



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 October 2013
English
Original: English and French

Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Sixty-fourth session

Geneva, 30 September-4 October 2013

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of reports on the work of the Standing Committee

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee

Report of the Secretariat

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-third session in October 2012, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2013.¹ This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.

2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2013: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2012 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the agenda items in 2013. This is provided in Annex I.

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee in 2013 is contained in the following reports: *Report of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1121)*; *Report of the fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1129)*; and *Report of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1130)*. A list of documents relating to these meetings is provided in Annex II.

II. Issues covered by the Standing Committee in 2013

A. Programme budgets and funding

4. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee considered updates on budgets and funding, through which it was kept informed of programme requirements, budgetary measures and funding levels. The Committee also adopted decisions, as listed in chapter III below. At its September meeting, the Standing Committee reviewed the biennial programme budget for 2014 and 2015.

B. International protection

5. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges: faith and protection. The theme of the Executive Committee conclusion on international protection, civil registration, was also introduced. In June, the Standing Committee discussed the *Note on international protection* and the *Note on statelessness*. It also received an update on refugee women: promoting gender equality and eliminating sexual and gender-based violence, and an oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion on international protection.

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6. Reviews of UNHCR's programmes and activities in all five regions (Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; and the Middle East and North Africa) were comprehensively considered at the Standing Committee's meeting in March. The Committee also received reports on the Office's global programmes and partnerships;

¹ A/AC.96/1119, para. 14(b)

emergency preparedness and response; and supply management. In June, the Committee was presented with a report on the technical integrity of UNHCR programmes.

D. Programme/Protection policy

7. The June meeting reviewed reports on the Global Strategic Priorities for 2014-2015; community-based protection; and security and welfare issues, including refugee security.

E. Coordination

8. An update on HIV/AIDS and refugees was presented at the June Standing Committee, as was a summary of elements for UNHCR's oral update to the 2013 session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). At the September meeting, an update on coordination and strategic partnerships was considered.

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

9. In March, the Standing Committee received an update on innovation and simplification. It also considered a report on follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for previous years and an oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office.

10. In September, the Committee considered the Report of the Board of Auditors on UNHCR's accounts for 2012 and discussed the key issues identified in the Report and measures taken by UNHCR in response to those issues. The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken at UNHCR for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, and the Committee received its first formal report from the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee since its establishment. An update was also provided on human resources issues, including staff security.

G. Governance

11. In March, the Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2013 as proposed at its December 2012 planning meeting. At the June meeting, the Standing Committee was invited to make suggestions on issues to be included in the High Commissioner's opening statement at the sixty-fourth plenary session of the Executive Committee.

H. Consultations

12. In accordance with its standard practice, the Standing Committee held a number of informal consultative meetings and briefings during the course of the year on issues requiring in-depth discussion or action. In 2013, the Standing Committee held four informal consultative meetings, two in February, one in April, and one in September. The February meetings discussed the global strategic priorities for 2014-2015 and UNHCR and the Transformative Agenda. The April meeting discussed UNHCR's budget process and prioritization. The September meeting reviewed the biennial programme budget for 2014-2015. A briefing on leveraging development partners and funds in support of self-

sufficiency and solutions was held in June, and a briefing on the benefits of implementation of the international public sector accounting standards (IPSAS) was also held in June. In February and June, consultations were also held on the 10-year strategic review to be presented by the High Commissioner to the 68th session of the General Assembly (as per A/RES/58/153), in order to seek Member States' views on the scope and content of the report.

