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Consideration of reports on the work of the Standing Committee

Report of the 56th meeting of the Standing Committee (5-7 March 2013)

Report of the Secretariat

Contents

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1	3
II. Adoption of the agenda of the 56 th meeting and of the 2013 work programme	2-3	3
III. Regional activities and global programmes	4-30	3
A. Strategic presentations	4-27	3
(a) Africa	6-9	3
(b) The Americas	10-12	4
(c) Asia and the Pacific	13-15	5
(d) Europe	16-18	5
(e) The Middle East and North Africa	19-24	6
(f) Global programmes and partnerships	25-27	7
B. Emergency preparedness and response and report on supply management	28-30	7
IV. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	31-38	8
A. Update on innovation and simplification	31-33	8
B. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for previous years	34-36	8
C. Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office	37-38	9
V. Programme budgets and funding	39-44	9
VI. Programme/protection policy	45-47	10
A. Oral update on the High Commissioner's 2012 Dialogue on faith and protection	45-46	10
B. Introduction of the ExCom Conclusion theme (oral)	47	11
VII. Any other business	48-53	11
Annex		
Decision on budgets and funding for 2012 and 2013		13

I. Introduction

1. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Her Excellency Ambassador, Alicia Arango Olmos (Colombia) opened the meeting, and welcomed Afghanistan, El Salvador, Panama and Peru as new observers.

II. Adoption of the agenda of the 56th meeting and of the 2013 work programme

2. The agenda for the meeting (EC/64/SC/CRP.1) was adopted without comment.

3. Regarding the 2013 work programme (EC/64/SC/CRP.2), which had been discussed at the Planning Meeting on 14 December 2012, the Chairperson noted that the item on the Global Strategic Priorities had been moved from March until June. This change would enable reporting on achievements against the 2012 GSPs, as well as permit the views of member States, expressed during the Informal Consultative Meeting of 5 February 2013, to be fully considered during the formulation of the GSPs for the 2014-2015 biennium. The 2013 work programme was adopted as presented.

III. Regional activities and global programmes

A. Strategic presentations

4. In her introduction, the Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) recalled that, in her four years in office, 2012 stood out as the most challenging one in terms of the number and magnitude of crises that UNHCR faced, leading to unprecedented demands on the financial and human resources of the Office. She spoke about the extraordinary efforts staff were making across the organization to overcome the current challenges, and highlighted new technologies and creative methods that were being employed to improve UNHCR's emergency response capacity and allow it to more effectively deliver on its mandate.

5. The Assistant High Commissioner emphasized that, although emergencies were consuming most of UNHCR's attention, the Office could not neglect its responsibility to support durable solutions to protracted situations. She highlighted the importance of engaging the development community and building solid and predictable partnerships.

(a) Africa

6. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa underscored that emergencies were the defining feature of the Africa refugee operations, drawing the majority of the Bureau's resources and detracting from work on protracted situations and durable solutions. He also spoke about a number of positive developments with respect to repatriation and local integration, but stressed that solutions and the resources to implement them were urgently needed.

7. There was wide recognition among delegations of the vast challenges faced by UNHCR in the region, the complex nature of the emergencies and the dangerous working environment. UNHCR staff members were commended for their dedication, effectiveness and endurance in addressing these challenges. Noting that UNHCR had to prioritize life-saving activities over activities such as livelihoods, the Committee encouraged UNHCR to strengthen its partnerships with development actors in order to ensure better linkages between humanitarian relief, recovery and longer-term development. The Transitional

Solutions Initiative (TSI) was a welcome development in this regard. While acknowledging the dilemma that UNHCR faced with respect to resources, there was strong support for UNHCR's efforts in the area of durable solutions. One delegation pointed out that investing in solutions would free up assets needed for emergencies.

