



# General Assembly

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## Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Sixty-third session

Geneva, 1-5 October 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

**Consideration of reports on the work of the Standing Committee**

## **Report on the Work of the Standing Committee\***

### **Report of the Secretariat**

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\* Late submission due to the holding of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee on 18-19 September 2012

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## **I. Introduction**

1. At its sixty-second session in October 2011, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2012.<sup>1</sup> This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.

2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2012: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2011 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the agenda items in 2012. This is provided in Annex I.

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee in 2012 is contained in the following reports: *Report of the fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1109)*; *Report of the fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1116)*; and *Report of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1117)*. A list of documents relating to these meetings is provided in Annex II.

## **II. Issues covered by the Standing Committee in 2012**

### **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, as listed in Chapter III below. At its September meeting, the Standing Committee reviewed the revised Biennial Programme Budget for 2012 and 2013.

### **B. International protection**

5. In June, the Standing Committee discussed the Note on International Protection and Progress report on resettlement. It also received an oral update on follow-up to the Ministerial Inter-governmental Event. As per footnote two of the 2012 work programme, and having decided to hold informal consultations among Member States on ways to enhance the process of negotiating Executive Committee Conclusions, the Committee was briefed on the on-going discussions during the March and June meetings. In September, the Committee was informed that, absent agreement among Members on proposals for new elements of an improved process, it had been agreed that future negotiations would continue to be based on past practice.

### **C. Regional activities and global programmes**

6. Reviews of UNHCR's programmes and activities in all five regions (Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; the Middle East and North Africa; and Europe) were comprehensively considered at the Standing Committee's meeting in March. In March, the

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<sup>1</sup> A/AC.96/1107, para. 15(b)

Committee also received reports on the Office's global programmes and partnerships, and on staff safety and security issues.

#### **D. Programme/Protection policy**

7. In March, the Standing Committee was presented with an update on the 2012-2013 Global Strategic Priorities and was briefed on UNHCR's Programme in the United Nations proposed strategic framework 2014-2015. The June meeting reviewed reports on protection for children of concern, including education, and on the Office's age, gender and diversity approach.

#### **E. Coordination**

8. An update on HIV/AIDS and refugees was presented at the June Standing Committee, as was a summary of elements for UNHCR's oral update to the 2012 session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). At the September meeting, an update on coordination and strategic partnerships was considered.

#### **F. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources**

9. In March, the Standing Committee received an update on modernization, innovation and simplification within UNHCR, as well as an update on follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. It also received oral updates on the establishment of the Internal Audit and Oversight Committee and the work of the Inspector General's Office. The June meeting received an oral update on the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

10. In September, the Committee considered the Report of the Board of Auditors on UNHCR's accounts for 2011 and discussed the main risk areas identified in the Report and measures taken by UNHCR in response to the issues raised. The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken at UNHCR for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012, and the Committee heard an oral update from the Chairperson of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee. An update was also provided on human resources issues, including staff security.

#### **G. Governance**

11. In March, the Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2012 as proposed at its December 2011 planning meeting. At the June meeting, the Standing Committee was invited to make suggestions on issues to be included in the High Commissioner's opening statement at the sixty-third session of the Executive Committee.

#### **H. Consultations**

12. In accordance with its standard practice, the Standing Committee held a number of informal consultative meetings and briefings during the course of the year on issues requiring in-depth discussion or action. In 2012, the Standing Committee held two informal consultative meetings, one in April and one in August. The April meeting

discussed extending the input of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Executive Committee. The August meeting reviewed the revised biennial programme budget for 2012-2013. A briefing on oversight in UNHCR was held in February, and an information session on the holding of paperless meetings was held in May. In September, consultations were held on the 10-year strategic review to be presented by the High Commissioner to the 68th session of the General Assembly (as per A/RES/58/153), in order to seek Member States' views on the scope and content of the report.

13. A Steering Committee of interested Member States, which was formed in 2011 to consider the issue of the cost and impact of hosting refugees, had an initial briefing session in February. The Steering Committee met three times in July through September to consider terms of reference and possible volunteer States for a research project to be conducted by an independent research institution in one hosting country in each of the UNHCR Regional Bureaux (Africa, Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Middle East and North Africa).

