

**Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme**

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Summary record*, Tuesday, 9 September 2025, at 15.00 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Marcelo Vázquez Bermúdez.....(Ecuador)

Contents

3. Programme budgets and funding (resumed)
 - (a) Update on budgets and funding (EC/76/SC/CRP.24) (resumed)
 - (b) Programme budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2026 (A/AC.96/76/5) and the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/AC.96/76/6)
4. International protection: Oral update on the ExCom conclusion process
5. Any other business

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The meeting was called to order at 15:06 a.m.

3. Programme budgets and funding (resumed)

(a) Update on budgets and funding (EC/76/SC/CRP.24) (resumed)

1. The Chair proposed the adoption of the draft decision on budgets and funding for 2025 in Annex VI of conference room paper EC/75/SC/CRP.24.

It was so decided.

(b) Programme budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2026 (A/AC.96/76/5) and the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (A/AC.96/76/6)

2. The Director of the Division of Strategic Planning and Results (UNHCR) introduced the proposed annual programme budget for 2026, prepared together with governments, civil society, development partners, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other United Nations actors and stated that she would include responses to questions raised by Member States under agenda item 3a. Update on budget and funding in her presentation. She said the 2026 plan reflected a reduced footprint, absorbed supplementary budgets, particularly for the Syria situation and from previous years, and prioritized core protection, emergency response, solutions and self-reliance, with area-based approaches, stronger engagement with development actors and streamlined coordination. She underlined that supplementary budgets in 2026 would still be issued when new or emerging needs arose, and that the budget's reduced size did not imply diminished operational readiness. She confirmed that budget adjustments for Europe and the Middle East and North Africa regions had been discussed with national counterparts and were not unilateral decisions, as national systems had progressively absorbed refugees and UNHCR had scaled down direct assistance accordingly.

3. The Director noted that reductions across all population groups were consistent with trends from previous years, while needs remained high due to displacement linked to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. She stressed that programme costs comprised the vast majority of resources and that management and administration costs remained below 5 per cent. Staffing was set at 12,175 posts in 2026, about 5,000 fewer than in earlier years. She informed that the 2026 posts comprised 200 D1 and D2 posts with three Assistant Secretary Generals and one Under Secretary General for the leadership of the organization.

4. In response to the query from the representative of Switzerland on Ukrainian refugees and the gradual reduction of support to Government systems in Europe, she explained that this decision was being discussed with national and local authorities, as European governments had actively integrated the refugees into social protection and health, education and other national services. UNHCR had scaled down direct assistance such as cash-based interventions and was increasingly providing technical support to the governments — a role which was also diminishing over time. She emphasized that the UNHCR strategy in Europe focused on durable solutions and long-term integration. Furthermore, she noted that UNHCR had engaged in discussions with authorities in Iraq and other countries in the region on reducing support to internally displaced persons, with the aim of ensuring that assistance is provided through government systems rather than relying on the international community.

5. Responding to the queries by several delegations on the distribution of the budget by the three categories of programme, programme support and management and administration, the Director stated that the averages of distribution for the three categories had remained consistent with previous budgets, with 87 per cent dedicated to programme including staff directly involved in delivery. She reiterated that the classification of expenditures in these three categories were in line with the United Nations approaches and were examined carefully by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. She clarified that programme support expenditures included travel, technical support, managing warehouses, managing risks, ensuring integrity and oversight as well as the infrastructure for

programmatic delivery. She stated that the budget for management and administration was less than the indirect support costs which stood at 6.5 per cent and was also used to cover some programme activities. Efforts were made to keep the indirect support costs and the administration costs very modest in the budget.

6. Responding to concerns raised by the representatives of Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Sweden on the reduced budget for evaluation services, she specified that the integrity and oversight functions had been safeguarded and that the reductions in Headquarters and global programmes of approximately 15 to 20 per cent had been designed to protect programmatic delivery rather than administration. She emphasized that the reallocation of resources aimed to focus on targeted protection, voluntary returns and community-led approaches, while continuing to uphold rapid emergency response capacities.

