



General Assembly

Distr.: General
7 October 2020
English
Original: English and French

**Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme**
Seventy-first session
Geneva, 5 - 9 October 2020
Item 4 of the agenda
**Consideration of reports on the work
of the Standing Committee**

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee*

Report of the Secretariat

* As per the decision contained in paragraph 19 of A/71/12/Add.1, this document is not subject to the standard submission pattern for official documents and is excluded from simultaneous distribution.

GE.20-13101(E)



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I. Introduction

1. At its seventieth session in October 2019, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2020.¹ This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.
2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2020: in March, July and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2019 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the agenda items in 2020. This is provided in the work programme contained in annex I.
3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each meeting of the Standing Committee in 2020 is contained in the following documents: the report of the seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1199); the report of the seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1206); and the report of the seventy-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1207). A list of conference room papers, strategic overviews and other documents considered at these meetings is contained in annex II.

II. Issues considered by the Standing Committee in 2020

A. Programme budgets and funding

4. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee considered updates on budgets and funding, through which it was kept informed of programme requirements, budgetary measures and funding levels. The Committee also adopted decisions on budgets and funding, as listed in chapter III below. In March, the Standing Committee was briefed on UNHCR's reserves as of 2022, and in July, UNHCR's Global Report on activities in 2019 was presented. At its September meeting, the Committee reviewed the revised biennial programme budget for 2020-2021, together with the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ),² and also considered UNHCR's new planning, budgeting and monitoring system (an item which was added to the work programme in July).

B. International protection

5. In July, the Standing Committee discussed the note on international protection; a paper on resettlement and complementary pathways, including an update on the implementation of the three-year resettlement strategy; an update on voluntary repatriation; and a paper on self-reliance and inclusion. It also received an oral update on the Executive Committee conclusions process and agreed to work on a multi-year workplan with possible topics for 2021-2022. The September Standing Committee received a further oral update on the Executive Committee conclusions process.

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6. UNHCR's operations in all seven regions (West and Central Africa; East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes; southern Africa; Asia and the Pacific; the Americas; Europe; and the Middle East and North Africa) were comprehensively discussed at the Standing Committee meeting in March. The Committee also received an oral update on global programmes. In July, an oral update on internal displacement was presented to the Committee, and a paper on emergency preparedness and response was discussed in September.

D. Programme/protection policy

7. In March, the Standing Committee considered a paper on UNHCR's programme in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2021, and received an oral update on the Global Compact

¹ A/AC.96/1198, para. 14.

² The report of the ACABQ was subsequently issued as A/AC.96/1202/Add.1.

on Refugees and the outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum. At its next meeting in July, the Committee reviewed a report on UNHCR's global strategic priorities and discussed UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees.

E. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources

8. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office.

9. In September, the Committee considered a report from the Board of Auditors on UNHCR's financial statements for the year 2019 and discussed the key issues identified in the report and measures taken by UNHCR in response, as well as follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on financial statements for previous years. The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken in UNHCR for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, and the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee (IAOC) presented its annual report. An oral update was also provided on integrity in UNHCR, including efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment. The Committee was further briefed on human resources, including staff welfare, and safety and security.

F. Coordination

10. In March, the Committee considered a report on strategic partnerships, including coordination, and in September, it received an update on the "grand bargain".

G. Governance

11. The Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2020 in March, as proposed at its December 2019 planning meeting. The work programme was revised in July to reflect the addition of an item on UNHCR's new planning, budgeting and monitoring system. At its July meeting, the Committee was reminded that the High Commissioner's opening statement at the seventy-first annual plenary session of the Executive Committee in October would form the basis of the general debate, and delegations were invited to propose topics for inclusion.

