18 October 2023, when Governments and partners would have the chance to promote their pledges and calls to action. The next Global Compact on Refugees indicator report would be launched on 17 November, followed by another briefing on the Forum covering protocol and logistics.

5. Any other business

37. The **Chairperson** said that the summary records would be posted on the Standing Committee webpage in due course. A procedural report, listing the decisions taken and referring to and providing a link to the summary records, would be prepared and circulated electronically for review by 29 September, leaving one week for the member States to submit written factual corrections by 6 October to the Secretariat. The final version would be circulated electronically shortly afterwards, and considered adopted by the silence procedure, as for the usual practice. The Secretariat would also make available all the documentation and presentations from the meeting on the Standing Committee page of the UNHCR website.

38. The **Secretary (UNHCR)** made a number of administrative announcements regarding the upcoming seventy-fourth plenary session of the Executive Committee, which would be held in room XIX at the Palais des Nations. Member States would be allocated two seats at the table and two behind, while observer States and other observers would be allocated one seat at the table and one behind. Seating would follow the General Assembly protocol: North Macedonia had been selected by the drawing of lots to occupy the first seat at the General Assembly, and would occupy the first seat at the seventy-fourth session of the Executive Committee, followed by other Committee members, and then observer States and other observers. A seating plan would be posted on the Executive Committee's website. Delegations were requested to register for the meeting as soon as possible, in order to help finalize arrangements. The deadline to register for the list of speakers was 3 October and a provisional list of speakers would be made available by 5 October. An organizational note had already been posted on the website for the seventy-fourth session.

39. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the **Chairperson** declared the eighty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 4:13 p.m.