

Notes of the Rapporteur

18-20 June 2019

2. International protection

(e) Oral update on ExCom Conclusions

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Good morning/good afternoon colleagues,

I wish to provide you with an update on this year's Executive Committee Conclusions process.

As you recall, the indicative multi-year work-plan, adopted by the Executive Committee in 2015, has resulted in the three Conclusions on international protection in 2016 and 2017, which are:

- International cooperation from a protection and solutions perspective (conclusion No 112) in 2016;
- Youth (No. 113) in 2016; and
- Machine-readable travel documents for refugees and stateless persons (No. 114) in 2017.

Discussions on the fourth topic, Resilience and self-reliance from a protection and solutions perspective, were deferred by the Standing Committee in 2017 and 2018.

This was the situation when I took up my functions as Rapporteur. To assess the best way to take the ExCom Conclusions process forward, I invited all ExCom Member States to two Informal Preparatory Consultations, which were held on 10 May and 11 June, respectively.

At the first IPC, delegations agreed that the initial work-plan had run its course, with three ExCom Conclusions adopted out of the four topics proposed

for consideration. Much has changed since the initial work-plan was adopted in 2015, not the least the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, which was affirmed by the General Assembly in December 2018. It was also felt that the workload this year was already quite considerable, as we are all fully engaged in the preparations of the First Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the High Level Segment on Statelessness to commemorate mid-point of campaign, which are to take place in the second half of this year.

I wish to recall that the work-plan was conceived as a living document, stating that “the Committee retains flexibility to adjust and modify the work-plan, in particular to consider additional themes as conditions may warrant, as well as to update the work-plan annually on a rolling basis.”

In view of this, UNHCR was requested to prepare a Non-Paper with possible topics on which it would see the benefit of an ExCom Conclusion to update the work-plan.

This Non-Paper was shared with the Committee members on 31 May. UNHCR indicated that it was not requesting an ExCom Conclusion to be pursued in 2019 and that it would like to continue discussions on a work-plan next year. In this context, the Office suggested that the following three topics could be considered to develop a work-plan in 2020:

- Mental health and psychosocial support;
- Recognition of educational qualifications; and /or
- Issuance by UNHCR of single-voyage travel documents.

At the second IPC on 11 June, delegations emphasized the value of ExCom conclusions and reiterated their interest in developing a work-plan to take this process forward. There was also broad agreement that, in the absence of an urgent operational need for a conclusion this year, it would be preferable

to resume the process next year, so that the first year of implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and the outcomes of the first Global Refugee Forum could be taken into account in an updated work-plan. Delegations agreed to start discussions in early 2020 on possible topics for consideration in a multi-year work-plan.

Therefore, if the membership agrees with the proposed way forward, this will be recorded in the report of this meeting and the next Rapporteur may wish to start consultations early next year.

I thank you for your support.

Thank you Mr. Chair person.