



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/AC.96/1037  
2 October 2007

Original: ENGLISH  
ENGLISH AND FRENCH

---

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Fifty-eighth session  
Geneva, 1-5 October 2007  
Item 5 of the provisional agenda  
Consideration of Reports on the work of the Standing Committee

#### **Report of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee (6-8 March 2007)**

#### Report by the High Commissioner

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Chairman of the Executive Committee, His Excellency Ambassador Love Mtesa (Zambia), opened the meeting. The Wednesday and Thursday morning sessions of the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee were chaired by the Vice-Chairman, His Excellency Ambassador Wegger Strømme (Norway). Requests for observer status at meetings of the Standing Committee, for the duration of the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Committee from October 2006 to October 2007, were received and granted to the following States: Benin, Cuba, Georgia, Rwanda and the Slovak Republic.

#### II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING AND 2007 WORK PROGRAMME

2. The agenda for the meeting (EC/58/SC/CRP.1/Rev.2) was adopted. The Standing Committee's work programme for 2007 (EC/58/SC/CRP.2), as approved at the planning meeting held on 7 December 2006, was also adopted.

### III. PROGRAMME BUDGETS AND FUNDING

A. Programme budgets and funding in 2006, and projections for 2007, including consideration of the topic “Supplementary Budgets: criteria for their use in refugee as well as in IDP programmes, in the context of the High Commissioner’s proposals for a new resource-allocation model”

3. The Controller presented document EC/58/SC/CRP.5, drawing attention to the continuing funding gaps in both the Annual Programme Budget and the Supplementary Programme Budgets, in spite of the capping exercise of 20 per cent at the beginning of the year. Nevertheless, as a result of austerity measures, discontinuation of posts and the late arrival of some contributions there had been a significant carry-over into 2007. This included a net gain of US\$ 24 million due to favourable exchange rates, which would be used as a buffer against possible exchange losses in the future. The 2007 budget had been kept at the same level as the capped 2006 budget, and the Controller was cautiously optimistic that no further reduction would be necessary if strong donor confidence and the favourable financial climate continued. He also noted that the 2007 budget did not address all identified needs.

4. Most delegations agreed with the proposal to use exchange gains as a measure of fiscal prudence, but urged that it be done with transparency. Several delegations asked about the progress made with the implementation of the International Public Service Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The Controller proposed to hold briefings at an informal level on this topic.

5. The Director of the Division of External Relations commented on the contributions received in 2006, and previewed the financial situation in 2007, including the 16 Supplementary Budgets foreseen for the year. He thanked donors for their support and commitment and expressed the hope that others would join the small group of major donors and emulate their generosity.

6. Following the incorporation of an additional paragraph, the draft decision on programme budgets and funding in 2007 was adopted (Annex I).

7. With regard to the draft decision on the criteria for the inclusion of refugee or refugee-related supplementary programme budgets into the annual/biennial programme budget, several delegations tabled an amendment, proposing that discussions be pursued with a view to taking a decision at the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee. The Committee then adopted the amended decision (Annex II).

B. Information on needs not covered by the 2007 Budget due to efforts to achieve a fundable budget, and impact thereof on beneficiaries

8. The Director of the Division of Operational Support presented information on the protection and assistance needs that had not been covered under the 2007 Budget (EC/58/SC/CRP.6 and its corrigendum). He described and provided examples of UNHCR’s efforts to prioritize in order to maintain life-sustaining activities and those with a direct and immediate impact on beneficiaries in the budget, while reducing or deferring other longer term programme activities.

9. The Director recalled that UNHCR's 2007 budget had been drawn up on the basis of what the Office believed was realistically fundable, which could not possibly meet all needs. Choices had been made using UNHCR's standards and indicators and results-based management measurement tools, taking into consideration activities which could be postponed until later or undertaken by organizations other than UNHCR's implementing partners, including the Peace Building Commission or development agencies.

10. Delegations expressed appreciation for the details provided and encouraged further reporting of this kind, calling for explanation of the criteria used to prioritize and cut some activities. Many were concerned that minimum standards were not being met, notably in health and education sectors and in combating sexual and gender-based violence, particularly in Africa.

