

Message from the High Commissioner to the 2012 Annual Consultations with NGOs

AM DELIGHTED TO EXTEND a warm welcome to everyone joining us for the 2012 Annual Consultations between UNHCR and NGOs. The Consultations serve as a unique platform to exchange opinions on global and regional topics of concern, including on refugee and IDP protection, statelessness, and solutions to displacement. They also provide an opportunity to review and strengthen the way we work together in partnership. This year's Consultations will gather more than 400 people representing over 200 different NGOs worldwide, and we are honored to have a broad range of operations and partners represented.

UNHCR has invested in several initiatives over the past year in order to enhance our partnerships with NGOs. Our intention is to achieve more strategic, transparent, results-oriented and trust-based relationships. We want to better capture the wide range of experience and expertise among NGOs, encourage systematic involvement in strategic planning and analysis, and strengthen information-sharing. It will be through integrating NGO involvement at all phases, the makings of true partnership, that our joint ability to achieve excellence in operations will be found.

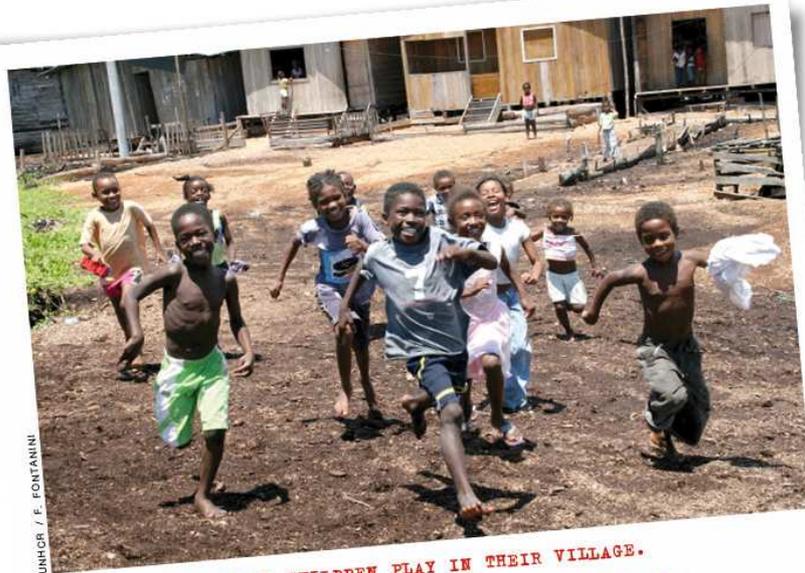
Firstly, we have begun to engage in an *ad hoc* Structured Dialogue with NGOs in 2012 to review how we partner in a changed world. This follows a suggestion by some NGOs that 20 years after ParInAc, it might be time to take a critical look again! The Structured Dialogue provides an opportunity for

The Inter-Agency Unit would like to thank the many colleagues who have contributed to the preparation of these consultations. We would especially like to thank the speakers and moderators of the sessions, including Anoop Sukumaran for his role as the Rapporteur of the Annual Consultations with NGOs and the Rapporteur of UNHCR's Executive Committee, Thararut Hanlumyung, for attending.

NGOs and UNHCR to jointly identify priority areas where our partnership should be adapted and strengthened. We are looking at UNHCR-NGO partnership at field level, and want to explore in particular three rather different themes: complementarities and partnership in urban situations; how to build sustainable partnerships with local civil society actors; and advocacy and communication around protection and UNHCR's mandate.

Secondly, many of us have been busy over these last months in discussions, in particular at the IASC, on the Transformative Agenda. Candid and constructive, these discussions have focused on leadership, coordination and mutual accountability for collective results. As we set out now to implement the agreed outcomes of this Agenda in our operations, our shared values and common approaches on such issues will be critical for success.

Thirdly, in parallel with the IASC discussions, UNHCR reviewed our emergency response, focusing on leadership and accountability, including our accountability for coordination. This entails further strengthening of cluster leadership and investments in staffing and training to support UNHCR's contribution to IDP and complex emergency responses, as well as to strengthen leadership capacities in refugee operations. Our intention is to ensure our ability to mount rapid, well-led, and effectively coordinated multi-sectorial responses in collaboration with partners. One result of our review is a set of Enhanced Emergency Procedures concerning rapid deployment, streamlined budgeting and donor appeals procedures, stronger information management, and, as a priority, guidance on effective engagement with partners in refugee emergencies. This includes working effectively with inter-agency mechanisms, such as clusters, where they exist. With your continuing support and feedback we hope to continually improve.



UNHCR / E. FONTANINI

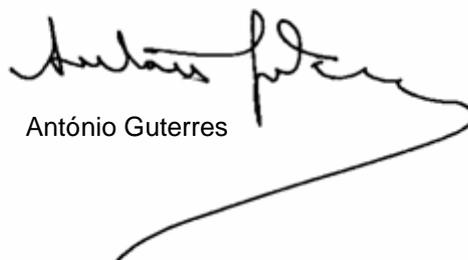
COLOMBIA: DISPLACED CHILDREN PLAY IN THEIR VILLAGE.
MINES AND ARMED GROUPS MAKE THIS A POTENTIALLY
DANGEROUS ACTIVITY.

Fourthly, we have established a new Service: the Implementing Partnership Management Service, (IPMS), dedicated to improving implementing partnerships and related policies and procedures. The Service will also serve to enhance accountability for use of resources, in part through joint management, monitoring and review of projects. Those NGOs requiring capacity building in relation to managing partnership agreements and reporting can also seek assistance from the IPMS. The Service has expanded its consultative process to more partners to ensure that our collaboration contributes to effective outcomes for populations of concern. The work of the Service will also certainly be informed by the discussions held in the context of the Structured Dialogue.