III. Standing Committee decisions

13. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted a number of decisions which are annexed to the reports of the Standing Committee meetings, as follows:

- (a) *Report of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1121)*
Decision on budgets and funding for 2012 and 2013
- (b) *Report of the fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1129)*
Draft decision on budgets and funding for 2012 and 2013
- (c) *Report of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1130)*
Decision on budgets and funding for 2013

Annex I

[English and French only]

Standing Committee work programme for 2013 - calendar

<i>Theme</i>	<i>56th Meeting 5-7 March 2013</i>	<i>57th Meeting 25-27 June 2013</i>	<i>58th Meeting 17-18 September 2013</i>
Programme budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding for 2012 and 2013 ²	Update on budgets and funding for 2013 and reporting on 2012 UNHCR Global Report 2012	Update on budgets and funding for 2013 Biennial programme budget for 2014-2015 Report of the ACABQ on the biennial programme budget for 2014-2015
International Protection	Update on the High Commissioner's 2012 Dialogue on protection challenges: faith and protection (oral) Introduction of the ExCom conclusion theme (oral)	Note on international protection Update on statelessness Refugee women Background paper on the ExCom conclusion theme	
Regional activities and global programmes	Strategic presentations on Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; the Middle East and North Africa; and global programmes and partnerships Emergency preparedness and response Report on supply management	Technical integrity of UNHCR programmes	

² To include discussion of ACABQ's recommendations on UNHCR's revised 2013 budget.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>56th Meeting 5-7 March 2013</i>	<i>57th Meeting 25-27 June 2013</i>	<i>58th Meeting 17-18 September 2013</i>
Programme / protection policy		Global Strategic Priorities for 2014-2015 Community services, including older persons and persons with disabilities Security and welfare issues, including refugee security	
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	Update on innovation and simplification Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for previous years Update on the work of the Inspector General's Office (oral)		Accounts for the year 2012 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts for the voluntary funds administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2012 Key issues and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2012 Internal Audit (OIOS) Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee (IAOC) Human resources issues, including staff security
Coordination		HIV/AIDS and refugees Elements for UNHCR's oral update to ECOSOC (oral)	Update on coordination and strategic partnerships
Governance	Adoption of the Standing Committee work programme for 2013	Suggestions on issues for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 64 th session of the Executive Committee	

**64th session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme:
(30 September-4 October 2013)**

Annex II

[English and French only]

Standing Committee documentation issued during 2013

56th Meeting (5-7 March 2013)

Conference room papers:

EC/64/SC/CRP.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/64/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2013
EC/64/SC/CRP.3	Emergency preparedness and response
EC/64/SC/CRP.4	Report on supply management
EC/64/SC/CRP.5	Update on innovation and simplification
EC/64/SC/CRP.6	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on financial statements for previous years
EC/64/SC/CRP.7	Update on budgets and funding for 2012 and 2013

Strategic overviews:

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- The Americas
- The Middle East and North Africa
- Global Programmes and Partnerships

Oral updates:

- The work of the Inspector General's Office (IGO)
- The High Commissioner's 2012 Dialogue on protection challenges: faith and protection
- Introduction of the ExCom conclusion theme

57th Meeting (25-27 June 2013)

Conference room papers:

EC/64/SC/CRP.8	Draft report of the fifty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/64/SC/CRP.9	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/64/SC/CRP.10	Note on international protection
EC/64/SC/CRP.11	Note on statelessness
EC/64/SC/CRP.12	Update on refugee women: promoting gender equality and eliminating sexual and gender-based violence

EC/64/SC/CRP.13/Rev.1	Update on Global Strategic Priorities
EC/64/SC/CRP.14	Community-based protection
EC/64/SC/CRP.15	Staff safety and security issues, including refugee security
EC/64/SC/CRP.16	Technical integrity of UNHCR programmes
EC/64/SC/CRP.17	Update on budgets and funding for 2013 and reporting on 2012
EC/64/SC/CRP.18/Rev.1	Update on HIV/AIDS and refugees

Oral updates:

Highlights of the oral update on UNHCR's statement to the 2013 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

58th Meeting (17-18 September 2013)

Conference room papers:

EC/64/SC/CRP.19	Draft report of the fifty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/64/SC/CRP.20	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/64/SC/CRP.21	Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee
EC/64/SC/CRP.22	Human resources issues, including staff security
EC/64/SC/CRP.23	Update on budgets and funding for 2013
EC/64/SC/CRP.24	Update on coordination issues: strategic partnerships
EC/64/SC/CRP.25	Draft report of the fifty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