#### IV. MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTROL, ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES

##### A. Update on the structural and management change process

11. The Director for Structural and Management Change presented an update on the change process, reviewing the allocation and management of resources; the budget structure; streamlining of Headquarters; and potential outposting of administrative services. The Director confirmed that once the study on the feasibility of outposting of certain administrative services was complete, UNHCR would come forward with details of costs as well as expected savings and benefits. He highlighted that while some aspects of the anticipated changes were cost-neutral, others would require additional financial support. Further discussions on the issues of outposting and decentralization would be held at the June and September Standing Committee meetings, as well as at an informal consultative meeting to be scheduled before June.

12. Delegations expressed strong support for the change process and appreciation for the transparent manner in which it was being conducted. Several delegations called for further consultation on the proposed revised budget structure, expressing concern that funds should not be diverted from refugee programmes. Many delegations stressed the importance of pursuing consultations with staff. They asked to be kept informed of the report under preparation on the costs and benefits of outposting of certain administrative services to a non-Headquarters location, prior to any decisions.

##### B. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2005 and previous years

13. The Controller presented document EC/58/SC/CRP.4 and commented on the recommendations from previous years. He confirmed the focus on higher risk areas, highlighted the need for lessons-learned exercises following emergency operations, and expressed the hope that there would be full implementation of a treasury management system by the end of 2007. He announced the development of new related software and hoped the initiative on donor agreements would enhance harmonization. In closing, he underlined that risk-based reporting on audit recommendations provided both Member States and UNHCR with an important focus on

preventive, remedial and mitigation strategies. In this way, the Office was aiming at reducing, eliminating or avoiding enterprise-level risks in full cooperation with the Board of Auditors and the internal service audit of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

14. Delegations called on UNHCR to follow up on recommendations from previous years and stressed the need to abide by the United Nations rules. They also encouraged the Office to rely more on standard annual reports to alleviate the reporting burden.

### C. Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office (IGO)

15. The Inspector General expressed his satisfaction concerning the Memorandum of Understanding with OIOS which spelled out the division of responsibilities and modalities for collaboration between the two entities. There were, however, areas which could benefit from some improvement, such as creating greater synergy between the investigation and inspection units; expediting the production of inspection reports; and using techniques for long distance surveys and assessments. Among the problem areas noted, he mentioned the relationship between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UNHCR; the improper use of non-staff personnel; and the weaknesses of the performance appraisal system. As far as investigations were concerned, the IGO was working closely with Department of International Protection Services (DIPS) and other units on sharing of information in following up on cases.

16. Some delegations asked for clarification on the IGO and NGO relationship, underlining that NGOs had to be made more accountable for their activities so that consistency with international standards is reached. With regard to supervisory responsibilities in relation to NGO activities, junior staff had to receive proper training, notably on the Code of Conduct. In response to a question raised on the analysis of trends in areas of investigation, the Inspector General explained that reports were issued periodically. On the issue of protecting "whistleblowers", he confirmed that some guarantees had been put in place in cooperation with the competent United Nations departments in New York.

## V. INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

### A. An oral update on implementation of the Agenda for Protection

17. The Director of the Division of International Protection Services (DIPS) updated the Committee on UNHCR's work to promote the implementation of the Agenda for Protection. He also commented on several key challenges, notably critical internal displacement situations, the large numbers of people fleeing ongoing violence in Iraq, and the effects of the process of structural and management change on DIPS. In closing, he called for delegations to consider participating in an analysis of implementation of the Agenda by all actors involved, including States, and to affirm action to be taken on joint reporting on implementation of the Agenda. He also asked the Committee to reconsider the possibility of having a General Conclusion on International Protection to provide guidance on protection concerns raised in the 2007 Note on International Protection.

18. Several delegations reiterated their interest in the 10-Point Plan of Action to Address Mixed Migratory Movements and asked how the High Commissioner's "Forum" could be revitalized. Many delegations referred to the on-going problems linked with mixed migratory flows and called for further discussions in order to reach clear policy guidelines on UNHCR's role with regard to internally displaced persons (IDPs) versus refugees. Some delegations welcomed a thematic conclusion on children at risk. Many delegations referred to the proposed questionnaire on the implementation of the Agenda, questioning its nature, its value added and its staffing and financial needs.

19. In summing up, the Director expressed appreciation for delegations' support in various areas of UNHCR's protection work, notably with regard to protracted refugee situations and statelessness. With regard to concerns raised about the Office's involvement with IDPs, including the need to ensure the primacy of sovereign responsibility and to avoid any diversion of refugee resources, he underlined the importance of UNHCR working alongside States, and also non-State entities in some cases, in order to provide protection for persons of concern.

