Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

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Standing Committee
Ninety-fifth meeting

Report of the Standing Committee on its ninety-fifth meeting (24-26 March 2026)

I. Introduction

1. The Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (Executive Committee) held its ninety-fifth meeting at the Geneva International Conference Center from 24 to 26 March 2026.

2. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations Office at Geneva, chaired the ninety-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee. The First Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the Second Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations Office at Geneva, also 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: Burundi, Indonesia, Iraq and Panama. Including those approved at the seventy-sixth session of the Executive Committee in October 2025,[1] this brought the total number of Standing Committee observer States for the period of October 2025 to October 2026 to 19.[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:

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

[1] See A/80/12/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:

Burundi, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gambia, Indonesia, Iraq, Niger, Panama and Sao Tome and Principe.

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

International Development Law Organization, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, International Organization for Migration, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

8. The World Food Programme was represented as a United Nations entity.

9. Seventeen non-governmental organizations were in attendance.

III. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2026

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 2026.

(c) Regional activities and global programmes:

(i) Regional updates:

a. Eastern and southern Africa;

b. West and Central Africa;

c. Middle East and North Africa;

d. Asia and the Pacific;

e. Europe;

f. Americas.

(ii) Global programmes;

(iii) Emergency response, supply, and safety and security.

(e) Coordination: Strategic partnerships, including coordination

(f) Programme budgets and funding

(i) Update on budgets and funding;

(ii) UNHCR programme in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2027.

(g) Programme / protection policy: Oral update on the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review and implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees

(h) Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources: Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office.

(i) International protection: Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion process.

(j) Any other business.

11. The work programme of the Standing Committee in 2026, as discussed at the planning meeting held in December 2025 and as contained in the annex on page 5, was adopted as presented.

IV. Work of the Standing Committee at its ninety-fifth 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 six 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. 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 2027

14. At its meeting, on 26 March 2026, 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 2027.

B. Decision on budgets and funding for 2025 and 2026

15. At its meeting, on 26 March 2025, the Standing Committee,

Recalling the Executive Committee's decisions, at its seventy-sixth session on administrative, financial and programme matters (A/80/12/add.1, para 12 (a) and (c)) as well as its discussions under the programme budgets and funding item at the ninety-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee in September 2025,

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

Recalls that the Executive Committee, at its seventy-fifth session, approved original programmes and budgets for country and regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters under the UNHCR 2025 annual programme budget, amounting to $10,247.5 million,

Notes that the final 2025 supplementary budgets amounted to $356.7 million for programmes benefiting the UNHCR programmes and projects,

Takes note of the increase in the UNHCR annual budget for 2025 to a final total of $10,604.2 million, representing the sum of the original budget of $10,247.5 million and the final supplementary budget of $356.7 million,

Recalls that the Executive Committee, at its seventy-sixth session in October 2025, approved original programmes and budgets for country and regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters under the UNHCR 2026 annual programme budget, amounting to $8,504.5 million (A/AC.96/76/5),

Takes note of the UNHCR annual budget for 2026 at a current total of $8,504.5 million as of 31 January 2026, with no supplementary budget,

Recognizes that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding in 2026 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 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 2026.

Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme: Standing Committee work programme for 2026

Theme	*95th meeting* *24-26 March 2026*	*96th meeting* *16-18 June 2026*	*97th meeting* *8-9 September 2026*
Programme budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) UNHCR programme in the United Nations proposed framework for 2027 (+ decision)	Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) Global Report 2025	Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) Programme budget for the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees for 2027 Report of the ACABQ on the programme budget for 2027
International protection	Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion process	Note on international protection Update on statelessness, including the Global Alliance Route-based approach: Strengthening protection and solutions in the context of mixed and onward movements Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion process	Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion process
Regional activities and global programmes	Regional updates (Eastern and Southern Africa; West and Central Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific, Europe; and the Middle East and North Africa) Global programmes Emergency response, supply, and safety and security	Engagement of UNHCR with internally displaced persons	
Programme / protection policy	Oral update on the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review and implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees	Sustainable responses, including an update on measuring the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees	

Theme	*95th meeting* *24-26 March 2026*	*96th meeting* *16-18 June 2026*	*97th meeting* *8-9 September 2026*
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office		Financial statements for the year 2025 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly Key issues and measures taken in response to the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2025 Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on internal audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee Human resources, including staff welfare Oral update on integrity in UNHCR
Coordination	Strategic partnerships, including coordination		
Governance	Adoption of the Standing Committee work programme for 2026		

SEVENTY-SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME:

12-16 October 2026