

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

*(Geneva, 1 October 2007)*

**Elements**

In his Opening Statement to the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will outline his strategic vision for the year ahead, focusing on the following areas:

- Trends in Displacement  
The current operational environment; recent increases in the global number of refugees; imperatives for a flexible, strategic organization.
- UNHCR Reform  
Result of measures taken to date, including budgeting and measuring results; reduction in staffing and overhead costs; decision to out-post administrative functions; regionalization of structures and functions.
- UN Reform  
'Delivering as One' in the humanitarian context; internal displacement and the cluster approach.
- Protection  
The Dialogue on Protection Challenges; new instruments to address asylum and migration; additional means for statelessness; positive developments in asylum legislation.
- Patterns of Return  
Protracted situations and long-term solutions; voluntary repatriation, resettlement and local integration; the reintegration challenge; Peacebuilding initiative; ongoing operations.
- Partnerships  
Evolving relationships, including the new Global Humanitarian Platform; peer involvement on accountability to beneficiaries.
- Funding  
Impact of moving to a biennial budget; programme planning and reporting; efforts to broaden the donor base; financial outlook for the remainder of 2007 and 2008.

*18 September 2007*