

**Sixty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
(14-16 March 2017)**

**Agenda item 6 (a)
Oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges**

Summary

1. Overview of the 2016 Dialogue

The High Commissioner's 2016 Dialogue, which focused on the theme of "children on the move", was attended by a wide array of child protection experts, States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society members and other humanitarian and academic partners, as well as 12 refugee youth representatives. Well over 650 individuals participated in the Dialogue, including in the three thematic sessions, which covered the following topics:

- (i) Pursuing regional approaches to protect children on the move;
- (ii) Operationalizing children's rights; and
- (iii) Securing solutions for children on the move.

The following conclusions, key recommendations and areas for follow-up were drawn from the discussion:

- (i) Children on the move are children first, regardless of their migratory status. An ethic of care and protection should govern all interactions with children on the move.
- (ii) UNHCR will establish a refugee youth advisory board, which will support follow-up on recommendations made during the Dialogue and during the Global Refugee Youth Consultations, and will ensure meaningful consultation and engagement with youth in policy-making.
- (iii) There is a vital need for "a collective push" on the following issues:
 - Ending the detention of children and implementing alternatives to detention, including through increased application of UNHCR's "beyond detention strategy";
 - Ending childhood statelessness and ensuring documentation and birth registration for all children;
 - Facilitating family reunification and actively pursuing clear pathways to comprehensive solutions in a timely manner for today's refugee children and youth;
 - Ensuring access to education and learning opportunities for children on the move;
 - Strengthening national child protection systems that are inclusive of all children;
 - Increasing regional and cross-national cooperation in relation to child protection;
 - Increasing international cooperation and sustained multi-year financial support to strengthen the capacity of State and non-governmental actors to protect and provide services for children on the move, particularly in the case of large-scale movements where national capacities may need additional support;
 - Exploring greater private sector engagement;
 - Recognizing the value of the participation of children and youth in policy and decision-making;
 - Developing more reliable sources of data.

2. Updates on previous High Commissioner's Dialogues

UNHCR will provide a brief update on follow-up to the High Commissioner's 2015 Dialogue on "understanding and addressing the root causes of displacement", and on the 2014 Dialogue on "protection at sea."