8. There was broad support for UNHCR's response to the numerous emergencies in the region. Regarding Mali, the Committee called for a more holistic approach in addressing the humanitarian needs throughout Mali and the wider Sahel. There was also a need for greater coordination in the region, linking refugee operations and wider humanitarian assistance efforts. With respect to improvements in Somalia, UNHCR was urged to take advantage of this window of opportunity and engage with governments in the region on plans for voluntary repatriation when the conditions are met. Delegations also stressed the need for continued protection monitoring in Kenya, particularly in urban areas, as well as at sensitive border points, including inside Somalia. The Committee highlighted the importance of relocating camps from border areas, particularly in South Sudan and Niger, and urged UNHCR to redouble its protection presence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

9. Responding to a number of questions regarding planning for voluntary repatriation to Somalia, the Director indicated that UNHCR was conducting a verification and mapping exercise in the refugee camps to determine areas of potential return. He noted that UNHCR was among the first agencies to return to Mogadishu and that close to 70 personnel, including 20 international staff, were already operating in the country. Regarding Mali, he acknowledged that improved coordination was needed and that programmes were not yet at a sufficient level of effectiveness. He spoke about progress made in the area of registration and said that UNHCR was taking on a more active role in the protection response to internally displaced persons (IDPs). The Director underscored the high-level of impunity for abuses committed against women and girls in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and expressed concern that the majority of instances occurred in areas beyond the reach of UNHCR and the UN peacekeeping mission, where access was a problem.

(b) The Americas

10. The Director of the Regional Bureau for the Americas noted that UNHCR's work in the region particularly contributed to the Global Strategic Priorities in two key areas: ensuring the consistency of law and policy with international standards, and protecting persons of concern from violence, particularly sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). She highlighted the progress made on preventing and reducing statelessness, briefed delegations on important changes in national asylum legislation, and noted that the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration in 2014 would present an opportunity for States to further advance protection in the region.

11. The Committee noted that UNHCR's operations in the Americas were often underestimated and underfunded, despite the good results being produced in the region. UNHCR's efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness, protect vulnerable groups, prevent and respond to SGBV, and reinforce refugee status determination (RSD) procedures, were applauded. Support was also expressed for the TSI in Colombia, as well as Colombia's Law on Victims and Land Restitution, which were important to achieving durable solutions.

12. In response to concerns about low RSD rates, the Director spoke about the quality assurance initiative, which would help strengthen the decision-making process. Regarding the situation in Colombia, she assured the Committee that UNHCR was committed to supporting the Government in addressing the situation of internal displacement. She stressed that a careful balance was needed between finding solutions, continuing to provide protection, and preventing further displacement. The Director also noted that limited

resources prevented UNHCR from supporting host countries at the desired level. Regarding possible unintended consequences of changes in national asylum legislation, she noted that UNHCR would work on a bilateral level to address protection concerns.

(c) Asia and the Pacific

13. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific focused her presentation on three closely interlinked issues: irregular movements, protracted refugee situations, and urban refugees. She highlighted the troubling increase in the number of maritime incidents, including loss of life at sea, and also provided an update on implementation of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees to support Voluntary Repatriation, Sustainable Reintegration and Assistance to Host Countries, including the establishment of a Quadripartite Steering Committee.

14. Delegations praised the progress made by the Quadripartite Steering Committee, but also emphasized the need for support from the international community for national and regional initiatives to facilitate the return of Afghan refugees, as well as the importance of anchoring return through sustainable reintegration. The Committee shared UNHCR's concerns regarding the increase in irregular maritime movements in the region and were pleased that the issue would be addressed at the upcoming Regional Roundtable on Irregular Movements by Sea taking place in March in Jakarta. They emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in developing and maintaining favourable protection environments across the region, and welcomed progress made through the Bali Process, particularly the opening of a Regional Support Office, and the Almaty Process. Support was also expressed for UNHCR's work in Myanmar and the possible breakthrough with respect to returns.