We greatly appreciate the high level of expertise and capacity extended by many NGOs across many contexts. Allow me to emphasize once again that for UNHCR it is clear, NGOs play an absolutely vital role in terms of advocacy for protection and solutions, implementation, and policy development. The scale and scope of our work requires NGO partnerships to be both extensive and effective.

UNHCR now serves 35.4 million people, an increase of over 19 million since 2005. The proliferation of new crises since 2011 alone has been staggering. Starting with post-election violence in the Ivory Coast, more than 800,000 persons were forced to seek asylum last year due to armed conflicts and human rights violations. This year the rate of displacement continues unabated, with fresh large-scale displacement caused by fighting in northern Mali, Syria, and Sudan and continuing “old” conflicts, such as in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan and Somalia. It is therefore encouraging to note that UNHCR is working with an ever increasing number of NGOs, particularly national NGOs. In 2011 UNHCR worked with 762 NGOs; among these 151 were international NGOs and 611 national NGOs.

These Annual Consultations are an invaluable opportunity for all of us to discuss the topics at the heart of our interests and concerns. I wish you lively and interesting discussions and look forward to engaging with you.



António Guterres

Tuesday 3 July 2012 | International Conference Center (CICG)

	ROOM
08:30 – 11:00	Registration of participants (CICG entrance hall, UNHCR welcome desk) Enregistrement des participants (entrée du CICG, bureau d'accueil du HCR)
09:30 – 10:30	Orientation session – <i>Séance d'orientation</i> 3 <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i>
11:00 – 13:00	PLENARY SESSION SEANCE PLENIERE 2 <i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)</i>
	WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS ACCUEIL ET DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE Alexander ALEINIKOFF, <i>Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees</i> Tahar CHENITI, <i>Tunisian Red Crescent</i> Ben MENDOZA, <i>Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees</i> Grace MUTHUNGU, <i>National Council of Churches Kenya</i> Daisy DELL, <i>Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR</i> Tanya WOOD, <i>Senior Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies</i> Kemlin FURLEY, <i>Acting Head, Inter-Agency-Unit, UNHCR</i>
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH - DÉJEUNER
13:15 – 14:15	SIDE EVENT <i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)</i> Room 3 With Erika FELLER, Assistant High Commissioner (Protection) How to reinforce access to justice for victims and survivors of SGBV: “A discussion with NGOs”
14:30 – 16:15	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i> Refugee Resettlement: Expanding its Reach and Effectiveness through Broader NGO Participation <i>Réinstallation des réfugiés : accroître sa portée et son efficacité en élargissant la participation des ONG</i> 2
	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i> Climate change – People on the move <i>Changement climatique - populations en exil</i> 3
	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i> Information Management Symposium: Strengthening Information in Humanitarian Response <i>Symposium sur la gestion de l'information : renforcer l'information dans la réponse humanitaire</i> 4

16:15 – 16:45 COFFEE BREAK – *PAUSE CAFÉ*

16:45 – 18:30 THEMATIC SESSION | SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE

(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

Refugee Resettlement: Expanding its Reach and Effectiveness through Broader NGO Participation
(continued)

*Réinstallation des réfugiés : accroître sa portée et son efficacité en élargissant la participation
des ONG (suite)* 2

THEMATIC SESSION | SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE

(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

Climate change – People on the move (continued)

Changement climatique – populations en exil (suite) 3

18:30

Reception | UNHCR Cafeteria, UNHCR main building (94, rue de Montbrillant).

Wednesday 4 July 2012 | International Conference Center (CICG)

ROOM

09:00 – 10:45 REGIONAL SESSIONS | SÉANCES RÉGIONALES

Africa Bureau (<i>interpretation in English-French-Spanish</i>)	2
The following topics will be discussed :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding solutions for refugees in Africa : Angola, Liberia, Tanzania & Rwanda • Responding to new and ongoing emergencies 	
MENA Bureau (<i>interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish</i>).....	3
The following topics will be discussed:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arab Spring: Humanitarian implications on refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR • Urban refugees' situations in the MENA region 	
Asia Bureau (<i>interpretation in English-Russian</i>)	4
The topic for the session will be "Protracted Refugee Situations". The discussion will include:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on important developments in addressing protracted refugee situations in the Asia-Pacific • How can civil society contribute towards current efforts to address protracted refugee situations in the present regional context • How best to address shrinking asylum space and host community fatigue – a united approach 	

10:45 – 11:15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

11:15 – 13:00 REGIONAL SESSIONS | SÉANCES RÉGIONALES

Africa Bureau (continued) (<i>interpretation in English-French-Spanish</i>)	2
MENA Bureau (continued) (<i>interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish</i>)	3

THEMATIC SESSION | SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE

(<i>interpretation in English-French-Spanish</i>) Strategic Litigation, Refugee Legal Representation and Advocacy: Pathways to Protection, Durable Solutions and Refugee Rights <i>Stratégie d'instance, représentation juridique des réfugiés et plaidoyer : voies vers la protection, les solutions durables et des droits des réfugiés</i>	4
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13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH – DÉJEUNER