20. With regard to asylum-migration issues, the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection noted the interest expressed by several delegations in further discussing the 10-Point Plan of Action and confirmed that this would probably be one of the first topics to be considered at a revived "Forum".

B. A presentation of the topic of Children at Risk which is proposed  
as a thematic conclusion on international protection for adoption by the 58<sup>th</sup> plenary session of  
the Executive Committee

21. The Division of International Protection Services presented the document relating to children at risk. It was hoped that the conclusion to be prepared on that topic for adoption by the Executive Committee (ExCom) would provide a strong operational framework for engaging States and other relevant actors in working together to enhance delivery of protection to children at the field level. It would complement ExCom Conclusion No. 105 (LVI) of 2006 on women and girls at risk, and that it would cover all children, both boys and girls, including adolescents. The Division looked forward to working together with ExCom to achieve a strong conclusion on children at risk, as part of measures to improve the framework for the protection of refugee children in line with goal 6 of the Agenda for Protection, as well as of other children of concern to UNHCR.

22. Delegations welcomed the efforts leading to progress in the design and implementation of programmes and activities for refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless children. They flagged the fact that children often remained at heightened risk during displacement and that this matter should benefit from ExCom's strategic guidance. Delegations would also welcome a reaffirmation of the Determination the Best Interests of the Child, particularly concerning unaccompanied and separated children. Some delegations highlighted the need to focus on stateless children, child victims of sexual violence and former child soldiers. In conclusion, all delegations looked forward to discussion of elements that could be included in a new ExCom conclusion on this subject with a focus on areas where normative or operational guidance was lacking.

## VI. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

23. The Assistant High Commissioner for Operations reviewed trends from the previous year and priority areas for the year ahead. She commented in particular on: the reconfiguration of the regional bureaux with regard to coverage of countries in the Asia and the Pacific region and in the Middle East and North Africa, including the Iraq situation; promising developments related to durable solutions enabling UNHCR to phase out of large-scale repatriation operations to Angola and Liberia and to envisage new prospects for solutions in two protracted refugee situations in Nepal and Thailand; and outstanding challenges with other politically complex operations, such as in Southern Sudan and Afghanistan.

24. In a number of critical areas, UNHCR was scaling up its operations and contingency planning, notably in Darfur, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Somalia; however, security concerns were posing great challenges and hampering humanitarian access in some cases. The operational focus with regard to the dramatic increase in internal and external displacement of Iraqis had been readjusted to give greater attention to the situation in countries of asylum in the region, and the Assistant High Commissioner made reference to the Ministerial-level Conference, to be hosted by the High Commissioner in Geneva in April 2007, which aimed to raise awareness of various aspects of this particularly challenging humanitarian situation.

25. The Assistant High Commissioner welcomed delegations' advice at informal consultative meetings of the Standing Committee which were helping the Office to refine its IDP Policy Framework and Implementation Strategy, notably from the protection perspective. She also acknowledged the expressions of appreciation by several countries with large IDP populations for UNHCR's work in this respect. With implementation progressing, workplans for several IDP operations would be shared with delegations at the next informal consultative meeting in May.

26. With regard to emergency response, the Lebanon crisis had highlighted several key areas for attention. UNHCR was working with the World Food Programme to advocate for a more balanced and situational approach to security measures to help facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid. New measures to ensure the rapid deployment of sufficient human and financial resources when needed were being put in place and the proposed new resource allocation framework would further enhance this capacity. Awareness of the critical importance of logistical support, in order to position relief items in multiple locations for populations in need, had led to the Office's decision to move the Supply Management Service into the Department of Operations.

27. In closing, the Assistant High Commissioner for Operations made reference to the High Commissioner's decision to devote US\$ 15 million to special projects aimed at preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence and at combatting an alarming deterioration in health and nutrition levels in some refugee settings.

### A. The Americas

28. The Director for the Americas Bureau recalled that many countries in the region had held elections in 2006 with results which had contributed to the consolidation of democracy in many instances. However, he voiced UNHCR's particular concerns over the deterioration of public

security in Haiti and increased risk of flight: hence the decision to strengthen the Office's presence in the region, as well as its cooperation with other humanitarian and development actors.