III. Standing Committee decisions

12. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted the following decisions, which are annexed to the reports of the Standing Committee meetings:

- (a) Report of the seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1199)
 - Decision on budgets and funding for 2019 and 2020-2021
 - Decision on UNHCR's draft programme in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 2021
 - Decision on a proposed revision of the financial rules
- (b) Report of the seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1206)
 - Decision on budgets and funding for 2019 and 2020-2021
- (c) Report of the seventy-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1207)
 - Decision on budgets and funding for 2020-2021
 - Decision on a proposed revision of the financial rules

**Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme:
Standing Committee work programme for 2020**

<i>Theme</i>	<i>77th meeting 10 -12 March 2020</i>	<i>78th meeting 7- 9 July 2020</i>	<i>79th meeting 16 -17 September 2020</i>
Programme budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding (2019, 2020-2021) UNHCR's reserves as of 2022	Update on budgets and funding (2019, 2020-2021) Global Report 2019	Update on 2020 funding Biennial programme budget 2020-2021 revised Report of the ACABQ on the biennial programme budget for 2020 2021 UNHCR's new planning, budgeting and monitoring system
International protection		Note on international protection Resettlement and complementary pathways (incl. update on the implementation of the 3-year resettlement strategy) Update on voluntary repatriation Self-reliance and inclusion Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s) –as needed	Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s) – as needed
Regional activities and global programmes	Oral update on global programmes Regional updates: (West and Central Africa; East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region; Southern Africa; the Americas, Asia and the Pacific; Europe; and the Middle East and North Africa)	Oral update on internal displacement	Emergency preparedness and response

<i>Theme</i>	<i>77th meeting 10 -12 March 2020</i>	<i>78th meeting 7- 9 July 2020</i>	<i>79th meeting 16 -17 September 2020</i>
Programme / protection policy	UNHCR's programme in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2021 Oral update on the global compact on refugees and the outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum	Report on UNHCR's global strategic priorities Oral update UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees	
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office		Financial statements for the year 2019 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 2019 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 Integrity in UNHCR, including efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment Human resources, including staff welfare, safety and security
Coordination	Strategic partnerships, including coordination		Update on the grand bargain
Governance	Adoption of the Standing Committee work programme for 2020		

71st PLENARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME: 5-9 October 2020

Standing Committee documentation issued in 2020

Seventy-seventh meeting (7-9 March 2020)

EC/71/SC/CRP.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/71/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee work programme for 2020
EC/71/SC/CRP.3	UNHCR's programme in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2021
EC/71/SC/CRP.4	Strategic partnerships, including coordination
EC/71/SC/CRP.5	UNHCR's reserves as of 2022
EC/71/SC/CRP.6	Update on budgets and funding (2019, 2020-2021)
EC/71/SC/CRP.7	Report of the seventy-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee

Strategic overviews on:

- West and Central Africa Asia
- East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region
- Southern Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- The Americas
- The Middle East and North Africa

Outline of the oral updates on:

- global programmes
- work of the Inspector General's office
- Global Compact on Refugees and outcomes of the Global Refugee Forum

Seventy-eighth meeting (7-9 July 2020)

EC/71/SC/CRP.8	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/71/SC/CRP.9	Note on international protection
EC/71/SC/CRP.10	Resettlement and complementary pathways (including update on the implementation of the 3-year resettlement strategy)
EC/71/SC/CRP.11	Update on voluntary repatriation
EC/71/SC/CRP.12	Self-reliance and inclusion
EC/71/SC/CRP.13	Report on UNHCR's global strategic priorities
EC/71/SC/CRP.14	Update on budgets and funding (2019, 2020-2021)
EC/71/SC/CRP.15	Report of the seventy-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee

Outline of the oral updates on:

- ExCom conclusions process
- internal displacement
- UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees

Seventy-ninth meeting (16-17 September 2020)

EC/71/SC/CRP.16	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/71/SC/CRP.17	Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee, 2019/2020
EC/71/SC/CRP.18	Human resources, including staff welfare, and safety and security
EC/71/SC/CRP.19	Emergency preparedness and response
EC/71/SC/CRP.20	Progress toward the implementation of the grand bargain commitments
EC/71/SC/CRP.21	Update on budgets and funding (2020-2021)
EC/71/SC/CRP.22	UNHCR's new planning, budgeting and monitoring system: proposed revision of UNHCR's financial rules concerning the programme budget
EC/71/SC/CRP.23	Report of the seventy-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee

Outline of the oral updates on:

- integrity in UNHCR, including efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment
- ExCom conclusions process