15. The Director said she was encouraged by the support of the Committee and heard its call for UNHCR to continue its critical asylum and protection work in the region. Regarding the Solutions Strategy, the Deputy Director of the Bureau emphasized the need for strong partnerships with development partners and a joint resource mobilization strategy to achieve long term success. With respect to Myanmar, the Deputy Director noted that UNHCR was working in an interagency context to address the situation of the large IDP population. She noted that the additional requirements under UNHCR's supplementary appeal for the Myanmar situation included activities to prepare for possible voluntary repatriation from Thailand, and that a profiling exercise was being undertaken to this end.

(d) Europe

16. The Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe described UNHCR's ongoing work to build and reinforce asylum systems across Europe, including in the framework of the Common European Asylum System. He also addressed the impact of the Syria situation on European States, and briefed the Committee on efforts to find durable solutions to protracted situations related to previous conflicts in the Balkans.

17. Delegations stressed the need for regional cooperation and international solidarity and burden sharing to effectively tackle mixed migration and increased refugee movements to the region. The establishment of a Common Europe Asylum System was described as marking a substantial shift towards more effective asylum systems in the European Union. Support was expressed for the progress being made in the Balkans, and UNHCR was urged to continue addressing the needs of the remaining displaced persons in South-East Europe. Attention was also paid to the impact in Europe of the deteriorating situation in the Syrian Arab Republic on Europe in terms of increased numbers of persons seeking asylum in the region. One delegation noted the need for a coordinated response by the European Union to those fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic, including the availability of resettlement places for the most vulnerable refugees.

18. The Director expressed appreciation for the collaborative spirit demonstrated by States in finalizing the Common European Asylum System and expressed UNHCR's continued commitment to assisting governments in developing protection-sensitive responses to mixed migration. The Regional Representative for Western Europe expressed appreciation for the efforts of the European Union to expand its resettlement programme and increase the number of places available. At the same time, she emphasized the importance of adopting measures to promote the effective integration of resettled refugees.

(e) The Middle East and North Africa

19. The Director of the Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa highlighted the many challenges facing UNHCR and its partners in the region, particularly the Syria crisis. He praised neighbouring countries for keeping their borders open and for their remarkable generosity, and urged the international community to support these countries, whose economies have been heavily strained as a result of the large influx of Syrian refugees. The Director also provided an update on other situations in the region, including Mali and Yemen, and urged that the Committee not lose sight of the needs of these operations. He expressed concern about the magnitude of protection risks associated with mixed migration in the region, and the absence of the rule of law and public order in some areas which allowed networks of smugglers and traffickers to flourish with impunity.

20. The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic dominated the discussion, with member States expressing strong concern about the deteriorating situation and its impact on neighbouring countries and the overall stability of the region. The systematic use of sexual violence, which constitutes a war crime, was cited as a driving force of displacement. Host countries appealed for increased support from the international community to help them shoulder the burden of hosting the large influxes of refugees, and States which had not yet made contributions were urged to do so.

21. Delegations recognized the enormous pressure that had been placed on UNHCR in responding to the Syria emergency and praised staff for their endurance and achievements. The Office was urged to undertake real-time evaluations of the regional response in order to ensure that lessons were being learned and to inform future operational planning. Concern was expressed about the current coordination and leadership structures inside Jordan and Lebanon, and there was a call for strengthened leadership of the humanitarian coordinator roles in both countries to ensure more harmonized, timely and predictable assistance to refugees and host communities. There was also a need to improve the registration process and reduce the current backlog of non-registered refugees.

22. UNHCR was encouraged to develop contingency plans for the possible secondary displacement of Iraqi and other refugees fleeing violence in the Syrian Arab Republic. There was also a need for the Office to develop its long-term planning for Iraqi refugees who intend to stay in neighbouring States for the foreseeable future, through dialogue with host countries and development actors.