14:30 – 16:15 THEMATIC SESSIONS | SÉANCES THÉMATIQUES

(<i>interpretation in English-French-Spanish</i>) No nationality, no rights? Strategies and tools for the protection of stateless persons <i>Pas de nationalité, pas de droits? Stratégies et instruments de protection des apatrides</i>	2
Operational Focus: Implementing partnership - A Framework for establishing and maintaining UNHCR partnerships <i>Ciblage opérationnel : nouer des partenariats : cadre pour l'établissement et le maintien de partenariats avec le HCR</i>	3
Marginalisation and Social Exclusion of Particular Refugee Populations <i>Marginalisation et exclusion sociale de certaines populations réfugiées</i>	4

16:15 – 16:45 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

16:45 – 18:30 THEMATIC SESSIONS | SÉANCES THÉMATIQUES

(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

No nationality, no rights? Strategies and tools for the protection of stateless persons (continued)
Pas de nationalité, pas de droits ? Stratégies et instruments de protection des apatrides (suite) 2

Operational Focus: Implementing partnership - A Framework for establishing and maintaining UNHCR partnerships (continued)
Ciblage opérationnel : nouer des partenariats : cadre pour l'établissement et le maintien de partenariats avec le HCR (suite) 3

Redefining protection for children in emergencies
Redéfinir la protection des enfants en situation d'urgence 4

Thursday 5 July 2012 | International Conference Center (CICG)

08:00 – 09:00 Regional Informal meetings (no interpretation)

Réunions informelles régionales (pas d'interprétation)

Africa & Asia region 21
Americas, Europe & MENA region 22

09:00 – 10:45 REGIONAL SESSIONS | SÉANCES RÉGIONALES

Europe Bureau (interpretation in English-Russian) 3

The following topics will be discussed:

- Racism, xenophobia and tolerance
- Local integration (including naturalization)
- Coordination of advocacy with the NNGOs and the civil society

Americas Bureau (interpretation in English-French-Spanish) 4

“Engaging legal aid, civil society and persons of concern in advocacy for Protection”.

“*Engager l'aide juridique, la société civile et les personnes prises en charge dans le plaidoyer pour la protection*”

This session will discuss the following topics:

- How UNHCR partners and persons of concern contribute to the advancement of refugee and IDPs protection
- Presenting the outcome of the Regional Humanitarian Conference (Quito)
- Sharing best practices in effective advocacy
- Exploring how partners can be better empowered to achieve concrete results

10:45 – 11:15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFE

11:15 – 12:00 PLENARY SESSION | SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 2

(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)

Report back on the NGO Consultations • Rapport sur les consultations avec les ONG

Anoop SUKUMARAN, *Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs*

Thararut HANLUMYUANG, *Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office in Geneva*

Daisy DELL, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*

Khassim DIAGNE, *Head, Secretariat and Inter-Agency Service, UNHCR*

Ed SCHENKENBERG, *Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

Kemlin FURLEY, *Acting Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*

12:00 – 13:30 CLOSING ADDRESS | DISCOURS DE CLOTURE 2

(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)

António GUTERRES, *High Commissioner for Refugees*

Tuesday 3 July 2012 | International Conference Center (CICG)

11h00 – 13h00 **PLENARY SESSION** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)*

Room 2 WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS

Alexander ALEINIKOFF, *Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees*
 Tahar CHENITI, *Tunisian Red Crescent*
 Ben MENDOZA, *Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees*
 Grace MUTHUNGU, *National Council of Churches Kenya*
 Daisy DELL, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*
 Tanya WOOD, *Senior Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*
 Kemlin FURLEY, *Acting Head, Inter-Agency-Unit, UNHCR*

13h00 – 14h30 LUNCH - DÉJEUNER

13h15 – 14h15 **SIDE EVENT** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)*

Room 3 With Erika FELLER, *Assistant High Commissioner (Protection)* **How to reinforce access to justice for victims and survivors of SGBV:** **“A discussion with NGOs”**

The side event will be an opportunity to discuss access to justice for victims and survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) as an integral component of UNHCR’s SGBV strategy.

Panel discussion participants:
 Madeleine REES, *Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom*
 NGO Legal Aid participant

14h30 – 16h15 **THEMATIC SESSIONS**

Room 2 **Refugee Resettlement: Expanding its Reach and Effectiveness through Broader NGO Participation** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

UNHCR estimates that almost 800,000 people are in need of resettlement, with 172,196 of these people needing resettlement in 2012. However, UNHCR also estimates that unless resettlement countries increase the number of available resettlement slots, 92,000 refugees this year alone will not have access to the lifesaving protection that resettlement offers. The gap between resettlement needs and the reality of resettlement is so significant that frequently, the stories of the most vulnerable refugees in need of resettlement get lost. Furthermore, these numbers can seem so daunting that some NGOs that want to help are not sure how to best engage in the resettlement process.

This session aims to address some of these issues, and will provide opportunities for NGOs to learn from one another and from UNHCR about the different ways that refugee protection and resettlement intersect. Specifically, the session will highlight how international and local NGOs can be involved with resettlement in a variety of ways, including the identification of refugees for resettlement and the provision of services to particularly vulnerable refugees in countries of first asylum. The session will also focus on the different roles that NGOs play in helping to develop and maintain welcoming communities in resettlement countries and how these efforts affect the successful integration of refugees. In addition, the session will cover issues related to support services and case management that many NGOs provide to

especially vulnerable refugees once they have been resettled. Session speakers and participants will explore the strong connections between the services that refugees in countries of first asylum need and those that they also might need in resettlement countries. These similarities include but are not limited to best practices in service provision for urban refugees, LGBTI refugees, SGBV survivors, disabled refugees, and elderly refugees.