7. The Director outlined stable or proportionately higher allocations for core protection, greater emphasis on voluntary repatriation, reintegration and complementary pathways, and growing investment in empowerment and community-led approaches. She noted a reduced share for Impact Area 2: Respond, reflecting a gradual shift from parallel humanitarian systems toward more sustainable approach to delivering assistance in coordination with development partners. Despite these reductions, Impact Area 2 remained the largest budget component given multiple emergencies in multiple countries. She acknowledged that the work on solutions, while being labour intensive as stated by several delegates, requiring advocacy, negotiation and sustained engagement, did not entail heavy financial investments as the work done was catalytic to promote self-reliance, inclusion and socio-economic cohesion. As indicated by several delegations in their interventions, UNHCR planned to continue to advance burden- and responsibility-sharing, to implement the Global Compact on Refugees, to ensure pledge delivery and to strengthen the humanitarian-development collaboration in support of host countries.

8. Responding to questions from delegates on budgets by region, she reported that the budget for East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region had increased due to the inclusion of countries under the former regional bureau for Southern Africa. The budget for the Southern Africa multi-country office was increased from \$44 million to \$46 million while the budget for the Angola national office and Mozambique multi-country office had a modest decrease from \$72 million to \$61 million. Zambia (covering operations in Malawi) also had a slight decrease in budget from \$52 million to \$38 million. Staffing for the regional bureau had slightly increased to take into account additional needs for monitoring and oversight for countries in southern Africa. She informed that the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo operations were incorporated in the Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa.

9. Responding to concerns by delegates on higher administrative expenditure, the Director clarified that the combined 2026 Headquarters and global programmes budget had decreased by 15 per cent with technical support to country operations budgeted at Headquarters but delivered in-country.

10. The Director provided initial responses to fourteen observations from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions covering operational requirements, expenditure trends, staffing plans, resource mobilization, geographical representation, procurement, shared services and sustainable responses. She informed that detailed written replies would follow in the 2027 budget document and a dedicated member States briefing in 2026. She acknowledged requests by several delegations for operational requirement estimates alongside needs-based figures that aligned with the Board of Auditors and OIOS recommendations. She informed that UNHCR would strengthen budget presentation and prioritization, examining the United Nations World Food Programme approach. Referring to the Deputy High Commissioner's request to have longer-term discussions with member States to strengthen the structure of the budget, methodology and its presentation, she informed that UNHCR would continue to share expenditure and prioritization data.

11. Responding to the questions from the representatives of Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the needs-based budgeting methodology, she explained that the methodology used by

UNHCR remained aligned with United Nations standards and joint needs-assessment processes conducted with partners such as the United Nations World Food Programme. She confirmed that UNHCR was reviewing ways to improve the presentation and prioritization within the budget, including possible integration of operational requirement projections, as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In response to the observation regarding the inclusion of expenditures trends and detailed staffing plans, particularly table 5 as highlighted by the delegation of Uganda, the Director noted that the table had been improved in recent years to reflect two-year expenditures trends and current-year forecasts, which were estimates. She drew attention to the budget document's chapter on staffing plans and tables, which provides detailed information by location, grade and year-on-year variances. She explained that actual figures on staff or positions could not be provided before the approval of the budget by the Executive Committee and before resources were raised and allocated. She further stated that the information on the impact of cost containment measures and anticipated efficiencies in 2026 estimates had been shared with member States during 2025 in various fora and additional details could be provided in the context to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions report.

