



# UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

## High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

Second Meeting  
Geneva, 10 - 11 December 2008

### INFORMATION NOTE

#### I. ORGANIZATION

##### Date and place

1. The second meeting of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges will be held in Room XVII at the Palais des Nations at Geneva on Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 December 2008. The deliberations will be held in private.

2. Notices will be posted on the electronic bulletin boards at doors 6 and 40.

##### Timing and conduct of meeting

3. The sessions on both days will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. To encourage open, interactive exchanges and sharing of information, after a short opening plenary session and initial discussions, the meeting will break up into 3 or 4 smaller working groups in separate rooms at the Palais des Nations. These break-out sessions will continue in the afternoon.

4. Participants are requested to ensure punctuality at the start of each session so as to make the best use of the time available. On 11 December 2008, the plenary session will resume at 10 a.m. with feedback on the deliberations in the working groups and their results. Each presentation will be followed by discussions and exchange of views.

5. Given the interactive nature of the Dialogue, participants are requested not to read out prepared statements. They should also keep their interventions concise, to give all participants the opportunity to take the floor. Time allowing, participants can make more than one intervention.

6. In the plenary sessions, participants may speak in any one of the official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish), as simultaneous interpretation will be provided. For the breakout sessions, interpretation will be available in only English and French.

##### Conclusion

7. There will be no formal report of the proceedings. At the conclusion of the consideration of the reports of the breakaway sessions, the High Commissioner will, in closing the Dialogue, provide an informal summing up of the deliberations as a whole. Points raised, information shared and conclusions drawn will not be attributed to any specific speaker or delegation.

##### Side events

8. Two side events will be held during the Dialogue. The first side one will focus on the problems of refugees and asylum-seekers in urban settings and will take place on Wednesday 10 December from 1.15 to 2.45 p.m. In the second event, an update will be provided on the progress made in following up on the results of the first meeting of the High Commissioner's Dialogue which took place in December last year. This event will take place on Thursday 11 December from 1.15 to 2.45 p.m. Both events will be held at the Palais des Nations. Details on venue will be communicated in due course.

##### Reception

9. The High Commissioner will host a reception for participants from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday 10 December. Venue to be confirmed.

## II. REGISTRATION

### States, IGOs and individual experts

10. Participating States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts are requested to inform the Secretariat in writing – as soon as possible but by 1 December 2008 at the latest - of the names and titles of the member(s) of their respective delegations, as well as their working language (Please see paragraphs 6 above). Advance notification may be sent to the Secretariat by email to: [hqsecdpc@unhcr.org](mailto:hqsecdpc@unhcr.org), or by fax to: +41-22-7397348).

11. Timely registration is essential in order for the Secretariat to facilitate access to the Palais des Nations for participants not based in Geneva (see paragraphs 13 and 14 below).

### NGOs

12. Representatives of invited non-governmental organizations should communicate their intention to participate to UNHCR Inter-Agency Unit by email ([interagency@unhcr.org](mailto:interagency@unhcr.org)) no later than 1 December 2008.

## III. ACCESS TO PALAIS DES NATIONS

13. Participants already accredited to the United Nations Office at Geneva will be able to enter the Palais des Nations grounds by presenting their UNOG identification badges.

14. For participants not based in Geneva and therefore not accredited, the attached request for a temporary badge should be completed individually and returned to the Secretariat (email:[hqsecdpc@unhcr.org](mailto:hqsecdpc@unhcr.org) or fax: +41-22-7397348), as soon as possible but no later than 1 December 2008.

15. Temporary security identification badges may be collected in person (or by an accredited representative of State Permanent Missions) as of the afternoon of Friday 5 December 2008 at the United Nations Security Identification Office located at the Pregny Gate entrance to the Palais des Nations.

## IV. DOCUMENTS

### Agenda and background documentation

16. A more detailed agenda and background documentation for the Dialogue will be shared in due course. These will be available in English and French. Further information on protracted refugee situations can be found on UNHCR's webpage, [www.unhcr.org/hc-dialogue](http://www.unhcr.org/hc-dialogue).

### List of participants

17. An informal list of participants will be made available on the second day of the Dialogue on Protection Challenges.

## V. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

### Visas and accommodation

18. All conference participants who normally require visas to enter Switzerland are urged to acquire valid entry visas for Switzerland prior to their departure. No provisions can be made for participants to obtain such visas upon arrival at Geneva Cointrin airport.

19. Participants who wish information on hotel accommodation in Geneva can contact the Geneva Tourism Office at: <http://www.geneva.ch/tour.htm>. Alternatively, a list of hotels with UN preferential rates is available from the Secretariat on request.

### Security advice

20. The Security and Safety Service of UNOG has advised that there is title storage capacity for luggage at the Palais des Nations. Once storage capacity is complete, no further luggage will be admitted.

21. It is recommended not to leave briefcases and other personal items unattended. Participants are also reminded to wear their UNOG security identification badges at all times.