29. The other area of major focus for UNHCR was the ongoing internal conflict in Colombia. In support of the Government's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, the Office was continuing to play a key role in ensuring the application of central legal and institutional policies at the field level. As lead agency for the protection group in the newly established inter-agency Humanitarian Country Team, UNHCR was working on the formulation of a consistent protection action plan for 2007. In countries neighbouring Colombia, the Office was developing new protection strategies designed to assist Governments to address the needs of Colombians in need of protection and encourage them to take responsibility for their refugee status determination procedures.

30. Other areas highlighted included the significant resettlement programmes in North America and the framework provided by the Mexico Plan of Action for enhancing refugee protection and implementing an integrated approach to durable solutions, notably "solidarity resettlement" by countries in the region. The Director reported on progress achieved in applying the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming (AGDM) strategy throughout Latin America and also flagged the challenges of dealing with the mixed migration flows in the region, both across land borders and on the Caribbean seas.

31. Delegations encouraged UNHCR to pursue its efforts in Colombia in collaboration with the Government and to continue to strengthen protection through the inter-agency approach. The figure quoted regarding the numbers of displaced was challenged as being too low, and several delegations welcomed the imminent visit of the High Commissioner to the Latin American region as an opportunity to draw attention and support: both for the millions of internally displaced and refugees in neighbouring countries, as well as for the hosting countries which were bearing considerable economic and security pressures as a result. Some delegations queried the assessment of USD 2 million as truly representative of the level of "unmet needs" in Conference Room Paper EC/58/SC/CRP.6, and asked for more information. Delegations expressed support for the resettlement solidarity programme and encouragement to pursue implementation of the Mexico Plan of Action; however it was noted that further progress would require more international cooperation. With regard to the Caribbean region, UNHCR's role in improving protection, including on statelessness issues, and in building local capacity, was commended, as was the ongoing cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

32. In his responses, the Director made particular reference to UNHCR's awareness of the generosity of many countries in the Latin American region with regard to their solidarity. He agreed that expanding implementation of the Mexico Plan of Action would depend on available funding. On a question regarding micro-credit arrangements for refugees, he clarified UNHCR's position in pursuing such support when necessary, confirming nevertheless that if the host country were able to offer replacement micro-credit arrangements, this would be very welcome. In closing, he reiterated his hope that the High Commissioner's visit would help to bring greater visibility to the real needs of the region.

## B. Africa

33. The Director of the Africa Bureau highlighted several issues, notably durable solutions, standards of care, emergency response and mixed migratory movements. The year 2007 would see the completion of two major repatriation operations to Angola and Liberia, which together had enabled the return of 690,000 persons. Repatriation to Burundi, Southern Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo would continue. Other durable solutions pursued in 2006 which would continue in 2007 included the local integration of “residual refugees” who would not return to their country of origin. The Director commended several host Governments for their receptiveness towards the local integration of long term refugees.

34. The violence in some parts of Africa in the past year had demonstrated that emergency preparedness and security awareness continued to be vital for an effective response to forced displacement. While noting satisfactory progress in implementing UNHCR’s cluster leadership role in several IDP situations, the Director expressed serious concern about the effect of volatile security conditions on protection and assistance activities for IDPs, notably in Somalia, Chad and West Darfur. She also commented on the increase in mixed migratory flows in Africa and their repercussions on the institution of asylum.

35. The Director regretted that in some operations the level of care for refugees was below standard because of funding constraints; given adequate funding UNHCR could scale up several needy protection and assistance programmes, but not necessarily meet all standards.

36. The Director’s concern was echoed by many delegates who feared that projects related to education, countering sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), rehabilitating refugee-impacted areas, or staff training were particularly affected by budget cuts. Several delegations observed that the proposed budgets reflected funding projections rather than actual needs, and called for sustained financial support to UNHCR’s operations. They commended UNHCR’s efforts to implement the AGDM strategy and to fight SGBV and malnutrition, and encouraged the Office to continue its efforts in these areas as well as to reinforce its cooperation with other organizations and with asylum countries to help integrate refugees into national programmes.

37. Many delegations deplored the ongoing transition gap between relief and development, resulting in a lack of reintegration activities, inadequate living conditions and scarcity of livelihood opportunities. Many refugees were reluctant to go home when, even if the political situation had improved, the economical and social conditions were better in host countries. The Director acknowledged that the early recovery cluster was not yet working as it should, and that more needed to be done in this area.