12. The representative of **Uganda** echoed the requests from other delegations for simplification of the budget document, noting that while financial drafting was complex, the presentation needed to remain clear and accessible so that all delegations could operate on the same understanding. She cautioned that reductions should not be introduced for the sake of appearance when needs were rising and underlined that a lower budget figure did not diminish the reality of needs on the ground, particularly for the two million refugees hosted by her country. She encouraged UNHCR to communicate transparently about the distinction between administrative savings and reductions affecting support to persons of concern, as this would help address recurring questions about how a needs-based budget could decline amid growing needs. She noted that her country did not share the view that requirements should be lowered simply because projected income was limited. As a major host country, her delegation preferred to see the full scale of needs presented, even if the Office did not expect to receive the entire amount. She suggested that UNHCR could consider convening an informal session to illustrate what operations would look like if the Office were fully funded. She requested clarity on the 38 per cent of expenditures listed as "other," including a detailed breakdown of implementing partners and the extent to which these partners supported core areas of the mandate. She said that grouping such a substantial proportion of expenditure into a single category created uncertainty and limited delegations' ability to assess whether resources were reaching persons of concern. She reiterated that education and health were integral to protection and should not be shifted entirely to host States or development actors. She expressed concern about reductions affecting regions where needs were increasing, particularly in the East and Horn of Africa, and encouraged UNHCR to clearly describe the level of investment required to advance self-reliance. She underlined that self-reliance was a national commitment under the Global Refugee Forum and required more than short-term assistance. While immediate support, such as cash and protection counselling, remained essential, she said these had to be paired with meaningful investments that created employment and livelihood opportunities. She noted that her country hosted refugees with advanced professional skills who were legally permitted to work but unable to do so due to a lack of opportunities and encouraged UNHCR to engage more proactively with private-sector actors to expand economic inclusion. Turning to the impact-area trends, she said the data presented appeared inconsistent with the visual materials, particularly regarding empowerment indicators, and requested clarification. She stressed that persons of concern required comprehensive support, including basic services, education and social inclusion, and cautioned against shifting essential responsibilities entirely to development partners or host governments. She urged donors to reduce earmarking and support programmes that promoted long-term self-reliance. She concluded by underscoring that sustainable responses required real investment in opportunities, not only structural change, and encouraged UNHCR and donors to remain aligned in supporting durable solutions.

13. The representative of **Chile** welcomed the report and acknowledged the difficult situation in terms of finances and liquidity. She expressed concern over the reduction of resources while displacement was growing, noting that forecasts pointed to 136 million

forcibly displaced or stateless people by 2026. She asked for clarity on which programmes would no longer be implemented and stressed the need for information on persons left without protection, especially those linked to gender-based violence and protection of girls. She requested more explicit reflection of strategic guidelines, the Global Compact on Refugees and the Sustainable Development Goals in the budget, while calling for increased flexible and multiannual funding.

14. The representative of **Ecuador** thanked UNHCR for the presentation of the 2026 budget and noted the 20 per cent reduction to 8.5 billion dollars despite the projected growth in displacement. She cautioned that adjustments must not weaken international protection or reduce response capacity in host countries under economic and social pressure. She called for flexible, predictable funding and greater solidarity, reiterating Ecuador's commitment to work with UNHCR and member States to uphold protection and sustainable solutions.

15. The representative of **Morocco** noted the approximate 20 per cent budget reduction and said that, while this contraction required difficult choices, it must not weaken international protection nor delay access to durable solutions, which remained central to the mandate. He underlined a key point regarding planning, recalling that the budget was constructed through a bottom-up approach and regional population scenarios. He stressed that modelling tools, while useful, could not replace individual registration, which he described as essential for protection, accountability and accurate allocation of resources. He requested a clearer, publicly documented and auditable methodology for population estimates and budget projections, including transparent data sources, assumptions, margins of uncertainty and verification protocols. He indicated that, without such clarity, the 2026 budget risked appearing unrealistic or inflated. In this regard, he recalled that during the previous session, his country had called for the adoption of the budget by vote in order to convey clearly that neutrality, impartiality and accountability were non-negotiable principles. Before implementation of the 2026 budget, he requested the publication of a consolidated methodological note detailing population estimates, category definitions, data-collection and triangulation methods, confidence levels and update schedules. He added that his delegation reserved the right to make use of all procedural avenues should concerns arise regarding the respect for these principles. He reaffirmed his country's support for the humanitarian mandate of UNHCR and for its pursuit of efficiency, on the condition that the Office fully upholds its responsibilities, including rigorous registration, independent audits, effective anti-fraud measures, unhindered access to sites and the strictly civilian character of camps. He emphasized that efforts to mobilize funding, while essential, should not justify analytical approaches or estimates that could appear arbitrary, biased or politically influenced.

