

**Opening Statement of the  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
at the Fifty-sixth Session of the Executive Committee  
of the High Commissioner's Programme**

*(Geneva, 3 October 2005)*

**Elements**

In his Opening Statement to the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will focus on the following:

- **Review of UNHCR operations**  
Among key country operations are: Sudan; Chad; Central African Republic; Burundi; Afghanistan; Iraq; Kyrgyzstan; Sri Lanka; Indonesia; Myanmar; Colombia.
- **General Political Outlook**  
UN reform; linkages and gaps between relief and development; Millennium Development Goals; public opinion as it relates to the asylum-migration nexus; the ideological battle against populism and in favour of tolerance.
- **Protection**  
Preserving access to asylum; the importance of advocacy and timely protection interventions; protection delivery and durable solutions across the range of UNHCR operations; creation of the post of Assistant High Commissioner for Protection.
- **Internally Displaced Persons**  
Progress in inter-agency discussions and the collaborative approach to internal displacement; sectoral working groups and the responsibility to protect; impact of increased involvement with IDPs on mandate functions.
- **Management**  
Restructuring of headquarters; focus on existing initiatives to promote durable solutions including the mainstreaming of Convention Plus activities; creation of a policy and analysis capacity; update on the Office of the Inspector General; process to nominate a successor to former Assistant High Commissioner Mr. Kamel Morjane.
- **Funding**  
Financial situation in the final quarter of 2005; need to diversify UNHCR's donor base and increase private donations; update on the shift to a biennial budget.
- **Partnerships**  
Expanding cooperation with development actors and regional organizations; Memoranda of Understanding with other agencies; collaboration with NGOs.