This session will consist of a roundtable discussion in a plenary format, followed by two break-out sessions that will allow participants to engage in meaningful dialogue and develop concrete recommendations for moving forward. One break-out session will be dedicated to issues pertaining to refugees in countries of first asylum. This break-out session will be further divided, with one sub-group focusing on best practices in service provision in countries of first asylum and the strong linkages between these services in countries of first asylum and resettlement countries. The second sub-group will focus on NGO resettlement referrals. The other break-out session will emphasize two primary themes, including the importance of NGOs working in partnership with resettlement communities in order to ensure that refugees start their new lives in welcoming environments, as well as highlighting examples of the work that NGOs do in resettlement countries to help especially vulnerable refugees access the support services they need as they begin to integrate into their new homes. Following the break-out sessions, all of the participants will reconvene in order to summarize their findings and recommendations for next steps, including recommendations that will be shared during the 2012 Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR).

Moderator: Paul POWER, *Refugee Council of Australia*
Speaker(s): Kay BELLOR, *International Rescue Committee*
Aleksandr GALKIN, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Ukraine*
Johannes VAN DER KLAUW, *Senior Resettlement Coordinator, UNHCR*

Countries of Asylum Break-out session:

Moderator(s): Martin ANDERSON, *RefugePoint*
Aleksandr GALKIN, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Ukraine*
Speaker(s): Duncan BREEN, *Human Rights First*
Robert CAREY, *International Rescue Committee*
Karina SARMIENTO, *Asylum Access*

Resettlement Country Break-out session:

Moderator: Kay BELLOR, *International Rescue Committee*
Speaker(s): Anastasia BROWN, *US Conference of Catholic Bishops*
Petra HUECK, *International Catholic Migration Commission*
Melika SHEIKH-ELDIN, *Adult Multicultural Education Services*

Room 3

Climate Change – People on the Move *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

This interactive session will review current knowledge on displacement in relation to extreme weather and climate-related events or processes. Panelists will consider potential ways to address the protection concerns of people displaced by climate-related phenomena as well as other affected populations. In particular, the panel will discuss the legal dimensions of providing protection for persons displaced both within and across borders. It will also highlight challenges and good practice from the perspective of populations of concern and of national actors responding on the ground, including the management of the environmental impacts of humanitarian operations. The respective roles and responsibilities of local to international actors in addressing the challenges will be considered throughout. Through moderated discussion amongst the panelists and participants from the floor, key messages will be drawn out and recorded for inclusion in the report of the Annual Consultations. Participants are encouraged to come ready to share experiences and questions on the issues from their own work.

Moderator: Ahmed IDRIS, *Kenya Red Cross Society*
Panelists: Jose RIERA, *Senior Adviser to the Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*, presenting an introductory overview to the issues
Nina SCHREPFER, *Norwegian Refugee Council/IDMC*, previously with the Office of the RSG on the Human Rights of IDPs, presenting a recent study with Prof. Walter Kälin on “Normative gaps and possible approaches to protect people crossing borders in the context of climate change”

Radha GOVIL, *Consultant, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*, presenting a new study by UNHCR and UN University on “Climate change, Vulnerability and Human Mobility: Perspective of refugees from the East and Horn of Africa”

Charles KELLY, *WWF/Co-chair of the Global Emergency Shelter Cluster Environment Reference Group*, presenting the Green Recovery and Reconstruction Toolkit (GRRT) for ensuring operational support to displaced populations addresses environmental sustainability, disaster risk and the need to adapt to climate change

Room 4

Information Management Symposium: Strengthening Information in Humanitarian Response (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)

Delivering enhanced information to decision makers and refugees and others of concern, building strategic partnerships, and incorporating cutting-edge technology, UNHCR, its partners and its global cluster co-leads will be presenting some of the information management innovations currently in use in humanitarian operations throughout the world.

The *Information Management Symposium* is an interactive exhibit showcasing "Information Stations" where the information management tools, methodologies and strategies currently in use in the field will be featured. You are invited to exchange knowledge and ideas on how technology, data and information management as well as coordination can strengthen the way the humanitarian community addresses emergencies, saving lives, resources and ensuring a timely and coordinated response. You will also find out more about UNHCR's information management strategy for the coming years.

Participants will first be greeted in a plenary session, framing the day's activities. Following this, participants will be free to roam among “information stations” showcasing some of the newest developments in information management by UNHCR and its partners. In a demonstration of mobile data collection, participant views about humanitarian information management will be collected and analyzed. This interactive and fun event will also have a few surprises.

UNHCR looks forward to capturing your views on needs and capacity in the area of information management and how enhanced collaboration could improve the way UNHCR does business with its NGO partners.

Moderator: Steven CORLISS, *Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*

Speaker(s): Kim ROBERSON, *Chief, Field Information Coordination Support Section, UNHCR*

NGOs and Agencies Exhibitors/Speakers: ACAPS, ACTED, IOM, JIPS, OCHA, ICT4Peace Foundation

16h15 – 16h45 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFE

16h45 – 18h30 **THEMATIC SESSIONS**

Room 2

Refugee Resettlement: Expanding its Reach and Effectiveness through Broader NGO Participation (*continued*) (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)

The session continues.

Room 3

Climate Change – People on the Move (*continued*) (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)

The session continues.

19h00- 20h30 RECEPTION – UNHCR Cafeteria, UNHCR main building (94, rue de Montbrillant)

Wednesday 4 July 2012 | International Conference Center (CICG)

09h00 – 10h45 REGIONAL SESSIONS

Room 2

Bureau for Africa *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

The Africa Regional Session aims at providing a platform for an open discussion between the NGO participants and the Africa Bureau's management team on current programme and policy issues in sub-Saharan Africa.

