

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson –

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

As UNHCR Rapporteur for the 76th session, it is my pleasure to update you on the Executive Committee Conclusions on International Protection.

The Conclusions are formal texts embodying the results of the annual deliberations of the Executive Committee membership on questions of refugee protection. They represent our collective perspectives on refugee matters and are considered to contribute to the wider body of soft law which UNHCR and the wider international community draw on to interpret or understand obligations in relation to refugee issues.

In October 2023, the Executive Committee, at its 74th plenary session, adopted a decision on a multi-year work plan for Executive Committee Conclusions, including the following themes for consideration:

- In 2024, Durable Solutions and Complementary Pathways - which was adopted at the 75th plenary.
- In 2025, Climate Action as Relevant to UNHCR's activities; and
- In 2026, Education, as well as an update to conclusion no. 110(LXI) 2010 on Refugees with Disabilities Protected and Assisted by UNHCR.

Ahead of commencing the Member states' negotiation process, I have reached out informally to many of you, and I am extremely grateful for your continued engagement and commitment both to UNHCR and this process.

On 28 January, I convened a technical briefing on this year's theme, inviting experts and those with lived experience to share valuable insights and foresights. The briefing allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the theme and the relevance and importance of this topic

to UNHCR and most importantly those impacted by UNHCR's activities, as well as to understand the complexities of the theme.

Since then, I have appreciated the openness with which members continue to share helpful perspectives on the theme.

I will be convening the membership again for our first informal preparatory consultation on 26 March to discuss the next steps for this year's Conclusion.

I would encourage members to bring views to that meeting. You should have already received the Save-the-Date, and more details will be shared by the Secretariat in due course.

Thank you.