## C. Asia and the Pacific (including Central and South-West Asia)

38. The Director of the Bureau for Asia and the Pacific recalled the Office’s priorities in the region, notably to maintain and enhance the protection space and find solutions for protracted displacement situations. Examples of particular achievements included the ongoing Afghan repatriation operation and the resettlement of considerable numbers of persons of concern in protracted situations in south and south-east Asia. While advances had been made by several States in the region on adopting refugee legislation and developing national asylum systems, the



Director noted with concern that in general the quality of asylum was deteriorating and asylum space was shrinking. Secondary and onward movements of asylum-seekers were on the increase and needed to be addressed. The Director also highlighted UNHCR's work to reduce statelessness and prevent stateless people from becoming refugees.

39. Delegations commended the Office's collaboration with Governments in the region and for its practical, solutions-oriented approach to addressing protracted refugee situations. Deep concern was expressed over the worsening security and humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, and it was emphasized that all humanitarian organizations needed to have access to the displaced populations.

40. The Director thanked delegations for their support and reaffirmed the Bureau's commitment to work with States to increase access and improve the quality of asylum. She noted that the current momentum toward finding solutions for some of the most protracted refugee camp situations in the region was due largely to the sustained engagement of a core group of countries. Given the volatile conditions in a number of countries across Asia, she requested the continued support of Governments to assist UNHCR in responding to emergencies and assuring the conditions that would allow refugees to lead as normal a life as possible in countries of asylum.

#### D. Europe

41. The Director of the Bureau for Europe presented the current year's major challenges under four main themes. She reported on UNHCR's ongoing work, together with States and other partners, on ensuring access to asylum procedures for people in need of international protection, as well as acceptable reception conditions pending consideration of claims. She also updated the Committee on efforts with regard to the challenges posed by mixed flows of asylum-seekers and migrants, in particular in the context of interception and rescue at sea. Focus was being given to improving the credibility and fairness of asylum systems, with quality decision-making, in order to counter problems such as negative public perceptions towards foreigners and disparities in refugee status determination. With regard to the promotion of durable solutions for refugees and IDPs in Europe, strategy was based on drawing donor support for sustainable solutions and on helping Governments to make return a feasible option. The Office was also engaged in combating instances of statelessness, including by advocating accession to the relevant international instruments. The fourth area highlighted by the Director was UNHCR's wide network of partnerships in Europe, not only in operational implementation but also in advocacy and public outreach. She acknowledged in particular the constructive relationships with regional institutions and the strong support provided by the European Commission and EU Member States in 2006. Before closing, she updated the Committee on specific aspects of a number of current operations in the region.

42. Delegations conveyed broad support for UNHCR's approach to dealing with the challenges of providing international protection to persons entitled to this in the midst of mixed migratory flows, and looked forward to further discussions on the 10-Point Plan of Action for Addressing Mixed Migratory Movements. Several delegations also encouraged the Office to build partnerships with other actors, notably concerned States and IOM, and there was a call for specific examples of how the Plan was being implemented in Europe. UNHCR's efforts in

respect of border control issues and future cooperation with the new FRONTEX agency were welcomed, but there were also calls for the European Union and neighbouring States to ensure that border controls were compliant with respective international obligations.

43. While UNHCR's involvement in developing and evaluating European asylum instruments was commended, one delegation regretted the lowering or uneven application of standards in the transposition of asylum directives. Attention was drawn to the Kosovo status negotiation process currently under way and to UNHCR's contingency planning, and hopes were expressed for solutions to the situation of remaining refugees and IDPs in various parts of the Balkans region.

44. In her responses, the Director expressed appreciation for the deepening collaboration with the European Community, especially on the transposition of directives, and confirmed that the Office was working to assist authorities on the quality of decision making. She reaffirmed UNHCR's commitment to the 3x3 process in the Balkans and to helping IDPs in Serbia, including Kosovo, as well as to finding solutions for some 16,000 people of concern to the Office in Montenegro. With regard to interventions on issues of statelessness, she maintained that stateless rights were not a single set of rights but had to be dealt with in a comprehensive manner, taking into account national practice. In closing, the Director and the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection clarified the Office's role with regard to mixed migratory movements and the 10-Point Plan of Action which would be the subject of further discussions.