The first part of the session will look at UNHCR's 2013 programme for the region and the impact of the expected reduced level of funding for the organization as a result of the financial and economic crises in many of UNHCR's traditional donor countries. The Bureau will give an update on the main emergency situations on the African continent namely the Mali, Somalia and Sudan situations. The implications of UNHCR having to respond almost simultaneously to different emergencies causing large numbers of refugees and internally displaced people for the other programmes on the continent will also be discussed.

During the second part of the session the discussion will focus on UNHCR's comprehensive solutions strategies for Angolan, Liberian and Rwandan refugees. Progress is being achieved in finding durable solutions for these people of concern, in particular through voluntary repatriation and local integration, with cessation of refugee status due to come into effect on 30 June 2012, for Angolan and Liberians refugees, and on 30 June 2013 for Rwandan refugees. The discussion will look at how best to secure solutions for these individuals, how to effectively manage the cessation process, and the nature of UNHCR's engagement during the transition period immediately following cessation of refugee status

Moderator: Justus LUGALA, *Sudan Health Association*

Speaker(s): George OKOTH-OBBO, *Director*

Liz AHUA, *Deputy Director*

Raouf MAZOU, *Deputy Director*

Noriko YOSHIDA, *Deputy Director*

Room 3

Bureau for MENA *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish)*

The Middle East and North Africa region has been facing a variety of situations ranging from ongoing and protracted conflict to political unrest and major displacement. The majority of refugees in the MENA region are residing in urban areas which were themselves theaters of the events of the "Arab Spring". Unstable political situations in the region have led to new displacement as well as an increase in the vulnerability of a number of refugee groups.

The discussion during this session is planned to focus on the humanitarian implications of the Arab Spring on refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR, as well as the urban nature of refugees' situations in the region.

Speaker(s): Yacoub EL HILLO, *Director*

Hany EL BANNA, *Humanitarian Forum*

Yaroup AJLOUNI, *Jordan Health Aid Society*

Khalid BEN ALI, *Libyan Humanitarian Relief Agency (LibAid)*

Room 4

Bureau for Asia and the Pacific *(interpretation in English-Russian)*

Protection Refugee Situations

Asia and the Pacific region continues to host five longstanding refugee situations. One major situation involves Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. The other significant refugee situations are in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Thailand. Pakistan and Iran currently host 2.7 million registered Afghan refugees, including some who have been there for over 30 years, while Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Thailand together host up to 1.3 million refugees who have been there for over 20 years. UNHCR will provide an update on important developments concerning these protracted refugee situations in Asia and the Pacific.

However, this year we wish to address another important dimension going beyond the situation in the principal country of asylum. The session will highlight what can be characterized as the “spill-over” from these situations in the form of irregular onward movement, which creates pressure in urban environments, causing asylum fatigue and leaving refugees and asylum-seekers in highly vulnerable situations. In the absence of legal and normative frameworks in the region for predictable refugee protection, irregular onward movement represents a major challenge. UNHCR has been working to encourage more predictable practices in hosting refugees and wider burden-sharing through the Bali Process and the Almaty Process. The session will explore how UNHCR and civil society can work together to address irregular onward movement and promote greater “ownership” to asylum in the region, and highlight good examples of the role of civil society in this regard.

Moderator: Syed Mazher HUSSAIN, *Confederation of Voluntary Associations*

Speaker(s): Kasidis ROCHANAKORN, *Director*

Josefa OJANO, *Deputy Director*

Indrika RATWATTE, *Deputy Director*

Anoop SUKUMARAN, *Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network*

10h45 – 11h15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFE

11h15 – 13h00 REGIONAL SESSIONS

Room 2

Bureau for Africa (continued) *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

The session continues.

Room 3

Bureau for MENA (continued) *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish)*

The session continues.

THEMATIC SESSION

Room 4

Strategic Litigation, Refugee Legal Representation and Advocacy: Pathways to Protection, Durable Solutions and Refugee Rights *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Legal aid for refugees and asylum seekers is growing in scope, geographic availability and importance. This panel will look at a wide variety of legal services offered around the globe and the major logistical and human rights concerns that they address - from pre-status counseling and interview accompaniment, to general refugee legal services and strategic litigation techniques.

The panel will discuss the utility of legal aid services in helping refugees access status and their rights through the lens of RSD, direct representation and strategic litigation. Speakers will specifically highlight where partnerships with other organizations and with UNHCR have been successful, and where future partnerships might strengthen our ability to provide high quality services to refugees as a community.

Finally, UNHCR's direct legal interventions, and important role in fostering legal aid for refugees will be discussed with a view to finding collaboration and partnership possibilities.

Moderator: Rachel LEVITAN, *RefugePoint*

Speaker(s): Martin JONES, *Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights*

Kaajal RAMJATHAN-KEOGH, *Lawyers for Human Rights*

Michael TIMMINS, *Asylum Access Thailand*

Cornelis WOUTERS, *Senior Refugee Law Advisor, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

13h00 – 14h30 LUNCH - DÉJEUNER

Room 2

No nationality, no rights? Strategies and tools for the protection of stateless persons *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Stateless people have no nationality anywhere. As a result, they often do not have access to the same rights and services as citizens even though they may have lived in the same place for generations. In fact, sometimes stateless persons suffer multiple deprivations and violations of rights as a direct result of not having a nationality. Discrimination on grounds of ethnicity, religion and gender are frequently both a cause and a consequence of statelessness. In several countries stateless migrants are often found in prolonged or even indefinite immigration detention. And most stateless persons have poor or no access to birth registration and personal identification documents.