23. One delegation welcomed the continuation of protection and assistance programmes for Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps in Algeria and appealed for humanitarian assistance commensurate with the needs of these refugees. Another delegation insisted on the fundamental nature of the registration of populations in the Tindouf camps and reiterated its request for authorizing UNHCR to undertake a census of these populations in order to reinforce their protection.

24. The Director described the complex set of challenges facing UNHCR in response to the Syria crisis. The pressure was mounting on UNHCR to do more because there was a delay in achieving a political solution. He cautioned that the generosity and open door policy of the host countries should not be taken for granted and that, with an end to the

conflict not yet in sight, the sustained support of the international community was necessary. The Assistant High Commissioner (Operations), who had recently been charged with managing the Syria crisis, reassured delegations that exceptional measures were being taken to respond to the exceptional circumstances. Emergency standby mechanisms were not enough, and resources were being mobilized from all operations around the world.

(f) Global programmes and partnerships

25. The Director of the Division for Programme Support and Management focused his presentation on the following areas: fostering new and existing partnerships; strengthening the technical quality and integrity of UNHCR's operations; advancing the culture of results-based management; and pursuing innovative operational approaches. He also highlighted the important work being done by the Operational Solutions and Transitions Section in support of durable solutions and specifically implementation of the TSI.

26. The Committee welcomed the emphasis UNHCR placed on partnerships, its focus on innovation and interventions in the areas of livelihoods, water, sanitation and health. UNHCR was encouraged to further strengthen its work on HIV/AIDS and the prevention of SGBV. There were numerous expressions of support for the TSI, and UNHCR was encouraged to expand the initiative to other operations. Delegations also welcomed the monitoring and evaluation framework for solutions, and the development of more predictable partnerships in this area.

27. In response to calls for UNHCR to reduce waiting times for registration, the Director reassured delegations that the Office was enhancing its technology in this area. Regarding vocational training and livelihoods, he noted that, while they were an important part of solutions, these programmes were context-specific depending on the policies and law of different host countries. He also explained that the monitoring and evaluation framework for solutions was developed in close consultation with all stakeholders, and it would be linked to the broader solutions initiatives.

B. Emergency preparedness and response and report on supply management

28. The Director of the Division of Emergency, Security and Supply provided an update on emergency preparedness and response (EC/64/SC/CRP.3) and a report on supply management (EC/64/SC/CRP.4). He spoke about continued efforts to enhance the Office's emergency architecture and the development of new policy guidance and tools, and also highlighted the importance of partnerships in establishing a more robust, stable and predictable response to emergencies. On the supply side, the Director summarized the achievements in delivery of core relief items to emergency operations, facilitated by the strengthened global logistical network and the "three-pronged approach" to supply (simultaneous activation of sea, air and road transport, coupled with the use of "white stocks").

29. The Committee welcomed UNHCR's efforts to enhance its emergency response capacity, in particular through the use of partnerships and strengthened leadership in emergencies; its commitment to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Transformative Agenda; and the measures taken to improve supply chain management. UNHCR was encouraged to share lessons learned from the measures taken to improve its emergency response capacity and supply chain management.

30. The Director highlighted ongoing efforts to harmonize contingency planning and to implement preparedness more systematically in UNHCR's work, including through training and the development of templates and guidelines. He also indicated that UNHCR was

conducting a review of the regional refugee coordination function in relation to the inter-agency response to internal displacement. The Director spoke about UNHCR's engagement in the Transformative Agenda, noting that it was the beginning of a process which would be reflected on and assured delegations that UNHCR would remain committed to its implementation.

IV. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources

A. Update on innovation and simplification

31. The Deputy High Commissioner provided the update on innovation and simplification contained in EC/64/SC/CRP.5. He briefed the Committee on innovative measures taken to develop solutions for problems in the field, citing examples including a light and durable alternative to emergency tents. He also described the work being done by UNHCR to ensure policy coherence and improve knowledge management, which lead to enhanced accountability, and the elimination or simplification of numerous reporting requirements. The Deputy High Commissioner also took the opportunity to speak about progress made in strengthening oversight.

