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Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Seventy-third session

10-14 October 2022

Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda

Consideration of reports of the Standing

**Committee: Programme budgets, management,
financial control and administrative oversight**

Report of the eighty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee (19-20 September 2022)*

I. Introduction

1. The Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (Executive Committee) held its eighty-fifth meeting at the International Conference Centre Geneva from 19 to 20 September 2022.
2. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations Office at Geneva, opened the eighty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee. The First Vice-Chairperson, Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the Second Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva, assisted in the chairing of the meeting.
3. All documents cited in this report and all available presentations made by senior managers of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during the meeting may be found on the Standing Committee webpage (www.unhcr.org/standing-committee-meetings.html).

II. Representation

4. The following Executive Committee members were represented at the meeting:
Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, the Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania,

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the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

5. Other United Nations Member States present as Standing Committee observers were as follows:

Angola, El Salvador, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq and the Niger.

6. The European Union was represented as an observer. Also present were the following intergovernmental organizations and other entities:

International Development Law Organization, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and Sovereign Order of Malta.

7. The United Nations system, specialized agencies and related organizations were represented by the World Food Programme.

8. Two non-governmental organizations were in attendance.

III. Adoption of the agenda

9. The Committee adopted by consensus the following agenda for the meeting:

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Programme budgets and funding
 - (a) Update on budgets and funding;
 - (b) Programme budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 2023 and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.
3. International protection
 - (a) Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusions process;
 - (b) Oral update on the preparations for the High Commissioner's Dialogue.
4. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources
 - (a) Finance and oversight
 - (i) Financial statements for the year 2021 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the financial report and audited financial voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2021;
 - (ii) Key issues and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2021, as well as follow up to the recommendations from previous years;
 - (iii) Internal audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
 - (iv) Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee;
 - (v) UNHCR financial regulations and rules.
 - (b) Human resources
Human resources, including staff wellbeing

(c) Management

Oral update on integrity in UNHCR

5. Any other business.

IV. Work of the eighty-fifth meeting

10. The Deputy High Commissioner delivered an opening statement, outlining the challenges and opportunities facing UNHCR. The Assistant High Commissioner (Protection) was present for the consideration of agenda items under international protection.

11. Presentations under each agenda item were made by senior management of UNHCR, and Executive Committee members and Standing Committee observers were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Comprehensive summary records of the discussion will be made available on the Standing Committee webpage (www.unhcr.org/standing-committee-meetings.html). The documents considered during the meeting are listed in the annex and are also available on the Standing Committee webpage.

V. Decisions of the Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

12. The following decisions were adopted by the Committee:

A. Decision on budgets and funding for 2022

13. *The Standing Committee,*

Recalling the Executive Committee's decision, at its seventy-second session on administrative, financial and programme matters (A/AC.96/1220, para. 13 (d)), as well as discussions by the Standing Committee on the programme budgets and funding item at its eighty-fourth meeting in June 2022,

Reaffirming the importance of responsibility-sharing in solidarity with countries hosting refugees,

Takes note of the increase in UNHCR's annual budget for 2022 at 31 July 2022 to a current total of \$10,704.0 million, representing the sum of the original budget of \$8,993.7 million and supplementary budgets of \$1,710.3 million,

Recognizes that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding in 2022 may result in the need for additional or expanded supplementary budgets and that additional resources, over and above those for existing budgets, would be needed to meet such needs, and

Urges member States to continue to respond generously, in the spirit of solidarity and in a timely manner, to the High Commissioner's appeal for resources to meet in full the annual budget for 2022.

B. Decision for consideration by the Standing Committee

14. *The Standing Committee,*

Having considered the proposed revision of the financial rules for voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees (A/AC.96/503/Rev.11) as set out in annex I of conference room paper EC/73/SC/CRP.21,

Requests the High Commissioner to submit a final draft of the revised financial rules (A/AC.96/503/Rev.12) to the seventy-third session of the Executive Committee for endorsement and for subsequent promulgation by the High Commissioner with effect from 1 January 2023.

Annex**[Original: English and French only]****List of documents considered by the eighty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee***Standing Committee documentation:*

- Provisional annotated agenda
- Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee
- UNHCR financial regulations and rules
- Human resources, including staff well-being
- Update on budgets and funding

Documentation prepared for the seventy-third plenary session of the Executive Committee and also considered at the eighty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee:

- Programme budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 2023 (A/AC.96/1224)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/AC.96/1230)
- Financial statements for the year 2021 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the financial report and audited financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2021 (A/77/5/Add.6 and A/AC.96/1223)
- Key issues and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2021 (A/AC.96/1223/Add.1)
- Internal audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/AC.96/1225)

Oral updates on:

- Preparations for the High Commissioner's Dialogue
 - Integrity in UNHCR
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