16. The representative of the **Russian Federation** thanked UNHCR for preparing the draft programme budget and said that, in the context of declining funding and adjustments to the organization's structure, transparency and accountability were more essential than ever. He welcomed the briefings provided to delegations but stressed the need for comprehensive quantitative and qualitative information on the restructuring process, including its objectives, costs, expected benefits, trade-offs and associated risks. He asked how the restructuring aligned with the findings of the decentralization and regionalization review, what recommendations had been taken into account and whether UNHCR had developed a strategic vision for this aspect of reform. He acknowledged that during the transition, UNHCR had prioritised core functions under tight timelines, but said that, as the situation stabilized, delegations would expect more detailed discussion of strategic issues, including sustainable programme planning and its financial implications, an area where information remained limited. He requested detailed updates on proposals under the UN80 reform initiative, emphasizing that member States had a decisive role in related decision-making, and asked UNHCR to provide its analysis of recent observations from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions during upcoming thematic briefings. He took note of the explanations of the budgeting approach and welcomed the stated commitment to maintaining a high standard of accountability. He said that, like many delegations, his country considered it useful to engage jointly with UNHCR in an analytical review of the benefits and limitations of the current approach to budget planning. He noted that the annual budget was regularly funded at less than half its requirements and cautioned that presenting figures that diverged substantially from realistic income projections could send misleading signals to donors. He recalled that supervisory bodies and several member

States had previously raised concerns about the lack of clarity surrounding financial submissions, which, although based on needs, were difficult to interpret in terms of financial realism, and said that the ongoing reorganization offered an opportunity for more thorough discussion of these issues. Turning to the draft Executive Committee decision on administrative, financial and programme matters, he considered it important that the text reflect current operational and structural challenges, as well as the need for continued consultations with member States on aspects of the UN80 and Humanitarian Reset reform initiatives, as highlighted by many delegations. He concluded by reiterating the importance of accurately reflecting the status of the representation of UNHCR in Moscow in the draft budget and of ensuring that all procedural requirements were observed in any future adjustments.

17. The representative of **Belarus** expressed regret regarding the reduction of the presence of UNHCR in Minsk and asked that it would not affect the support to refugees. He called for timely consultations with governments on changes in field offices and shared the concerns raised by the representative of the Russian Federation about the Moscow office. He requested that the draft budget include funding for the Minsk office and reiterated Belarus's commitment to constructive cooperation with UNHCR in supporting refugees and displaced persons.

18. The representative of **Jordan** emphasized that funding shortfalls had a direct impact on refugees and host States. He noted that programmes in Jordan were funded at only 25 per cent, leaving hundreds of thousands without access to education, health care or cash assistance. He stressed that voluntary return was the most durable solution, but it required a genuine investment in services inside the Syrian Arab Republic. He called for more flexible and predictable funding and underlined that burden- and responsibility-sharing under the Global Compact on Refugees must translate into concrete support for host countries.

19. The representative of **Switzerland** inquired whether the needs-based budget fully covered the responsibilities of UNHCR under its mandate and how future burden-sharing under the UN80 reform initiative could shift responsibilities to other agencies. He requested clarity on how cooperation with other United Nations bodies would be reflected and how member States, including Switzerland, would be able to contribute to the process.

20. The representative of **Colombia** welcomed the 2026 budget presentation and the efforts of UNHCR to adapt in a context of rising needs and declining resources. She expressed deep concern about the contradiction between growing displacement and reduced funding, calling for urgent international support. She reiterated the importance of flexible and unearmarked contributions, essential to respond to emergencies, and reaffirmed Colombia's commitment to work with UNHCR and partners to ensure the rights and dignity of displaced persons.

21. The representative of **Zimbabwe** noted that her country aligned itself with the statement delivered by the representative of Uganda on behalf of the Africa Group and requested more information on the allocations for the Southern Africa Bureau, now covered by the Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, particularly on how multi-country offices would cover the southern African States. She emphasized that her country had not received assurances from the High Commissioner on strategic engagement, including the refugee law review, the transformation of the Tongogara refugee settlement, and sustainable response initiatives. She called for further consultations with UNHCR to ensure that priorities in her country and the region would remain supported.

22. The representative of **Women Now for Development, on behalf of a group of non-governmental organizations**, including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons, expressed deep concern about unprecedented displacement levels and sharp reductions in aid, particularly cuts by the United States of America, which had had devastating effects on affected communities. She cautioned that budget constraints risked reversing protection gains and urged that displaced persons themselves be at the centre of decision-making. She welcomed steps by UNHCR towards localization and recommended that the organization simplify administrative processes, prioritize partnerships with refugee- and stateless-led organizations, and enable direct funding to strengthen local ownership. She stressed that leadership of refugee- and stateless-led organizations must be recognized in

decision-making related to the Humanitarian Reset reform initiative, and that political and legal frameworks must safeguard their work. She concluded by affirming readiness of non-governmental organizations to support UNHCR and member States in advancing locally led action.