32. Several delegations expressed an interest in the innovation and simplification projects, noting that they were important not only in terms of cost-savings but also in terms of the potential impact on service delivery and protection. As these initiatives were being developed by a small team with a limited budget, UNHCR was asked about the prospects for continuing and expanding the innovation projects.

33. The Deputy High Commissioner noted that while the cost savings as a result of this work would be directed to other organizational needs, the main goal of the projects was to improve UNHCR's ability to deliver on its core mandate of providing protection to refugees with improvements in areas such as shelter and lighting. He explained that the projects underway were currently all internal but that they took into account best practices and lessons learned from the humanitarian community. He noted a request made by one delegation to demonstrate the real impact of these projects on individuals and assured that this would be reported on in the future. While the innovation team is quite small, it is a conduit and not the source of all of the innovations being developed.

B. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for previous years

34. The Controller and Director of the Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM) reported on UNHCR's follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2011 and previous years, as contained in EC/64/SC/CRP.6. She highlighted in particular with the progress made on five key findings of the Board in its report on the 2011 accounts: 1) preparation of financial statements; 2) financial management, in particular regard to verification framework for projects implemented by partners; 3) implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); 4) organization-wide risk management; and 5) procurement.

35. While a number of delegations were encouraged by the positive steps taken by UNHCR in addressing the Board's recommendations, they also voiced concern at the number of outstanding recommendations from previous years. Regarding IPSAS, UNHCR

was asked to provide more information on the methodology to track and manage benefits realization. UNHCR was encouraged to take prompt action to address the audit risks identified by the Board on inventory management, and make further progress in the areas of internal control and implementing partner management. Efforts undertaken to implement enterprise risk management were welcomed and more information was sought on the roll out to the field offices.

36. Regarding the outstanding recommendations, the Controller reassured the Committee that detailed action plans had been developed and the status of implementation was being tracked. She explained that UNHCR considers a number of the recommendations as implemented and closed and awaited the Board's concurrence. On IPSAS, the Controller remarked that strong support from senior management had been key to implementation and noted that the Board of Auditors was expected to comment on the benefits in its next report. As well, the controller would provide a dedicated briefing on the benefits of IPSAS in June. The Controller indicated that UNHCR was on track with respect to implementing enterprise risk management and informed the Committee that a corporate risk register was being developed as part of the strategy. She also briefed the Committee on the progress made with respect to the verification framework for projects implemented by partners, including the established of a new Implementing Partner Management Service within DFAM.

C. Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office

37. The Inspector General centred his speech around three themes: the establishment of an internal audit service in UNHCR, the current critical resource situation of the Inspector General's Office (IGO), and its work with partners on investigations. The Committee expressed its full support for the work of the IGO and urged the Office to take corrective measures to ensure its adequate resourcing and report back on the measures taken.

38. In response to questions from the Committee, UNHCR clarified that the Board of Auditors would remain UNHCR's external auditors, despite the establishment of an internal audit service in UNHCR. He assured the Committee that UNHCR's principle implementing partners (IP) have a code of conduct to which they are held accountable, and that allegations of misconduct by IP staff are dealt with as stringently as those pertaining to UNHCR staff. He noted that work was ongoing to ensure that smaller IPs also establish codes of conduct. He also indicated that the new Inspection Findings and Comments Matrix was utilized on all inspection missions in 2012 and that its value had been recognized.

