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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Sixtieth session
Geneva, 28 September - 2 October 2009
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Reports on the work of the Standing Committee

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee

Report of the Secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifty-ninth session in October 2008, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2009.¹ This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.

2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2009: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2008 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the different agenda items in 2009. This is provided in Annex I.

¹ A/AC.96/1063, paragraph 17.

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee in 2009 is contained in the following reports: *Report of the forty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1065); *Report of the forty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1073); and *Report of the forty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1074). A list of documents relating to these meetings is provided in Annex II.

II. ISSUES COVERED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN 2009

A. Programme budgets and funding

4. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee considered updates on overall programme 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 section III below. At the June meeting, the Committee also considered the Global Report on UNHCR's activities in 2008. In its September meeting, the Standing Committee reviewed the Biennial Programme Budget for 2010 and 2011 in the new budget structure, and discussed a proposal for an increase to the 2009 appropriation level of the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" Reserve, as well as proposals for a revision of the Financial Rules. In September, the Committee also discussed UNHCR's resource mobilization strategy, including private sector fund raising.

B. International Protection

5. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the second meeting of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges that had taken place in December 2008. The June meeting included a debate on the Note on International Protection and a progress report on Statelessness. The Committee also received an update on implementation of the Agenda for Protection.

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6. Regional reviews of UNHCR's programmes and activities in all five regions: Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; the Middle East and North Africa; and Europe, were considered comprehensively at the Standing Committee's meeting in March. In addition to the regional reviews, the Committee also discussed the Office's global programmes and partnerships. The Committee also received a report on UNHCR's supply chain management in March and a report on staff safety and security issues, including refugee security in June.

D. Programme/Protection policy

7. At the March meeting, the Committee received a presentation on UNHCR's policy framework and implementation strategy on its role in support of the return and reintegration of displaced populations, as well as a briefing on the implementation and mainstreaming of the global workplan for IDP operations. In June, the Standing Committee discussed reports on the protection of women and girls in displacement, as well as on environmental issues. A decision on the latter was adopted at the June meeting.

E. Coordination

8. The Committee considered elements for UNHCR's oral update to the 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council at its June meeting. An update on inter-agency coordination issues and strategic partnerships was discussed in the September meeting.

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

9. At each meeting, the Standing Committee received an update on UNHCR's structural and management change process. In March, the Committee received reports on follow-up measures taken in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2007, and on the work of the Inspector General's Office. In June, the Committee was also apprised of progress with the introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and with strategies envisaged for funding end-of-service and post-retirement benefits.

10. In September, the Standing Committee received a report on the Ethics Office and an update on UNHCR's policy for achieving gender equity in its staffing. The September meeting also considered the Report of the Board of Auditors on UNHCR's accounts for 2008, and discussed measures taken or proposed in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2008 and previous years. Also in September, the Office of Internal Oversight Services presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken at UNHCR for the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

G. Governance

11. In March, the Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2009 as proposed at its December 2008 planning meeting. In June, under governance issues, the Committee called on delegations to provide suggestions for issues to be included in the High Commissioner's opening statement at the sixtieth session of the Executive Committee.

H. Consultations

12. In accordance with its standard practice, the Standing Committee held informal consultative meetings in the course of the year on issues requiring in-depth discussion. These included a briefing on the Policy Development and Evaluation Service's workplan for 2009; two meetings on the Global Needs Assessment (GNA) and on GNA prioritization; and two meetings on UNHCR's Biennial Programme Budget for 2010-2011.

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 different Standing Committee meetings, as follows:

- (a) *Report of the forty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1065)*
 - (i) Decision on programme budgets and funding in 2009

- (b) *Report of the forty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1073)*
 - (i) Decision on addressing environmental issues in operations for persons of concern to UNHCR
 - (ii) Decision on overall programme budgets and funding for 2009

Annex I

STANDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME CALENDAR FOR 2009
(English and French only)

