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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Fifty-eighth session
Geneva, 1-5 October 2007
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda
Reports on the work of the Standing Committee:
programme budgets, management, financial control and administrative oversight

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee

Note by the High Commissioner

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifty-seventh session in October 2006, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2007.¹ This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.
2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2007: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2006 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the different agenda items in 2007. This is provided in Annex I.

¹ A/AC.96/1035, paragraph 20.

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each of the meetings of the Standing Committee in 2007 is contained in the following reports: *Report of the Thirty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1037); *Report of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1045); and *Report of the Fortieth Meeting of the Standing Committee* (A/AC.96/1047). A list of documents relating to these meetings is provided in Annex II.

II. ISSUES COVERED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE IN 2007

A. Programme budgets and funding

4. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee considered updates on overall programme budgets and funding through which it was kept informed of programme requirements, budgetary measures and funding levels. The Committee also adopted decisions at two of its meetings, as listed in section III below. In March, the Standing Committee was informed on the needs not covered by the 2007 budget, due to efforts to achieve a fundable budget, and the impact on beneficiaries. It also received information on criteria for the use of supplementary budgets. At the June meeting, the Committee considered the Global Report on UNHCR's activities in 2006. At the September meeting, the Annual Programme Budget for 2007 and its addendum, the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), were reviewed by the Standing Committee. The new Biennial Budget for 2008 and 2009 was also discussed at the September meeting.

B. International Protection

5. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the implementation of the Agenda for Protection, as well as a report on issues related to the asylum-migration nexus. At the March meeting, the topic of Children at Risk was presented as a proposal for a thematic conclusion on international protection. The June meeting included a debate on the Note on International Protection, notably on the implementation of the Agenda for Protection

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6. Regional reviews of UNHCR's programmes and activities in all five regions – Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; the Middle East and North Africa (MENA); and Europe – were considered comprehensively at the Standing Committee's meeting in March. In addition to the regional reviews, the Committee also considered the Office's global programmes and partnerships. This review of regional and global activities was articulated around the global objectives contained in the Global Appeal for 2007 and emphasized progress and challenges encountered with respect to the implementation of the Agenda for Protection. The Committee also considered a report on staff safety and security issues in June and received an update on emergency preparedness and response in September.

D. Programme/Protection policy

7. At the March meeting, the Committee considered reports on HIV/AIDS and refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs); Health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, as well as on the protection of older people and persons with disabilities.

E. Coordination

8. The Committee considered elements for UNHCR's oral update to the 2007 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at its June meeting and received an update on coordination issues at its September meeting. In June, the Standing Committee also received a presentation on the policy framework and implementation strategy for UNHCR's role in support of an enhanced humanitarian response to situations of internal displacement.

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

9. At every meeting, the Standing Committee received an update on the structural and management change process. In March, the Standing Committee reviewed the allocation and management of resources as well as the new budget structure. A proposal for a new budget structure was further discussed at the September meeting. In June and September, the Committee considered proposed changes to the Financial Rules related to the biennialization of the budget and the adjustment of the appropriation level of the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) Reserve. In September, the Standing Committee discussed follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2005 and previous years. An oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office was also presented in September.

10. The September meeting considered the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2006, and discussed measures taken or proposed in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2005.

G. Governance

11. In March, the Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2007 as proposed at its December 2006 planning meeting. In June, under governance issues, the Committee called on delegations to provide suggestions for issues to be included in the High Commissioner's opening statement at the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Committee.

H. Consultations

12. In accordance with its standard practice, the Standing Committee held informal consultative meetings in the course of the year on issues requiring in-depth discussion. These included consultations on UNHCR's structural and management change process; on the value of ExCom conclusions on international protection, and how to improve the drafting process, including contributions by Standing Committee observers; on extending the input in the work of

the Executive Committee from NGOs which are implementing or operational partners of UNHCR; on proposals for a new resource-allocation model, and criteria for the inclusion or non-inclusion of Supplementary Programmes into the Annual/Biennial Budget; on how Supplementary Programme Budgets can be best managed in order to support UNHCR's role as cluster lead in certain internal displacement situations; on UNHCR's IDP policy framework and strategy; on children at risk, the topic to be covered in the thematic conclusion on international protection for 2007; and on the initial outline of the 2008-2009 budget.

III. STANDING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

13. 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 different Standing Committee meetings, as follows:

III. STANDING COMMITTEE DECISIONS

- (a) *Report of the Thirty-eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1037)*
 - (i) Decision on programme budgets and funding in 2007
 - (ii) Decision on the criteria for the inclusion of refugee or refugee-related supplementary programme budgets into the annual/biennial programme budget
- (b) *Report of the Thirty-ninth Meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1045)*
 - (i) Decision on overall programme budgets and funding for 2007
 - (ii) Decision on proposals for revision of the financial rules, including changes required by the biennialization of the programme budget

ANNEX I

STANDING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME CALENDAR FOR 2007 (English and French only)

