

**Opening Statement of the
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
at the Fifty-third Session of the Executive Committee
of the High Commissioner's Programme**

(Geneva, 30 September 2002)

Elements

In his Opening Statement to the 53rd Session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will focus on the following:

- Key refugee and displacement issues, including UNHCR Supplementary Programmes in Afghanistan and Liberia, and new opportunities for durable solutions in places such as Angola and Sri Lanka.
- Management issues including the OIOS investigation in West Africa and UNHCR's Plan of Action, registration and "Project Profile", new initiatives relating to resettlement activities, and human resources issues including the new UNHCR Code of Conduct.
- The 2002 funding situation, the budget for 2003 and an update on complementary sources of funding.
- Implementation of the Agenda for Protection.
- The possible creation of a forum for discussion of specific issues, such as the implementation of the Agenda for Protection.
- The notion of the "Convention Plus", which includes special agreements, as articulated in the High Commissioner's speech at an informal meeting the European Union Justice and Home Affairs Council in Copenhagen on 13 September.
- An update on the "UNHCR 2004" process, which entails a fundamental review of the Office's statute and mandate, and discussion of four of the main subjects being examined:
 - (1) The UN structure and UNHCR's position in the UN family; the need to relate better to the political and development pillars of the UN system.
 - (2) UNHCR's governance structure; moving from a "coalition of the willing" to a more comprehensive multilateral regime.
 - (3) UNHCR's funding structure, and the need to examine possible new funding mechanisms.
 - (4) The asylum-migration nexus, including the UNHCR-IOM strategic alliance.
- The relationship between the "UNHCR 2004" process and the implementation of the Agenda for Protection; in particular, what additional tools are needed to achieve the durable solutions and burden sharing which lie at the heart of the Agenda for Protection.

17 September 2002