

**60th meeting of the Standing Committee
1-3 July 2014**

Agenda item 6

Oral update on UNHCR's statement to the United Nations Economic and Social Council

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

UNHCR will deliver an oral update on the coordination aspects of its activities and partnerships during the Coordination and Management Meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to be held in New York from 14-16 July 2014 (agenda item 17(e)). The update will cover four areas: responding to emergencies; transition efforts, protracted situations and durable solutions; UNHCR's implementation of the Transformative Agenda; and partnership coordination with NGOs.

The main elements of the update will be as follows.

Responding to emergencies: noting that the past year has been marked by a cascade of emergencies – including Syria, CAR and South Sudan -- the update will:

- underscore UNHCR's strong leadership in the coordination and management of the refugee component of the emergency response to humanitarian crises in an inter-agency environment;
- announce the agreement between OCHA and UNHCR, which further strengthens their relationship in the face of many challenges in the field, and which clarifies respective roles and responsibilities;
- emphasize the importance of UNHCR's Refugee Coordination Model, which demarcates roles and responsibilities between refugee coordination and the broader humanitarian response, in particular in mixed situations;
- note the imperative to maximize operational synergies with partners;
- advocate for international solidarity and burden-sharing; and
- underline the efforts made to ensure effective management in emergencies despite resource constraints.

Transition efforts, protracted situations and durable solutions: explaining that UNHCR's responsibilities go beyond refugee emergencies and into building resilience and finding solutions for people in protracted situations, the update will:

- note the importance of the Transitional Solutions Initiative to promote livelihoods and self-sufficiency for refugees, returnees and host communities;
- expound on our initiatives in partnering with the development community, notably through the Solutions Alliance, which establishes a common agreement among participating UN agencies, NGOs, donors, affected States and others to address displacement comprehensively, in particular protracted situations; and
- note the importance of broadening institutional efforts in the pursuit of solutions for stateless persons.

UNHCR's implementation of the Transformative Agenda: noting that with the Transformative Agenda now in its second year, and already put to the test in a number of L3 emergencies, the update will:

- emphasize UNHCR deep commitment and concrete actions to transform the way the IASC works together to respond more effectively to emergencies
- note that the High Commissioner and relevant senior staff have all been actively involved in the various IASC mechanisms under the Transformative Agenda in order to respond to the various L3 emergencies

- inform that UNHCR has demonstrated its commitment to the Transformative Agenda through the secondment of several current and former staff to the Humanitarian Coordinator Pool, the Senior TA Implementation Team and the IASC Secretariat; as well as through the rapid deployment of emergency teams to L3 emergencies.
- explain that the Refugee Coordination Model has been developed as a complement to the Transformative Agenda, and a means of further regularizing coordination arrangements in emergencies.

Partnership coordination with non-governmental organizations (NGOs): underscoring UNHCR's mandated responsibility to work through NGOs, and the deep importance it has always attached to nurturing true partnerships with NGOs, in particular national NGOs, the update will:

- explain efforts made to strengthen strategic partnerships with NGOs to enable more predictable emergency response and to further solutions for the displaced;
- note efforts to enhance partnership principles and their application in the field;
- further note actions to seek complementarities with NGO partners at global, regional and national levels, in advocacy and through operational collaboration;
- underline the actions taken by UNHCR to enhance the national NGO capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies; and
- note the participation of nearly 250 NGOs in the 2014 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs.

UNHCR/DER
2 July 2014