	38th Meeting 6 – 9 March 2007	39th Meeting 25 – 27 June 2007 ²	40th Meeting 19 – 20 September 2007
PROGRAMME BUDGETS AND FUNDING	- Update on programme budgets and funding - Information on needs not covered by the 2007 Budget due to efforts to achieve a fundable budget, and impact thereof on beneficiaries - Supplementary Budgets: criteria for their use in refugee as well as IDP programmes, in the context of the High Commissioner's proposals for a new resource-allocation model	- Update on programme budgets and funding, including preliminary consideration of the Biennial Programme Budget for 2008/2009 - Global Report (2006)	Biennial Programme Budget for 2008-2009, revised budget for 2007, update on funding for 2007 and the Report of the ACABQ on the draft budget for 2008-2009
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION	- Oral update on implementation of the Agenda for Protection - Presentation(s) on topic(s) proposed for ExCom Conclusions on International Protection³	- Note on International Protection, including information on implementation of Agenda for Protection - UNHCR's activities in relation to the asylum-migration nexus	
REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GLOBAL PROGRAMMES	- Strategic presentations on Africa, Asia and the Pacific (including Central and South-West Asia), Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East and North Africa⁴ - Global Programmes and Partnerships	Staff safety and security issues, including refugee security	Emergency response and preparedness
PROGRAMME / PROTECTION POLICY		- Protection of older persons and persons with disabilities - HIV/AIDS and refugees/IDPs	

² Meeting to start on Monday at request of UNOG, in view need to prepare rooms for ECOSOC the following week

³ Draft conclusions on international protection to be prepared for ExCom's 58th session will include the topic of Children at Risk

⁴ These and the following presentation on Global Programmes and Partnerships will be closely referenced to the Global Strategic Objectives and Agenda for Protection, including where applicable the analysis of protracted situations and updates on international burden/responsibility sharing in mass influx situations.

	38th Meeting 6 - 9 March 2007	39th Meeting 25 – 27 June 2007	40th Meeting 19 – 20 September 2007
MANAGEMENT, FINANCIAL CONTROL, ADMINISTRATIVE OVERSIGHT AND HUMAN RESOURCES	• Update on the structural and management change process • Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the accounts for 2005 and previous years • Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office	• Update on the structural and management change process • Proposals for revision of the Financial Rules, including changes required by the biennialization of the Programme Budget	• Update on the structural and management change process • Voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner: Accounts for the year 2006 • Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the Accounts of the Voluntary Funds Administered by UNHCR for the period ended December 2006 • Measures taken or proposed in response to recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2006, and update on measures taken on recommendations in previous years • Internal Audit
COORDINATION		• A strategic vision for UNHCR's expanded role in internal displacement situations, in the context of reforms of the United Nations and humanitarian systems. • Elements for UNHCR's oral update to ECOSOC	• Update on coordination issues
GOVERNANCE	• Adoption of work programme for 2007	• Suggestions on issues for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 58th session of the Executive Committee	

ANNEX II

STANDING COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION ISSUED DURING 2007

38th Meeting (6-9 March 2007)

EC/58/SC/CRP.1/Rev. 2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
EC/58/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2007
EC/58/SC/CRP.3	Update on the structural and management change process
EC/58/SC/CRP.4	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the Accounts for 2005 and previous years
EC/58/SC/CRP.5	Programme budgets and funding in 2006, and projections for 2007
EC/58/SC/CRP.6 and Corr. 1	Information on needs not covered by the 2007 budget due to efforts to achieve a fundable budget, and impact thereof on beneficiaries
EC/58/SC/CRP.7	Children at risk

39th Meeting (25-27 June 2007)

EC/58/SC/CRP.8 and Corr.1	Draft report of the thirty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/58/SC/CRP.9/Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/58/SC/CRP.10	Update on programme budgets and funding, including preliminary consideration of the Biennial Programme Budget for 2008 and 2009
EC/58/SC/CRP.11	Note on international protection
EC/58/SC/CRP.12	UNHCR's activities in relation to the asylum-migration nexus
EC/58/SC/CRP.13	Staff safety and security issues, including refugee security
EC/58/SC/CRP.14	Protection of older persons and persons with disabilities
EC/58/SC/CRP.15	Health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS

EC/58/SC/CRP.16	HIV/AIDS and refugees/internally displaced persons
EC/58/SC/CRP.17	Proposals for revision of the Financial Rules, including changes required by the biennialization of the Programme Budget
EC/58/SC/CRP.18	Policy framework and implementation strategy for UNHCR's role in support of an enhanced humanitarian response to situations of internal displacement

40th Meeting (19 - 20 September 2007)

EC/58/SC/CRP.19/Rev.1	Draft Report of the thirty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/58/SC/CRP.20/Rev.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/58/SC/CRP.21	Update on programme budgets and funding for 2007
EC/58/SC/CRP.22	Emergency preparedness and response
EC/58/SC/CRP.23	Real-time evaluations of UNHCR's involvement in operations for internally displaced persons and the cluster approach: analysis of findings
EC/58/SC/CRP.24	Update on the structural and management change process
EC/58/SC/CRP.25	Proposal for the redesign of UNHCR's budget structure
EC/58/SC/CRP.26	Proposal for a revision of the financial rules
EC/58/SC/CRP.27	Draft Report of the fortieth meeting of the Standing Committee
EC/58/SC/INF.1	Update on coordination issues
EC/58/SC/INF.2	Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on biennial budget estimates 2008-2009