#### E. The Middle East and North Africa

45. The Director introduced the new Bureau configuration covering the Middle East and North Africa, which had been designed to allow for better response to the emerging needs and priorities in the region, including the Iraq operation. The presentation focused on three major concerns: the Iraq situation, the mixed movements of migrants and asylum-seekers in Northern Africa and the arrivals by sea in Yemen.

46. The complex humanitarian crisis in Iraq had prompted UNHCR to shift its focus from reintegration and rehabilitation activities inside the country to providing protection and humanitarian assistance to the increasing number of refugees in neighbouring countries. The Office would pursue its IDP cluster coordination role and, together with other partners, would continue to focus on advocacy and provision of assistance through remote management arrangements, while enhancing its presence and activities in areas where the security conditions had improved. In neighbouring countries, UNHCR was focusing on registration and swift determination of vulnerability as key components for addressing the protection and assistance needs of Iraqis.

47. In North Africa, in response to the challenges posed by the migration/asylum nexus, the Director commented on the 10-Point Plan of Action. UNHCR had developed strategies for the implementation of the Plan in each of the concerned countries in the region with positive results, but he cautioned that Governments in the region nevertheless continued to fear that they could become a "dumping space" for people who were not wanted in Europe. He called on all parties concerned to work together to dispel fears and build confidence.

48. Yemen continued to receive flows of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants arriving in boats from the Horn of Africa with many hundreds perishing on the way. Hundreds of newly arriving Somali refugees in Kharaz camp in Yemen lacked adequate shelter or food. The Director called for more international support and assistance for Yemen in the spirit of responsibility sharing and to prevent the erosion of the long-standing protection which the country had been offering to these populations.

49. Delegations supported the appeal to provide assistance to countries hosting Iraqis, as well as the proposed Conference. There were calls for countries in the region to respect the principle of *non-refoulement* and one delegation reconfirmed its willingness to offer resettlement places to Iraqis. Concern was expressed in particular with regard to the situation and protection needs of Palestinian refugees in Iraq.

50. Several delegations called for greater burden and responsibility sharing with regard to the Yemen situation, calling on UNHCR to assist the authorities to deal with new arrivals.

51. Several delegations expressed their satisfaction at the resumption of visits between Saharawi families and the pursuit of Confidence Building Measures.

52. A point of view was expressed by certain delegations who called for the prompt registration of the Saharawi refugees in the Tindouf camps. Another view expressed was that such a registration should take place within the framework of the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

53. Finally, certain delegations were concerned by the level of malnutrition affecting refugees.

54. In closing, the Director provided further details of UNHCR's efforts to get assistance to affected populations inside Iraq, notably through the remote operations being implemented by local partners and grassroots-level institutions. He acknowledged that the situation of displaced Iraqi women was particularly critical and confirmed that priority was being given to providing resettlement places and dedicating special funding to address problems of shelter and well-being for female-headed households. Finally, he clarified that logistical constraints were behind the food availability problems in the Tindouf camps.

#### F. Global Programmes and Partnerships

55. The Director of the Division of Operational Services (DOS) commented on the update provided to the Committee which reported on the expected impact of developments in UNHCR's working environment, notably political changes in some regions and the effects of new measures being introduced as a result of the United Nations reform processes. He highlighted in particular the building of strategic partnerships with regard to the move towards the United Nations "delivering as one"; the cluster approach to situations of internal displacement; and efforts to achieve durable solutions, including for protracted situations. He underlined the efforts to safeguard targets in the priority areas of health, nutrition and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in 2007, for which the High Commissioner had set aside a special allocation of USD 15 million. UNHCR had also accepted to chair the Partners' Group of

the “Ending Child Hunger and Under-Nutrition Initiative” (ECHUI). In the area of education, building on 2006 standards and indicators reporting, emphasis was being put on ensuring a safe learning environment and providing quality education, and the NineMillion.org campaign was gathering ground in collaboration with corporate partners. UNHCR was pursuing efforts to improve registration of refugees and had started to develop tools and guidelines for IDP profiling. The use of standards and indicators was being mainstreamed into all operations in support of the development of results-based management (RBM) reporting.