23. The **Director of the Division of Strategic Planning and Results (UNHCR)** thanked delegations for their comments. She acknowledged the call for a simplified budget document and suggested that a user-friendly version could be developed next year. She clarified that the budget reflected prioritized needs that UNHCR can reasonably meet, not comprehensive needs, and stressed that the methodology had not changed from previous years. She explained that details on expenditures, such as the “other” category, were available in financial statements rather than the budget document which presents the budgetary requirements. She added that prioritization decisions would depend on funding levels and that UNHCR would continue to reallocate resources and report urgent gaps to member States. She confirmed that definitions of population groups followed United Nations statistical standards including the methodology for planning figures and that a specific session would address the questions on Annex 1 and the coverage of multi-country offices. She noted ongoing efforts to simplify procedures for partnerships with refugee-led organizations and emphasized that their inclusion in the discussions on the Humanitarian Reset reform initiative was essential.

4. International protection: Oral update on the ExCom conclusion process

24. The **Rapporteur of the Executive Committee** reported on the Executive Committee conclusion process. She explained that in light of the unprecedented challenges facing UNHCR and the wider multilateral system, the membership had agreed not to pursue the planned conclusion on climate action under the 2024–2026 multi-year workplan in 2025. Instead, the timeline had been extended until 2027, with the 2025 theme to be considered at that time. The decision, adopted *ad referendum* following a silence procedure, would be formally presented at the 76th plenary session in October and included in the report of the session.

25. She further noted that the membership had agreed *ad referendum* to a statement expressing solidarity and support for UNHCR. The statement highlighted deep concern over financial challenges, recognized the vital contribution of host countries, and reaffirmed the principle of shared responsibility for the protection of persons of concern. The statement would be delivered by the Chairperson as the first intervention under the general debate at the plenary session and included in the report. She stressed that these outcomes reflected the strength of multilateralism, demonstrating a pragmatic and cooperative approach in a time of crisis. She also observed that delegations had requested more information and regular updates on the review and restructuring process and encouraged continued transparency.

26. The representative of **Ireland** noted that her country aligned with the statement delivered by the representative of the European Union and its member States and recognized the essential work of UNHCR under unprecedented challenges and paid tribute to staff working in complex and dangerous environments. She recalled the recent visit of the UNHCR High Commissioner to Dublin, where shared priorities were reaffirmed. She highlighted that conflicts, climate emergencies, and economic insecurity disproportionately affected the most vulnerable, causing displacement in the Sudan, Ukraine the Middle East and other regions. She acknowledged the crucial role of host countries and communities, reaffirmed the principle of non-discrimination in protecting refugees, and commended the inclusiveness of the mandate of UNHCR covering refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and other persons. She expressed concern about the challenges faced by women and girls, called for survivors of gender-based violence to remain a priority, and reiterated support for climate action activities. She confirmed her country’s steadfast commitment through flexible and predictable funding.

5. Any other business

27. The **Head of the Global Compact on Refugees Coordination Team (UNHCR)** presented an update on the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, to be held in Geneva from 15 to 17 December 2025, co-hosted by UNHCR and Switzerland, alongside Colombia,

France, Japan, Jordan, and Uganda as co-conveners. He recalled that the Global Compact on Refugees, affirmed in 2018, remained the blueprint for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing, focusing on easing pressure on host countries, enhancing refugee self-reliance, expanding access to third-country solutions, and supporting safe and dignified returns. He explained that the Progress Review would assess achievements and challenges since the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, noting over 3,400 individual and nearly 50 multi-stakeholder pledges. Preparatory meetings had already been convened, with further ones scheduled in September and November 2025, the latter coinciding with the release of the third Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report.