2011 marked a turning point for global efforts to address statelessness. At UNHCR's Ministerial Meeting last December, an unprecedented 61 States from all continents pledged to take measures in this area. Among them, 10 States pledged to establish statelessness determination procedures or to improve existing mechanisms to protect stateless persons. Another 12 States expressed commitments to strengthen civil registration and documentation systems to prevent and reduce statelessness. NGOs can play a vital role in supporting States to turn these pledges into reality and ensure that stateless persons are better protected.

This session has been proposed by the NGO Committee on Migration, the Open Society Justice Initiative and Praxis and will consider the human rights situation of stateless persons, the challenges they face and what can be done to improve their protection situation. It will provide an opportunity for NGOs to share experiences from their work at the national and international levels and to learn how UNHCR is currently strengthening its own efforts in this area. With a limited number of NGOs thus far engaged in statelessness issues, the session also aims to spur greater civil society interest and involvement in statelessness. Following the plenary session, where the panelists will present different themes and perspectives on protection of stateless persons, the session will break into three workshops. Each of these break-out sessions will focus on specific strategies and tools that exist for protection of stateless persons, including statelessness determination and grant of legal status to stateless persons; birth registration and documentation; and monitoring of detention cases and advocating alternatives to detention. The findings from each of these sessions and recommendations for follow-up will be summarized in plenary at the end of the session.

Moderator: Sarnata REYNOLDS, *Refugees International*
Speaker(s): Amal DE CHICKERA, *Equal Rights Trust*
Sebastian KOHN, *Open Society Justice Initiative*
Ivanka KOSTIC, *Praxis*
Mark MANLY, *Head, Statelessness Unit, UNHCR*
Kajaal RAMJATHAN-KEOGH, *Lawyers for Human Rights*

Break-out sessions:

Determination of statelessness and grant of status at the national level to stateless persons
Moderators: Mark MANLY, *Head, Statelessness Unit, UNHCR*
Chris NASH, *Asylum Aid*

Birth registration, identity documentation and risk of statelessness
Moderator: Ivanka KOSTIC, *Praxis*

Protecting stateless persons from arbitrary detention
Moderators: Amal DE CHICKERA, *Equal Rights Trust*
Grant MITCHELL, *International Detention Coalition*

Room 3

Operational Focus: Implementing partnership – A Framework for establishing and maintaining UNHCR partnerships *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Since UNHCR was established more than 60 years ago, it has been working in close partnership with NGOs to protect and assist refugees. In 2010, UNHCR channeled nearly 30% of its \$1.9 billion budget through 685 NGOs, including 533 national NGOs. UNHCR strategic partnership with NGOs expands beyond joint implementation of common goals. The nature of partnerships and operating environment have been evolving. UNHCR is committed to improve its current procedures with the aim to assist in the establishment and maintenance of implementing partnerships with NGO partners.

UNHCR has established a support service; Implementing Partnership Management Service, (IPMS), dedicated to improving implementing partnerships, and related policies and procedures.

UNHCR is also reviewing the whole framework of cooperation with implementing partners, including establishing and maintaining implementing partnerships, managing UNHCR-NGO partnership agreement, the types and formats of agreement, clauses and conditions, terminology used, mechanisms for joint monitoring of projects and mutual review of partnership. As part of the efforts, UNHCR/IPMS has been working with a Reference Group of Implementing Partners and UNHCR to draft Standard Operating Procedures for initial stages of partnering as a component of establishing and maintaining partnerships, including revision of Implementing Partnership Agreement.

This session will brief and solicit views on the effort being undertaken to improve the framework and its standard operating procedures with the aim of enhancing our collaborative efforts for achieving the best results for persons of concern, provide credibility and accountability for the resources entrusted with us and strengthening partnership.

Moderator: Mark HETFIELD, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society*

Speaker(s): Walter BRILL, *International Catholic Migration Commission*

Steven CORLISS, *Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*

Kenneth HANSEN, *Greek Council for Refugees*

Fatima SHERIF-NOR, *Acting Head, Implementing Partnership Management Service, UNHCR*

Room 4

Marginalization and Social Exclusion of Particular Refugee Populations *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Recognizing specific protection needs and operationalizing assistance for diverse refugee groups includes people living with HIV/AIDS, people with disabilities, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and intersex (LGBTI) Individuals, ethnic, and religious and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples.

Socially excluded groups are impacted particularly harshly during the displacement cycle. Having been persecuted in their countries of origin, they are often marginalized and discriminated against by other refugees, the local population and service providers. Often, this experience of accumulated marginalization conspires to increase protection risks and undermine coping mechanisms; exposing them to an even higher risk of exclusion and exploitation. For instance, refugees who are LGBTI have to overcome more barriers to claim asylum and may be unable to obtain basic medical care, safe housing or secure employment.

At the same time, they may be denied police protection from violence by local communities or other refugees. These factors are each extremely challenging and in combination, may lead to life-threatening conditions.

Members of the panel will highlight various aspects of social exclusion:

- competencies acquired in the Botswana Red Cross' work with refugees with HIV/AIDS
- benefits of inclusive programming for refugees with disabilities
- protection of Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities and Indigenous Peoples
- exclusion of LGBTI people among refugees, local populations and NGOs
- effective model for working with excluded social groups, focusing on the example of LGBTI individuals

Questions for discussion will include how to better integrate the needs and capacities of these groups into mainstream humanitarian work. Are the barriers for doing this the same for each group? What are they?

