

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

Standing Committee
52nd meeting

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Proposed revision of the Financial Rules

Addendum

Transitional measures concerning financial reporting by UNHCR under IPSAS

1. As indicated in the *Proposed revision of the Financial Rules* (EC/62/SC/CRP.27 and Corr.1), the draft revision of UNHCR's Financial Rules (EC/62/SC/CRP.27, Annex I) was submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) on 7 September 2011, together with a draft version of the Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on *Transitional measures concerning financial reporting by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards*.¹
2. The Financial rules for voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees must be consistent with the provisions of the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, which are presently based on the United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS). It is not expected that the United Nations Financial Regulations will have become compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) at the time of their implementation by UNHCR on 1 January 2012.
3. In light of the above, and bearing in mind that the General Assembly establishes the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, the High Commissioner has submitted a request to the General Assembly through the Secretary-General² to allow the Office to continue applying United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules, *mutatis mutandis* in a manner that allows UNHCR to be IPSAS-compliant, until such time as the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules have been revised to become IPSAS-compliant.
4. This addendum therefore presents, in Annex, for the information of the Standing Committee, the Note by the Secretary-General³ conveying UNHCR's request to the sixty-sixth Session of the General Assembly.

¹ A/66/352

² Ibid

³ Ibid



General Assembly

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Item 134 of the provisional agenda*

**Proposed programme budget for the
biennium 2012-2013**

Transitional measures concerning financial reporting by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly a report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on transitional measures concerning financial reporting by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

Transitional measures concerning financial reporting by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under the International Public Sector Accounting Standards

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. The General Assembly, through its resolution 60/283, approved the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards as the accounting standard for all United Nations organizations to replace the United Nations system accounting standards.
2. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) aims to be compliant with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards as of 1 January 2012. In this regard, the financial rules for voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees (A/AC.96/503/Rev.9), which are currently in accordance with the United Nations system accounting standards, are being revised and will be submitted to the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme for its approval at its sixty-second session, which will be held in Geneva from 3 to 7 October 2011.
3. Subject to the approval by the Executive Committee, these financial rules are promulgated by the High Commissioner. They govern all financial activities pertaining to UNHCR voluntary funds and must be consistent with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations.
4. Noting the timing of the revision of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations to comply with the Standards, the High Commissioner requests, for the sole purpose of the Office's timely implementation of the Standards, the General Assembly to authorize UNHCR to apply mutatis mutandis the Financial Regulations and Rules to its voluntary funds accounting processes and financial reporting in a manner that allows it to be compliant with the Standards as of 1 January 2012.