

**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 56th 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.

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