



# General Assembly

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**Executive Committee of the  
High Commissioner's Programme**  
Seventy-fourth session  
9–13 October 2023  
Item 4 of the provisional agenda  
**Consideration of reports of the Standing Committee**

## **Report of the Standing Committee of its eighty-eighth meeting (13-14 September 2023)\***

### **I. Introduction**

1. The Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (Executive Committee) held its eighty-eighth meeting, from 13 to 14 September 2023, at the Mercure Geneva Airport Hotel.
2. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations Office at Geneva, opened the eighty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee. The First Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the Second Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva, assisted in chairing the rest of the meeting.
3. All documents cited in this report, together with all available presentations made by senior managers of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during the meeting, can be found on the Standing Committee webpage.

### **II. Representation**

4. The following Executive Committee members were represented at the meeting:  
Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, the Holy See, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands (Kingdom of), New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

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Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

5. Other United Nations Member States present as Standing Committee observers were as follows:

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, Malaysia, the Niger, Panama, Sierra Leone and Ukraine.

6. The European Union was represented as an observer. Also present were the following intergovernmental organizations and other entities:

International Development Law Organization, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

7. Four non-governmental organizations were also in attendance.

### **III. Adoption of the agenda**

8. The Committee adopted by consensus the following agenda for the meeting:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources
  - (a) Finance and oversight
    - (i) Financial statements for the year 2022 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the financial report and audited financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2022;
    - (ii) Key issues and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2022, as well as follow up to the recommendations from previous years;
    - (iii) Internal audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
    - (iv) Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee.
  - (b) Human resources  
Update on human resources, including staff welfare
  - (c) Management  
Oral update on integrity
3. Programme budgets and funding
  - (a) Update on budgets and funding;
  - (b) Programme budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2024 and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.
4. International protection  
Oral update on the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum
5. Any other business

### **IV. Work of the eighty-eighth meeting**

9. The Deputy High Commissioner delivered an opening statement. She outlined the challenges and opportunities facing UNHCR in the context of multiple emergencies, protracted displacement situations and increasing budgetary requirements.

10. Presentations under each agenda item were made by senior management of UNHCR, and Executive Committee members and Standing Committee observers were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Comprehensive summary records of the discussion will be made available on the Standing Committee webpage. The documents considered during the meeting are listed in the annex and are also available on the Standing Committee webpage.

## V. Decision of the Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

11. The following decision was adopted by the Committee:

### Decision on budgets and funding for 2023

*The Standing Committee,*

*Recalling* the Executive Committee's decision, at its seventy-third session on administrative, financial and programme matters (A/77/12/Add.1, para. 13 (c)), as well as discussions by the Standing Committee on the programme budgets and funding item at its eighty-seventh meeting in June 2023,

*Reaffirming* the importance of responsibility-sharing in solidarity with countries hosting refugees,

*Takes note* of the increase in UNHCR's annual budget for 2023 at 31 July 2023 to a current total of \$10,822.9 million, representing the sum of the original budget of \$10,211.3 million, supplementary budgets of \$711.6 million and budget reduction of \$100.0 million,

*Recognizes* that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding in 2023 may result in the need for additional or expanded supplementary budgets and that additional resources, over and above those for existing budgets, would be needed to meet such needs, and

*Urges* Member States to continue to respond generously, in the spirit of solidarity and in a timely manner, to the High Commissioner's appeal for resources to meet in full the annual budget for 2023.

## Annex

[English and French only]

### List of documents considered by the eighty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee

#### Conference room papers

- Provisional annotated agenda
- Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee
- Update on human resources, including staff welfare
- Update on budgets and funding

#### Documentation prepared for the seventy-fourth plenary session of the Executive Committee and also considered at the eighty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee

- Financial statements for the year 2022 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the financial report and audited financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2022 ([A/AC.96/74/4](#))
- Key issues and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2022 ([A/AC.96/74/4/Add.1](#)), as well as follow up to the recommendations from previous years
- Internal audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([A/AC.96/74/7](#))
- Programme budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2024 ([A/AC.96/74/5](#))
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/AC.96/74/6](#))

#### Oral updates on:

- Integrity in UNHCR
  - Preparations for the Global Refugee Forum
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