Moderator: Volker TURK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Speaker(s): Chris DOLAN, *Refugee Law Project, Makerere University, Uganda*
Tshepo GARETHATA, *Botswana Red Cross*
Neil GRUNGRAS, *Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration*
Emma PEARCE, *Women's Refugee Commission*
Carl SODERBERGH, *Minority Rights Group International*

16h15 – 16h45 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFE

16h45 – 18h30 THEMATIC SESSIONS

Room 2 **No nationality, no rights? Strategies and tools for the protection of stateless persons (*continued*)** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)
The session continues.

Room 3 **Operational focus: Implementing partnership - A Framework for establishing and maintaining UNHCR partnerships (*continued*)** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)
The session continues.

Room 4 **Redefining protection for children in emergencies** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)
Children comprise close to 50 per cent of the populations of concern to UNHCR. Forced displacement, statelessness and complex emergencies affect children in unique and devastating ways. They have particular vulnerabilities and face specific risks that distinguish their needs from adults. Forced displacement and emergencies put children at greater risk of being orphaned, separated from their families, recruited into armed groups, trafficked, subjected to sexual or gender based violence, forced into heavy labor or a combination of these risks. Over the last year UNHCR had been engaged in a consultative process to review its global strategic direction for the protection of children, which has resulted in a new Framework for the Protection of Children. It consolidates and draws on existing legal and policy instruments, but is also a forward-looking tool which sets ambitious yet achievable goals for UNHCR to work towards, as well as emphasizes the importance of strengthening existing child protection systems.

The aim of this session is to present to NGO partners UNHCR's new strategic direction on protection of children, the overall goals and underlying principles, as well as the systems approach used to advance these goals. The session will jointly explore how NGO partners can contribute to the implementation of the Child Protection Framework, with a view to further strengthen NGO-UNHCR Partnership around the protection of children.

Moderator: Vladimir HERNANDEZ, *Community and Family Services International*
Speaker(s): Maja CUBARRUBIA, *Plan International*
Monika SANDVIK-NYLUND, *Senior Adviser Child Protection, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Mariella MICHAILIDOU, *International Detention Coalition*

Thursday 5 July 2012 | International Conference Center (ICCG)

08h00 – 09h00 Regional Informal meetings (*no interpretation*)
Réunions informelles régionales (*pas d'interprétation*)
Africa & Asia region | Room 21
Americas, Europe & MENA region | Room 22

09h00 – 10h45 REGIONAL SESSIONS

Room 3

Bureau for Europe (*interpretation in English-Russian*)

Xenophobia and Integration: Xenophobia – what we understand by xenophobia, how we engage to counter it and how it affects integration of refugees?

Following a brief update on key and current issues relating to asylum in Europe, this session will focus on xenophobia and integration. We aim to identify how UNHCR and NGOs can actively and jointly engage the broader civil society to counter xenophobia, contribute to a positive climate and promote the development of robust strategies to engage host and refugee populations in this respect.

Xenophobia, racism, discrimination and hate crimes are all related and can affect not only the integration of persons of concern but also their physical security. A distinction nevertheless needs to be made between xenophobia and racism on the one hand and discrimination on the other. Legal frameworks to counter the two issues are different as are their causes and manifestations in some respects. While there is no legal definition of xenophobia, the ordinary meaning of the word covers “intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries” for instance “hatred or fear of foreigners or strangers or of their politics or culture”.

UNHCR is concerned that in many countries today, throughout Europe, there are high levels of xenophobia which undermine the protection environment and pose a challenge to integration. New immigration patterns and large foreign-born populations in some countries mean that engagement with both host and refugee communities is critical for developing successful national strategies. Refugees are not distinguished from migrants in the public debate and single issue debates in the media often drive public attitudes.

The Bureau for Europe is planning to organize an informal setting for its session and hope to set up an armchair presentation to discuss Xenophobia and Integration.

Moderator: Allan LEAS, *European Council on Refugees and Exiles*

Speaker(s): Daniel ENDRES, *Director*

Guillermo BETTOCHI, *Deputy Director*

Room 4

Bureau for Americas (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish*)

Legal aid and effective advocacy – partners supporting better RSD systems in the Americas

The ratification of International conventions and the enactment of sophisticated national legislation on refugee protection are widespread throughout the American continent. Countries in the region have also widely ratified both international and regional human rights instruments that have an impact on the life of refugees and Internally Displaced People. In such advanced legal frameworks, how can asylum-seekers and refugees effectively claim their rights and obtain respect for their entitlements in adequate administrative and/or judicial instances? How UNHCR partners can contribute to access to effective protection through legal counseling, administrative interventions and advocacy? How persons of concern to UNHCR can be engaged in advocating for their own rights? What type of empowerment and support would they require from UNHCR and its partners?

By answering these questions, this regional session for the Americas aims at exploring the challenges that NGOs working with persons of concern to UNHCR may encounter in providing legal assistance and

advocating for their rights and at sharing the best practices NGOs may have elaborated to respond to these shortcomings.