V. Programme budgets and funding

39. The Controller and Director of the Division of Financial and Administrative Management (DFAM) and the Director of the Division of External Relations (DER) jointly presented the update on programme budget and funding for 2012 and 2013 (EC/64/SC/CRP.7). The Controller provided an update on the financial situation in 2012. She also gave a brief overview of the 2013 annual budget, which was approved by the Executive Committee in October 2012, including the seven supplementary budgets that were created during the year to respond to emergencies. The Director of DER then commented on UNHCR's funding situation in 2012 and projections for 2013, showing comparative positions in recent years in respect of income versus budget; timing of voluntary contributions; comparison of contributions toward supplementary appeals and annual budget; earmarking trends; contributions by region; sources of funding; UN and pooled funding mechanisms; and private-sector fundraising income and investment.

40. The Committee expressed concern over the unprecedented gap in funding. There were numerous requests for UNHCR to provide more information on the impact and consequences of the shortfalls in funding, as measured against needs expressed in the budget. It was recalled that the budget depended on the availability of funds, which were not available at the time of approval due to UNHCR's near-total reliance on voluntary funding. In this regard, strong support was expressed for the needs-based budget, which provided a picture of the operational requirements across the globe. The Office was encouraged to link financial requirements with results in its documentation to the Committee, and to be transparent in communicating information on prioritization and reprioritization when new budget increases were presented due to emergencies. As one delegation pointed out, this would make donors more inclined to increase the proportion of un-earmarked funds in their donations.

41. A number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the dialogue that had been established with the Controller on the budget presentation and expressed approval her for recent and continuing efforts to improve the document. Several delegates welcomed the initiative to review the budget presentation at an upcoming informal consultative meeting and offered proposals for further discussion, such as inclusion of more information on persons of concern, trend analysis and prioritization elements in the budget document, as well as on the impact of the gap in funding based on needs.

42. Questions were raised about possible de-prioritization of IDP projects and the role of host governments in setting priorities. The delegates were advised that more un-earmarked resources were allocated to IDP projects and that host governments were an integral part of the needs assessment and priority-setting process at the time of planning, which was already underway for the 2014-2015 biennium.

43. In response to a call for UNHCR to further explain how limited resources are allocated to various parts of the budget, the Controller explained that the High Commissioner regularly reviews the financial situation and makes adjustments to allocated resources in order to reprioritize what was available. The Controller also explained that earmarking was in itself a form of prioritization, hence constraining the High Commissioner's ability to prioritize. The Controller took note of the suggestions expressed, noting that budget document was not a performance report, and recalling that UNHCR also publishes an extensive annual Global Report, where elements of performance reporting are included. The Controller thanked the delegates for the suggestions and feedback provided and assured the Committee that they would be taken into account and reviewed at the upcoming informal consultative meeting on the topic.

44. The draft decision on Programme Budgets and Funding was adopted.

VI. Programme/protection policy

A. Oral update on the High Commissioner's 2012 Dialogue on faith and protection

45. The Director of the Division of International Protection provided a summary of the outcome of the High Commissioner's 2012 Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which focused on the theme of faith and protection. He reported that follow-up was proceeding along four work streams: 1) compiling good practices on engagement between UNHCR and faith-based organizations (FBOs) to yield protection outcomes; 2) developing a code of conduct for faith leaders; 3) contributing to a Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities spearheaded by a coalition of NGOs and academic institutions, which seeks to understand the role of local faith communities in strengthening resilience, as well as

addressing challenges to full engagement in humanitarian operations; and 4) developing guidance for UNHCR staff on “faith literacy.”

46. Delegations commended UNHCR for the successful organization of the 2012 Dialogue, which was described as very practical. While the topic was sensitive, it deserved ample attention from the international community. One delegation saw value in the four strands of follow-up, and another expressed special interest in the development of a code of conduct for faith leaders. Two delegations referred to measures taken at national level towards the full realization of freedom of religion and belief, including the appointment of an envoy on this topic. In his response, the Director confirmed UNHCR’s intention to work with States and keep them informed on the follow-up effort.

