

**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 58th 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.