### **III. Standing Committee decisions**

14. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted a number of decisions which are annexed to the reports of the Standing Committee meetings, as follows:

- (a) *Report of the fifty-third meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1109)*
  - Decision on budgets and funding in 2012
  - Decision on UNHCR's programme in the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015
- (b) *Report of the fifty-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1116)*
  - Decision on budgets and funding for 2011 and 2012
- (c) *Report of the fifty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1117)*
  - Decision on overall budgets and funding for 2012

## Annex I

[English and French only]

## Standing Committee work programme for 2012 - Calendar

<i>Theme</i>	<i>53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 13-15 March 2012</i>	<i>54<sup>th</sup> Meeting 26-28 June 2012</i>	<i>55<sup>th</sup> Meeting 18-19 September 2012</i>
Programme budgets and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on programme budgets and funding in 2011 and projections for 2012</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on programme budgets and funding for 2012</li> <li>Global Report (2011)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on programme budgets and funding for 2012</li> <li>Biennial Programme Budget for 2012-2013 (revised)</li> <li>Report of the ACABQ on the Biennial Programme Budget for 2012 -2013 (revised)</li> </ul>
International Protection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note on International Protection</li> <li>Update on Resettlement</li> <li>Oral update on follow-up to the intergovernmental event at ministerial level</li> <li>Presentation of the ExCom conclusion theme<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	
Regional activities and global programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic presentations on: Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; the Middle East and North Africa; and global programmes and partnerships</li> <li>Staff safety and security issues</li> </ul>		
Programme / protection policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2012-2013 Global Strategic Priorities</li> <li>UNHCR's Programme in the United Nations: proposed strategic framework 2014-2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children of concern, including education</li> <li>Age, gender and diversity approach (AGD)</li> </ul>	

<sup>2</sup> Item on hold pending further discussions amongst members of the Executive Committee

<i>Theme</i>	<i>53<sup>rd</sup> Meeting 13-15 March 2012</i>	<i>54<sup>th</sup> Meeting 26-28 June 2012</i>	<i>55<sup>th</sup> Meeting 18-19 September 2012</i>
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on modernization/innovation and simplification</li> <li>• Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for previous years</li> <li>• Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office</li> <li>• Oral update on the establishment of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral update on IPSAS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accounts for the year 2011 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts for the voluntary funds administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2011</li> <li>• Main risk areas and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2011</li> <li>• Internal Audit</li> <li>• Human resources issues, including staff security</li> </ul>
Coordination		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV/AIDS and refugees</li> <li>• Elements for UNHCR's oral update to ECOSOC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on coordination: strategic partnerships</li> </ul>
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Standing Committee work programme for 2012</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions on issues for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Executive Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 63<sup>d</sup> session of the Executive Committee</li> </ul>

**63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme:  
(1-5 October 2012)**

**Annex II****[English and French only]****Standing Committee documentation issued during 2012****53rd Meeting (13-15 March 2012)***Conference Room Papers*

EC/63/SC/CRP.1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/63/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2012
EC/63/SC/CRP.3	Staff safety and security issues, including refugee security
EC/63/SC/CRP.4	Update on modernization/innovation and simplification
EC/63/SC/CRP.5	Follow-up to the recommendation of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for previous years
EC/63/SC/CRP.6	Update on programme budgets and funding in 2011 and projections for 2012
EC/63/SC/CRP.7	2012-2013 Global Strategic Priorities
EC/63/SC/CRP.8	UNHCR's programme in the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

*Strategic overviews:*

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- The Americas
- The Middle East and North Africa
- Global Programmes and Partnerships

*Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office***54<sup>th</sup> Meeting (26-28 June 2012)***Conference Room Papers*

EC/63/SC/CRP.9	Draft Report of the 53rd Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/63/SC/CRP.10	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/63/SC/CRP.11	Note on International Protection
EC/63/SC/CRP.12	Progress report on resettlement
EC/63/SC/CRP.13	International protection of children of concern, including education
EC/63/SC/CRP.14	Age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach



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EC/63/SC/CRP.15	Update on budgets and funding for 2011 and 2012
EC/63/SC/CRP.16	HIV/AIDS and refugees

*Oral updates:*

- Highlights of the Oral update on follow-up to the Ministerial Intergovernmental Event
- Highlights of the Oral update on the International Public Sector Accounting Standards
- Highlights of the Oral update on UNHCR's statement to the 2012 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**55<sup>th</sup> Meeting (18-19 September 2012)***Conference Room Papers*

EC/63/SC/CRP.17	Draft Report of the 54th Meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/63/SC/CRP.18/Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/63/SC/CRP.19	Human resources issues, including staff security
EC/63/SC/CRP.20	Update on budgets and funding for 2012
EC/63/SC/CRP.21	Update on coordination issues: strategic partnerships

*A/AC series documents*

A/AC.96/1111	Accounts for the year 2011 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the accounts for the voluntary funds administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2011 (see also A/67/5/Add.5)
A/AC.96/1111/Add.1	Main risk areas and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2011
A/AC.96/1112	UNHCR's Biennial Programme Budget for 2012-2013 (revised)
A/AC.96/1113	Report on Internal Audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2011- 2012)

*Oral update from the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee (IAOC)*