

**75<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee**  
**18-20 June 2019**  
**Agenda item 2 (d)**

**Oral update on the preparations for the high-level segment on statelessness**  
**at the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee**

The Special Advisor on Statelessness, Ms. Carol Batchelor, will update the Committee on the preparations for the high-level segment on statelessness, which will take place during the annual session of the Executive Committee in October 2019. The update will focus on the following areas:

**Objectives of the high-level segment**

- The high-level segment will recall UNHCR's ambitious 10-year #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness launched in 2014. The areas outlined as campaign goals are as follows:
  - i) Resolve existing situations of statelessness (with a focus on the top 20);
  - ii) Ensure that no child is born stateless (safeguards in nationality laws);
  - iii) Remove gender discrimination from nationality laws;
  - iv) Prevent the denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds;
  - v) Prevent statelessness in cases of State succession;
  - vi) Grant protection status to stateless migrants and facilitate their naturalization;
  - vii) Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness;
  - viii) Issue nationality documentation to those with entitlement to it;
  - ix) Accede to the United Nations statelessness conventions;
  - x) Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations.
- This year marks the mid-point in the 10-year campaign. The high-level segment presents a timely opportunity to review what has been accomplished during the first half of the campaign and what remains to be done in the five years ahead.
- It will also allow UNHCR, States and partners to showcase good practices, acknowledge achievements, and encourage revitalized efforts to address the remaining gap areas in the lead up to 2024.
- The high-level segment is also a pledging event. States and partners are invited to make concrete, time bound pledges of action which will be taken by 2024 to end statelessness.

**Activities undertaken in preparation for the event**

- UNHCR, together with States and other partners, has reviewed the myriad of accomplishments to date. Record achievements have taken place in the first five years of the campaign. Remaining gaps have been identified, and proposals made on the way forward.
- UNHCR has issued a "save the date" communication to all States and partners, and invitations to the Executive Committee session, including the high-level segment, will follow shortly.
- The High Commissioner's Special Advisor on Statelessness is coordinating internal efforts to prepare for the event, including vis-à-vis UNHCR's Representations in the field which are helping to promote active participation, highlighting good practices and securing commitments and pledges.
- Regional preparatory meetings have taken place in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe, with one to follow shortly in the Middle East and North Africa. States, regional organizations and a wide range of other partners, participants from the academic community and stateless persons, have joined some of these discussions to collectively identify achievements as well as areas for potential pledges and commitments.

- National as well as international media outlets have been engaged to raise awareness about the campaign and the efforts to advance the campaign's overriding objective of ending statelessness by 2024. UNHCR is updating its communications strategy for the campaign, and a dedicated communications colleague joined the effort in November 2018.
- Partnerships are also being strengthened to ensure support for the identified campaign deliverables. For example, the World Bank is working on improving data, UNICEF is undertaking several initiatives including strengthening birth registration and efforts to ensure the acquisition of nationality at birth, and UN Women is advocating to remove gender discrimination from nationality laws. Advancing this collaboration is in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's "[Guidance note to the UN system on addressing statelessness](#)". Other partnerships, such as the "Friends of the Campaign" group based in Geneva, have also come together to support these efforts.
- UNHCR wishes to draw particular attention to the German contribution of 1 million Euros earmarked for the high-level segment support activities, without which many of these efforts would not have been possible.
- Regular consultations are being held with the Executive Committee Bureau in preparation for the event, and a dedicated session to update the permanent missions is planned for July. UNHCR has also launched a [website](#) to provide guidance to States and other stakeholders on the process

### **The high-level segment**

- The high-level segment will take place 7 October 2019, the first date of the annual session of the Executive Committee. It will be comprised of a high-level panel, with the expected participation of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michele Bachelet, along with other prominent experts from a variety of backgrounds.
- A special treaty event will also take place on the margins of the high-level segment. The efforts of all States which have acceded to one or both of the statelessness conventions during the first five years of the campaign, or which wish to accede during this event itself, will be show-cased at the treaty event, and these countries invited to take place in a treaty ceremony. The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs will be present for the treaty event to ensure that all accessions made on the day are recognized as officially received by the United Nations.
- Statelessness will feature during other events, including a side event planned with non-governmental organizations, as well as a photo exhibit. These events will celebrate accomplishments in addressing statelessness and supporting heightened efforts for the next five years.
- Following the high-level segment panel discussion, States and partners will be invited to announce any pledges in the context of their overall statements during the general debate. Pledges and commitments should be concrete, time-bound and measurable. Participants are also invited to outline successes and good practices to date, inspiring others ahead of 2024.
- Following the high-level segment, UNHCR will compile a list of the pledges and reported good practices in a publication that will anticipate the way forward.

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