B. Introduction of the ExCom Conclusion theme (oral)

47. The Executive Committee Rapporteur summarized the process by which the Committee had arrived at a theme for the 2013 conclusion on international protection. Three possible themes were submitted in response to the call for proposals. Executive Committee members met in February 2013 and agreed, by consensus, on the theme proposed by the member States of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) on civil registration, noting that it would incorporate the birth registration theme proposed by UNHCR. A zero draft of the text of the conclusion would be prepared by UNHCR, and then the Rapporteur will present the Committee with proposed dates for negotiations.

VII. Any other business

48. The Chairperson first advised of two proposed changes of dates of the informal consultation meetings on the budget process and prioritization as well as the update on IPSAS benefits. This was agreed.

49. The Secretary of the Executive Committee provided the Committee with an his third update on the development of the “UNHCR 2013 Report,” recalling that this year the High Commissioner will file a second report along with his traditional annual report to the General Assembly. General Assembly Resolution 58/153 requests that the High Commissioner, once every ten years beginning at its 68th session, include with his annual report a “strategic overview of the global situation of refugees and the role of the Office, prepared in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Executive Committee.”

50. The Secretary recalled that the first informal briefing and discussion with ExCom members on possible themes and approaches for the report had been held in September 2012. In December 2012, based on that initial discussion with States, as well as consultations with colleagues throughout UNHCR, the Secretariat circulated to member States a draft list of proposed themes, on which comment was invited, and a second informal consultation with ExCom members was held in February 2013. The Secretary noted that member States’ comments had been extremely useful, and he thanked those States that had provided written comments, as well as those that had participated in the discussions. He summarized those issues that member States highlighted most prominently, noting that they may be roughly categorized into four areas: institutional issues, particularly management reform and accountability; mandate and prioritization of response; programmatic approaches, including for refugees in urban areas and outside of camps; and partnerships, including in the context of the Transformative Agenda, with development actors, and governments.

51. The Secretary noted that a final consultation would be held with States in June.

52. The Chairperson updated on the significant progress made regarding the decision taken by the Committee last year to begin holding paper-smart meetings, drastically cutting back on the amount of paper being used with both environmental and financial benefits. She encouraged delegations to make use of laptops and iPads during the meetings, and further reduce the Committee's carbon footprint.

53. There being no other business, the Chairperson closed the meeting.

Annex

Decision on budgets and funding for 2012 and 2013

The Standing Committee,

Recalling the Executive Committee's decision at its sixty-third session on administrative, financial and programme matters (A/AC.96/1119, para.13) as well as its discussions under the programme budgets and funding item at the fifty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee in September 2012,

Reaffirming the importance of international burden and responsibility-sharing in reducing the burden on countries hosting refugees, especially developing ones,

1. *Recalls* that the Executive Committee, at its sixty-second session, approved programmes and budgets for Regional Programmes, Global Programmes and Headquarters under UNHCR's 2012-2013 Biennial Programme Budget amounting to \$3,591.2 million for 2012,
 2. *Recalls* that the Executive Committee, at its sixty-third session, approved programmes and budgets for Regional Programmes, Global Programmes and Headquarters under UNHCR's revised 2012-2013 Biennial Programme Budget amounting to \$3,924.2 million for 2013,
 3. *Notes* that the 2012 supplementary budgets currently amount to \$692.7 million for programmes benefiting refugees and internally displaced persons;
 4. *Notes* that the 2013 supplementary budgets currently amount to \$479.7 million for programmes benefiting refugees and internally displaced persons;
 5. *Notes* the reduction of \$32.6 million in the Burkina Faso operation for 2013;
 6. *Takes note* of the increase in UNHCR's 2013 Annual Budget to a total of \$4,371.3 million;
 7. *Recognizes* that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding in 2013 may result in the need for additional or expanded supplementary budgets, and that additional resources, over and above those for existing budgets, would be needed to meet such needs; and
 8. *Urges* member States to continue to respond generously, in a spirit of solidarity and in a timely manner, to the High Commissioner's appeal for resources to meet in full the 2013 Annual Budget.
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