28. He said that policy priorities would be adjusted to the current financial environment, with a focus on expanding support for refugees and host countries, advancing implementation of pledges, and enabling sustainable returns. He encouraged stakeholders to continue making pledges and submitting progress updates to help shape the event. He announced that UNHCR would issue an outcome document in early 2026 summarizing the Progress Review and providing recommendations towards the 2027 Global Refugee Forum. He confirmed that the December event would feature plenary debates, spotlight sessions, and parallel events, ensuring meaningful refugee participation. He concluded by stressing the need to reaffirm multilateral commitment and solidarity, and confirmed the determination of UNHCR to deliver a meaningful and impactful review.

29. The representative of **Chile** emphasized that restructuring must be linked to the Humanitarian Reset and UN80 reform initiatives. She said that if programmes are discontinued, States need clarity on which entities in the United Nations system will assume responsibility for them. She underlined that decisions of the organization directly affected persons of concern, civil society organizations, host States, other United Nations agencies, and donors. She emphasized the importance of inter-agency coordination, transparency, and accurate information recording so that member States can be properly informed. She also called for attention to non-discrimination, inclusion and gender as cross-cutting priorities, raised concerns about staff management and the preservation of institutional expertise, and urged reformulation of governance dialogue with States. She reported on the Cartagena+40 multi-stakeholder pledge follow-up, informing that a declaration and plan of action were adopted in December 2024, that 15 priorities for 2025–2026 had been identified, and that the first support-platform meeting with donors, development and financial partners, civil society, refugees, academia, and United Nations bodies would be convened in mid-November.

30. The representative of **Jordan** highlighted the importance of the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, which he said was not only procedural but also central to the Global Compact on Refugees, as it measures progress on pledges made in 2019 and 2023 and identifies gaps. He stressed that the review must show the impact of solidarity, mobilize new financial support, and reinforce predictable and equitable burden-sharing. He added that the credibility of the Global Refugee Forum depended on monitoring, implementation and adaptation of pledges, and his country stood ready to continue engaging with all stakeholders.

31. The representative of the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** welcomed the update and underlined the importance of the upcoming review as a milestone for assessing collective efforts under the Global Compact on Refugees. She recognized the vital role of host countries and communities and reaffirmed her country's strong support for UNHCR, particularly its commitments on education and tackling gender-based violence. She expressed the hope that the December review would act as a catalyst for renewed commitment and looked forward to the upcoming preparatory meeting.

32. The **Head of the Global Compact on Refugees Coordination Team (UNHCR)** thanked delegations for their support and invited participation in the September preparatory meeting, where a comprehensive overview and practical details would be presented.

33. The **Chairperson of the Standing Committee** raised some issues under the agenda item. First, he noted that summary records of the proceedings of the Standing Committee meeting would be prepared by précis writers and would be made available on the Standing Committee webpage in due course. The procedural report of the Standing Committee meeting would be prepared by the Secretariat in order to record any decisions taken by the Committee.

The procedural report would refer to the summary records and indicate where they could be found in line with the procedure established for the annual plenary sessions of the Executive Committee. The procedural report would be circulated electronically by 24 September for review, allowing one week for the Committee's review. Member States could submit amendments to any factual errors by 1 October. The final version of the report would be circulated shortly after and be considered adopted as per usual practice. The documentation and presentations made over the course of this Standing Committee meeting would be made available on the Standing Committee webpage of the public UNHCR website. He announced that an informal briefing to member States on the global appeal and the humanitarian reset process would take place in October and encouraged delegations to participate. He concluded by thanking delegations for their constructive engagement and contributions, noting that their discussions would inform the upcoming plenary session of the Executive Committee.

34. The **Secretary (UNHCR)** briefed delegations on arrangements for the 76th plenary session of the Executive Committee, to be held from 6 to 10 October 2025 at the Palais des Nations. She informed that digital badging would be introduced for non-Geneva-based participants, while Geneva-based delegates with United Nations badges would not need to register again. Seating would follow General Assembly protocol, with Nigeria occupying the first seat. Delegations were requested to confirm participation promptly, with a provisional list to be circulated by 2 October. She outlined deadlines for registering on the speakers' list and confirmed that the Nansen Refugee Award ceremony would take place in December on the margins of the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review.

35. The **Chairperson of the Standing Committee**, after thanking everyone for their contributions and for making the meeting meaningful, declared the ninety-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee closed.

The meeting rose at 17:15 p.m.
