

**Opening statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
at the Sixty-third Session of the Executive Committee  
of the High Commissioner's Programme**

*(Geneva, 1 October 2012)*

**Elements**

In his opening statement to the sixty-third plenary session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will provide an analysis of the challenges faced by UNHCR in the last twelve months, the efforts undertaken to meet them, and his vision for the year ahead.

- Operating environment: multiplication of new crises, insecure and unpredictable operating environment, new refugee outflows, demands rising as resources shrinking
- Institutional response: re-orienting resources, cost-saving measures, use of un-earmarked funds, expanding donor base
- Contribution of refugee-hosting States: social, economic and security impact of large-scale refugee arrivals, commitment to non-refoulement, temporary protection, need for international solidarity
- Emergency response: ongoing reinforcement of emergency preparedness and response, supply, capacity to operate in insecure environments, Transformative Agenda, investment in partnerships
- Key protection priorities: non-refoulement and temporary protection, sexual and gender-based violence, protection of children and youth, statelessness, follow up to Ministerial meeting, urban refugee policy
- Solutions: progress in 2012, need for prevention and early resolution of conflict, limitations of three traditional solutions, self-reliance, camp and non-camp settlement options, ongoing activities
- UNHCR Reform: Reforms in progress, response to audit recommendations.
- Partnerships: Transformative Agenda, role of partnerships in refugee protection, assistance and solutions

*10 September 2012*