	44th Meeting 3-5 March 2009	45th Meeting 23-25 June 2009	46th Meeting 15-16 September 2009
PROGRAMME BUDGETS AND FUNDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme budgets and funding in 2008 and projections for 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on programme budgets and funding for 2008 and 2009 • Global Report (2008) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on programme budgets and funding for 2009 • Biennial Programme Budget for 2010/2011 • Report of the ACABQ on the draft budget for 2010/2011 • Report on UNHCR's resource mobilization strategy, including private sector fundraising strategy
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note on International Protection • Report on Statelessness • Update on the implementation of the Agenda for Protection 	
REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic presentations on Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa, as well as on global programmes and partnerships • Supply Chain Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff safety and security issues, including refugee security • Global Needs Assessment (GNA) 	
PROGRAMME/ PROTECTION POLICY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral update on the implementation of the policy framework and strategy in support of the return and reintegration of displaced populations • Oral update on the implementation of the global workplan for IDP operations and progress on mainstreaming • Oral update on the High Commissioner's 2008 Dialogue on protracted refugee situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee women • Environmental issues 	

	44th Meeting 3-5 March 2009	45th Meeting 23-25 June 2009	46th Meeting 15-16 September 2009
MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTROL, ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the structural and management change process • Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2007 and previous years • Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral update on the structural and management change process • Update on International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and progress report on funding end-of-service and post-retirement benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral update on the structural and management change process • Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Accounts for the year 2008) • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2008 • Measures taken or proposed in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2008 and update on measures taken on recommendations in previous years • Summary report on main risk areas raised in the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2008 • Internal audit • Proposal for a revision of the Financial Rules • Report on the Ethics Office • Update on UNHCR's gender policy
COORDINATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements for UNHCR's oral update to ECOSOC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on strategic partnerships
GOVERNANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of work programme for 2009 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions on issues for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 60th session of the Executive Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 60th session of the Executive Committee

**60th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME:
28 September - 2 October 2009**

Annex II

STANDING COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION ISSUED DURING 2009

44th Meeting (3-5 March 2009)

EC/60/SC/CRP.1/Rev.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/60/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2009
EC/60/SC/CRP.3	Update on UNHCR's Structural and Management Change Process
EC/60/SC/CRP.4	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2007 and previous years
EC/60/SC/CRP.5	Supply Chain Management
EC/60/SC/CRP.6	Programme budgets and funding in 2008 and projections for 2009

45th Meeting (23-25 June 2009)

EC/60/SC/CRP.7	Draft report of the forty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/60/SC/CRP.8/Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/60/SC/CRP.9	Note on International Protection
EC/60/SC/CRP.10	Progress report on statelessness 2009
EC/60/SC/CRP.11	Report on international protection of women and girls in displacement
EC/60/SC/CRP.12	Environmental issues
EC/60/SC/CRP.13	Staff safety and security issues, including refugee security
EC/60/SC/CRP.14	Global Needs Assessment
EC/60/SC/CRP.15	Update on the introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)
EC/60/SC/CRP.16	Progress report on funding end-of-service and post-retirement benefits
EC/60/SC/CRP.17	Update on programme budgets and funding for 2008 and 2009
EC/60/SC/INF.1	Update on implementation of the Agenda for Protection

46th Meeting (15-16 September 2009)

EC/60/SC/CRP.18	Draft report of the forty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/60/SC/CRP.19/Rev.2	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/60/SC/CRP.20	Summary report on main risk areas raised in the report of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2008
EC/60/SC/CRP.21 and Corr.1	Report on the Ethics Office
EC/60/SC/CRP.22	Update on the policy on achieving gender equity in UNHCR staffing
EC/60/SC/CRP.23	Update on programme budgets and funding for 2009
EC/60/SC/CRP.24	Proposal for a revision of the Financial Rules
EC/60/SC/CRP.24/Add.1	Revision to UNHCR Financial Rules: Reasons for proposed changes
EC/60/SC/CRP.25	Report on UNHCR's resource mobilization strategy, including private sector fund raising strategy
EC/60/SC/CRP.26	Update on coordination: strategic partnerships
EC/60/SC/CRP.27	UNHCR's Biennial Programme Budget for 2010-2011
EC/60/SC/CRP.28	Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2008 and its Annex
EC/60/SC/CRP.29	Measures taken or proposed in response to the recommendations in the report of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2008
EC/60/SC/INF. 2	Global Strategic Priorities

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