
Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

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Standing Committee Eighty-ninth meeting

Report of the Standing Committee on its eighty-ninth meeting (13-15 March 2024)

I. Introduction

1. The Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (Executive Committee) held its eighty-ninth meeting at the Palais des Nations from 13 to 15 March 2024.
2. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva, opened the eighty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee. The First Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the Second Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, assisted in the chairing of the meeting.
3. New requests for observer status at the meetings of the Standing Committee were approved for the following States: Dominican Republic, Indonesia and Panama. Including those approved at the seventy-fourth session of the Executive Committee in October 2023,¹ this brought the total number of Standing Committee observer States for the period of October 2023 to October 2024 to 17.²
4. All documents cited in this report and all available presentations made by senior managers of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during the meeting may be found on the Standing Committee webpage.

II. Representation

5. The following Executive Committee members were represented at the meeting:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Republic of), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

¹ See [A/78/12/Add.1](#).

² An overview of the composition of the UNHCR Executive Committee, including Member States with observer status, may be found on the UNHCR global website.

United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

Central African Republic, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gabon, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, the Niger and Ukraine.

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

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

8. The United Nations system, specialized agencies and related organizations were represented as follows:

World Bank Group and the World Food Programme.

9. Twelve non-governmental organizations were in attendance.

III. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2024

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

- (a) Adoption of the agenda.
- (b) Adoption of the work programme of the Standing Committee in 2024.
- (c) Regional activities and global programmes:
 - (i) Regional updates:
 - a. East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes;
 - b. Southern Africa;
 - c. West and Central Africa;
 - d. Americas;
 - e. Asia and the Pacific;
 - f. Europe;
 - g. Middle East and North Africa.
 - (ii) Global programmes;
 - (iii) Emergency response and supply;
 - (iv) Security of the workforce and operations in UNHCR.
- (d) Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources: Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office.
- (e) International protection: Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion.
- (f) Coordination: Strategic partnerships, including coordination.
- (g) Programme budgets and funding:
 - (i) Update on budgets and funding;
 - (ii) UNHCR programme in the United Nations proposed framework for 2025.
- (h) Any other business.

11. The work programme of the Standing Committee in 2024, as discussed at the planning meeting held in December 2023 and as contained in annex I, was adopted as presented.

IV. Work of the Standing Committee at its eighty-ninth meeting

12. The Deputy High Commissioner made opening remarks. The Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) then provided an overview of the challenges and opportunities facing UNHCR operations in the seven regions under its organizational structure and highlighted advances in key programmatic areas.

13. 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 webpage of the Standing Committee. The documents considered during the meeting are listed in annex II and are also available on the webpage of the Standing Committee.

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

A. Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 2025

14. At its meeting, on 15 March 2024, the Standing Committee:

(a) Takes note of part VI, section 25, programme 21: International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees of the United Nations proposed programme budget for 2025.

B. Decision on budgets and funding for 2023 and 2024

15. At its meeting, on 15 March 2024, the Standing Committee,

Recalling the Executive Committee's decisions, at its seventy-fourth session on administrative, financial and programme matters ([A/78/12/add.1](#), para 12 (c)) as well as its discussions under the programme budgets and funding item at the eighty-eight meeting of the Standing Committee in September 2023,

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

Recalls that the Executive Committee, at its seventy-third session, approved original programmes and budgets for country and regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters under the UNHCR 2023 annual programme budget, amounting to \$10,211.3 million,

(a) Notes that the final 2023 supplementary budgets amounted to \$817.5 million for programmes benefiting the UNHCR programmes and projects;

(b) Takes note of the increase in the UNHCR annual budget for 2023 to a final total of \$10,928.7 million, representing the sum of the original budget of \$10,211.3 million, the final supplementary budgets of \$817.5 million and a budget reduction of \$100.0 million;

(c) Recalls that the Executive Committee, at its seventy-fourth session in October 2023, approved original programmes and budgets for country and regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters under the UNHCR 2024 annual programme budget, amounting to \$10,621.7 million ([A/AC.96/74/5](#));

(d) Takes note of the increase in the UNHCR annual budget for 2024 at a current total of \$10,765.4 million as of 31 January 2024, representing the sum of the original budget of \$10,621.7 million and supplementary budget of \$143.7 million;

(e) Recognizes that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding in 2024 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;

(f) Urges Member States to continue to respond generously with flexible and unearmarked contributions, 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 2024.

Annex I

[English and French only]

Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme: work programme of the Standing Committee in 2024

<i>Theme</i>	<i>89th meeting 13-15 March 2024</i>	<i>90th meeting 1-3 July 2024</i>	<i>91st meeting 12-13 September 2024</i>
Programme budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) UNHCR programme in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2025	Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) Global Report 2023 Private sector fundraising	Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) Programme budget for the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees for 2025 Report of the ACABQ on the programme budget for 2025
International protection	Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion	Note on international protection Update on statelessness Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion	Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion – if needed
Regional activities and global programmes	Regional updates: West and Central Africa, East and Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa Global programmes Emergency response, security and supply	UNHCR engagement with internally displaced persons Oral update on mental health and psychosocial support	
Programme / protection policy		UNHCR coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees	

<i>Theme</i>	<i>89th meeting 13-15 March 2024</i>	<i>90th meeting 1-3 July 2024</i>	<i>91st meeting 12-13 September 2024</i>
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office		<p>Financial statements for the year 2023 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly</p> <p>Key issues and measures taken in response to the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2023</p> <p>Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years</p> <p>Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on internal audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</p> <p>Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee</p> <p>Human resources, including staff welfare</p> <p>Oral update on integrity in UNHCR</p>
Coordination	Strategic partnerships, including coordination		
Governance	Adoption of the work programme of the Standing Committee in 2024		

75th plenary session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme:
14-18 October 2024

Annex II

[English and French only]

List of documents considered by the eighty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee

Conference room papers:

- Provisional annotated agenda
- Work programme of the Standing Committee in 2024
- Global programmes
- Emergency response and supply
- Security of the workforce and operations in UNHCR
- Strategic partnerships, including coordination
- Update on budgets and funding
- UNHCR programme in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2025

Regional overviews on:

- Americas
- Asia and the Pacific
- East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes
- Europe
- Middle East and North Africa
- Southern Africa
- West and Central Africa

Elements of oral updates on:

- Work of the Inspector General's Office
 - Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion
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