56. Two delegations took the floor, encouraging UNHCR to pursue its efforts on RBM and the development of standards and indicators, as well as on refugee registration. The SGBV and AGDM activities continued to be of great interest to donors who expected UNHCR to continue to prioritize these. There was also a call for the Office to show not only the impact of funding cuts, but also its successes in meeting some of the most basic needs. More information was requested on which protracted situations could benefit from more international support.

57. In summing up, the Director referred to the progress already achieved on registration and IDP profiling and acknowledged the importance of coordination with other agencies and NGOs in this respect. In moving ahead with RBM, he confirmed that the software being developed would allow UNHCR to determine the level of adherence of programmes to the Office’s Global Strategic Objectives and then to adjust its strategy accordingly. In closing, he pointed out that UNHCR’s requirements were not solely financial, and called on Governments to share their experience and expertise in order to help reduce the suffering of refugees and other persons of concern.

## VII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

58. There being no other business raised by members of the Committee, the Chairman declared the 38<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee closed.

Annex I

DECISION ON PROGRAMME BUDGETS AND FUNDING IN 2007

*The Standing Committee,*

*Recalling* the Executive Committee's decision at its fifty-seventh session on administrative, financial and programme matters (A/AC.96/1035, para. 19) as well as its discussions under the programme budgets and funding item at the thirty-seventh meeting of the Standing Committee;

*Reaffirming*, the importance of international burden and responsibility sharing in reducing the burden of host countries, especially developing ones;

1. *Notes* that UNHCR's overall needs under its Annual Programme for 2007, based on currently known requirements, amount to \$1,042.9 million, as approved by the Executive Committee at its fifty-seventh session (which included \$34.4 million from the United Nations Regular Budget and \$10.0 million for Junior Professional Officers);
2. *Notes* the modification of the budget presentation to reflect the recent changes in the Bureau structure within the Office of the High Commissioner;
3. *Notes* that 2007 Supplementary Programme Budgets currently amount to \$261.3 million, including \$71.4 million for programmes benefiting internally displaced persons;
4. *Recognizes* that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding during 2007 may result in the need for additional or expanded Supplementary Programmes and that additional resources, over and above those for existing budgets, would be needed to meet such needs;
5. *Notes* that the High Commissioner has presented a 2007 Annual Programme Budget that is intended to be realistic and fundable;
6. *Notes* with grave concern the substantial unmet needs for provision of assistance and protection to persons of concern; and
7. *Urges* Member States, in light of the extensive needs to be addressed by the Office of the High Commissioner, to respond generously and in a spirit of solidarity, and in a timely manner, to his appeal for resources to meet in full the approved 2007 Annual Programme Budget, as well as the requirements of the 2007 Supplementary Programme Budgets.

Annex II

DECISION ON THE CRITERIA FOR THE INCLUSION OF REFUGEE  
OR REFUGEE-RELATED SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME BUDGETS INTO  
THE ANNUAL/BIENNIAL PROGRAMME BUDGET

*The Standing Committee,*

*Recalling* the Executive Committee's decisions at its fifty-seventh session on administrative, financial and programme matters (A/AC.96/1035, para. 19 (i) and (j)),

*Calls for* further consultations between UNHCR and the Standing Committee to discuss the criteria for the inclusion of refugee or refugee-related Supplementary Programme Budgets into the Annual/Biennial Programme Budget, with a view to taking a decision at the 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee in June 2007.

Annex III

LIST OF POINTS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION

1. Deferral to June Standing Committee meeting of the decision on the criteria for the inclusion of refugee or refugee-related supplementary programme budgets into the Annual/Biennial Programme Budget pending further consultations between UNHCR and the Standing Committee.
2. Request for further consultations on various aspects of the Structural and Management Change process, notably the proposals for a revised budget structure and the PriceWaterhouseCoopers report on outposting.
3. Call for rapid completion of action required to close the outstanding recommendations of the 2002 Board of Auditors' report.
4. Update matrices indicating status of follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2003 and 2004, for posting on the website under Standing Committee documents.
5. Proposal to undertake an assessment/review of States' progress with regard to implementation of the Agenda for Protection.
6. Further discussions and concept paper on management of mixed migration flows as well as information on likely reconvening of a "High Commissioner's Forum".
7. Continue providing Committee with details of impact of budget cuts.
8. Report later in year on which key protracted situations would benefit from international support.

---