



***UNHCR***  
***Commemorations***  
***in 2011***



# Anniversaries in 2011

- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNHCR – 14 December 2010
- 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees – 28 July 2011
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness – 30 August 2011
- 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Fridtjof Nansen, First League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – 11 October 2011



# Objectives of commemorations

- **First**, strengthen the existing protection regime and promote a new protection dynamic. This could include exploring innovative ways to address protection gaps, including how regional protection or cooperation arrangements could most effectively be employed in parallel with national asylum systems.



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- **Second**, attain greater support for the statelessness conventions, including new accessions, as well as better mapping of the statelessness problem and more effective ways to respond.



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- **Third**, raise public awareness and build solidarity with forcibly displaced and stateless persons, through a communications strategy aimed to influence public opinion and expand protection space. In so doing, it is hoped that new sources of funding can also be identified.



# Major commemorations events

- **8-9 Dec 2010:** High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges
- **7-8 Dec 2011:** Ministerial-level meeting
- **Throughout 2010 & 2011:** Expert roundtables, conferences and consultations around the globe



# High Commissioner's Dialogue

- Theme: **Protection Gaps and Responses**
- Main topics:
  - Gaps in international protection framework and in its implementation;
  - International cooperation, burden-sharing and comprehensive regional approaches; and
  - Reduction of statelessness and protection of stateless persons.



# Ministerial-level Meeting

- All Member States of the United Nations
- IGOs, UN agencies, NGOs and regional institutions as observers
- Desired outcomes:
  - Pledges by States (and possibly regional organizations and NGOs)
  - Ministerial Communiqué





# State Pledges

- Voluntary, State-driven process
- Opportunity for States to identify issues and challenges of greatest importance to them
- Could be made individually and/or collectively
- Guidance Note available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish



# Possible criteria for pledges

- Specific, action-oriented and to the extent possible, measurable
- Linked to the goals of commemorations
- Designed to impact concretely and positively the actual situation of refugees, stateless people and other people of concern
- Forward-looking when it comes to new challenges



# Types of pledges envisaged

- Ratify or accede to the Conventions, or lift reservations
- Amend or introduce legislation or policies
- Resolve refugee or statelessness situations
- Respond to operational issues and challenges
- Address regional challenges



# Consultations with refugees

- Focus on women and girls
- To inform the pledges and give a voice to persons of concern
- To discuss protection problems and explore possible solutions
- Locations: Colombia, India, Jordan, Uganda, Zambia, Thailand and Finland



# Other regional initiatives

- Brasilia Declaration, adopted 11 November 2010
- IPU Parliamentary Statement
- Council of Europe and OAS meeting on complementarity of human rights law/bodies
- Will look to OAU, OAS, EU, Council of Europe for support/resolutions



# Major themes of commemorations

- New forms of displacement
- International cooperation and burden sharing
- Statelessness



# New forms of displacement

- 2010 High Commissioner's Dialogue
- Expert meeting on climate change and displacement (Bellagio, Italy, 22-26 February 2011)
- Nansen Conference on Climate Change and Displacement (Oslo, Norway, 6-7 June 2011)



# Burden sharing

- Includes comprehensive regional approaches
- 2010 High Commissioner's Dialogue
- Expert roundtable on International Cooperation to Share Burden and Responsibilities, Amman, Jordan, 27-28 June 2011





# Statelessness

- Expert Meeting (Prato, Italy, May 2010)
- Asia Regional Expert Roundtable (Bangkok, 26-27 Oct 2010)
- Expert Meeting on Statelessness Determination Procedures (Geneva, 6-7 Dec 2010)
- 2010 High Commissioner's Dialogue
- Expert Meeting on Preventing Statelessness Among Children (Dakar, 23-24 May, 2011)
- Statelessness Multimedia Campaign



***Thank you***

For more information, please contact:

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