Moderator: Ana WHITE, *US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*

Speaker(s): Marta JUAREZ, *Director*

Juan Carlos MURILLO, *Senior Legal Officer, UNHCR Costa Rica*

Marco ROMERO, *Consultoria para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento*

Karina SARMIENTO, *Asylum Access Ecuador*

10h45 – 11h15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFE

11h15 –12h00 **PLENARY SESSION** (*interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish*)

Room 2

Report back on the NGO Consultations

Anoop SUKUMARAN, *Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs*

Thararut HANLUMYUANG, *Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations Office in Geneva*

Daisy DELL, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*

Khassim DIAGNE, *Head, Secretariat and Inter-Agency Service, UNHCR*

Ed SCHENKENBERG, *Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

Kemlin FURLEY, *Acting Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*

12h00 – 13h30 **PLENARY SESSION** (*interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish*)

Room 2

CLOSING ADDRESS

António GUTERRES, *High Commissioner for Refugees*

Agenda of side meetings

Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

3-5 July 2012 | International Conference Center Geneva, Switzerland

Wednesday 4 July 2012

International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

8h00 – 9h00 • Room 3

The impact of protection standards and principles in humanitarian response

Pierre GENTILE, *International Committee of the Red Cross*

Minja PEUSCHEL, *Child Protection Working Group*

Ed SCHENKENBERG, *Sphere Protection Principles/Global Protection Cluster,
International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

Humanitarian practitioners have a number of protection standards and principles available to use: the Sphere Protection Principles, the ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work and the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Response (currently being finalized). This session will explore how these different sets of standards relate to each other, how they are being used in emergencies and in which ways they contribute to a quality and accountability approach in humanitarian response.

8h00 – 9h00 • Room 4

Opportunities and challenges in addressing Protracted Refugee Situations: Colombian, Iraqi, and Somali displacement

Sarah CASE, *International Rescue Committee Iraq*

Jessie THOMSON, *CARE*

Joan TIMONEY, *Women's Refugee Commission*

Ana WHITE, *US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*

Today millions of refugees live in a protracted state of displacement often lacking access to rights or near-term durable solutions. Recently UNHCR, donor states, host governments and non-governmental organizations intensified efforts to address protracted refugee situations. In addition to ongoing initiatives to improve response to urban displacement, we need to continue to evaluate opportunities, progress, challenges and failures in advancing refugee rights while seeking to unlock protracted refugee situations. The cases of Colombian, Iraqi, and Somali refugees present different contexts and experiences that can help evaluate the main barriers and challenges to unlocking these protracted situations, opportunities for moving forward, and recommendations for the international community, UNHCR and NGOs to address these situations. The event will feature three speakers presenting on each of the respective situations and a moderator to facilitate a discussion, which is intended to be the thrust of the meeting.

13h15 – 14h15 • Room 3

Building and supporting legal aid and legal representation of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons

Opening remarks on UNHCR's Judicial Engagement / Moderator

Cornelis WOUTERS, *Senior Refugee Law Advisor, Division of International Protection*

Legal aid in the context of UNHCR RSD

Suzanne DUFF, *Head of RSD UNIT, Division of International Protection*

Strategic litigation in Courts in the Americas

Juan Carlos MURILLO, *Senior Legal Officer, Regional Legal Unit, Costa Rica*

The development of international standards for the protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, and stateless persons depends increasingly on national and international case law or jurisprudence. Judicial decisions contribute to consistent and sound interpretation and application of relevant standards, often bridging the protection deficit when political, administrative and legislative processes fail. UNHCR is engaged with the legal community, including lawyers and judges, in various countries and regions, by assisting legal aid organizations and lawyers in bringing cases to court, by strengthening the capacity of lawyers and judges through training, by cooperating and liaising with specific courts and judges associations and by intervening in cases before courts as a third party. According to the High Commissioner '[e]ngagement with the judiciary, at national and regional levels, is a central part of my Office's work.

In UNHCR's view, legal assistance and representation is an essential safeguard in asylum procedures as well as statelessness determination procedures. Quality legal assistance and representation is, moreover, in the interest of the decision-maker, as it can help to ensure that international protection needs are properly and early identified. The efficiency of first instance as well as appeal procedures is thereby improved.

In this framework, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that provide legal support services play a prominent role in improving the quality of the asylum systems, advancing legal standards, and securing the rights of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons. This session aims at presenting UNHCR judicial engagement policy and offering the concrete examples in the Americas Region, where opportunities have risen and where engagement with legal aid organizations and legal interventions have been successful. The session will give the opportunity to commonly reflect on how legal aid organizations and UNHCR can work better together in the advancement of the rights of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons.

13h15 – 14h15 • Room 4

Advocating for refugee rights in the MENA region after the Arab Spring: prospects and challenges

Guillaume CHARRON, *Norwegian Refugee Council*

Tahar CHENITI, *Tunisian Red Crescent*

Christopher HEIN, *Italian Refugee Council*

Martin JONES, *Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights*

In 2011 and 2012, many states in the Middle East and North Africa region have witnessed large scale political change. There have been mass protests, revolutions, armed conflict and other forms of political upheaval. In the midst of these upheavals, refugee communities have been deeply affected. They have faced a new wave of nationalism; xenophobic violence; disruption of access to UNHCR and other providers of assistance; and, economic and social disruption. Furthermore, the political upheavals in these states portend changes in refugee policy that, while providing new opportunities also bring new risks. Over the past year much of civil society and the international community has been focused on the situation of the citizens of these states, including both historically and newly marginalized groups. This session aims at providing a forum to discuss the impact of the Arab Spring on refugees and organizations serving refugees in the MENA region. The session will bring together practitioners from organizations serving refugees in MENA region to discuss the impact on refugees of the Arab Spring; to highlight our experiences of working with refugees and on refugee issues over the last year; and, to identify new opportunities and risks for refugees and refugee policy in the MENA region. The session will be structured as a "roundtable" where all participants will be encouraged to speak about their experiences. It is hoped that the session will provide an opportunity for participants to identify possible future collaborations and to share newly developed.

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