

Oral update on the ExCom conclusion
UNHCR Standing Committee, June 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to update the Executive Committee on the discussions concerning the ExCom's conclusions process, which I undertook after the previous session of the Standing Committee in March.

As the Committee may recall, during the March session, I shared with you my proposal for a multi-year work plan which aims to achieve greater clarity and predictability, as well as to ensure that needed Executive Committee conclusions are identified early to allow for preparations and supportive activities. The multi-year work plan will also allow themes to be addressed of relevance to the broad membership. We had also asked UNHCR to highlight more explicitly, in the June Standing Committee documentation, areas where guidance from the Committee would contribute to strengthening our collective work on protection and solutions. I thank UNHCR for doing so, in particular in paragraph 26 of the Note on International Protection and also reflected as appropriate in other protection-related papers submitted to the Committee for this session.

On 17 April, an informal meeting of Member States was convened, where participating delegations generally welcomed and expressed readiness to work on the proposed multi-year work plan, while waiting to consider suggested themes from the UNHCR and the Member States. A few delegations also hoped to agree an Executive Committee conclusion, together with a multi-year work plan, this year.

During the months of April and May, I held a number of informal consultations with delegations regarding the way forward and possible themes, and I periodically updated the Bureau at our monthly meeting. Comments and suggestions of many delegations who have informally shared their views with me have been beneficial in our preparatory work.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last week, informal discussions with Member States were conducted by region, based on the Note on International Protection which was presented yesterday, as well as other protection papers submitted to this June Standing Committee.

Attention was given in the regional informal meetings to the 4 topics proposed by the UNHCR in paragraph 26 of its Note, as well as on the process and way forward. Let me remind again the 4 proposed topics which are (1) *reception and alternatives to detention*, (2) *machine-readable travel documents*, (3) *engagement and empowerment of youth*, and (4) *self-reliance from a solutions perspective*.

General support of a multi-year work plan has been reiterated while underlining the need for flexibility in the work plan and balance in the themes chosen, in particular between themes relating more closely to protection and those dealing with solutions. A few delegations also encouraged the Committee to work concurrently on a consensual theme should one emerge that could be negotiated this year.

In this connection, allow me to stress that the topics for future conclusions that the Executive Committee would agree to include in the work plan will remain an indicative list of topics, without prejudice to any future emergency situations or circumstances where the Committee may consider addressing such urgent need for protection as a priority. One delegation informally mentioned a number of possible additional themes to be considered.

Mr. Chairperson,

Those are what have been achieved since our last meeting in March. In terms of next steps, I have proposed in my communication to Member States key timeframe for the coming weeks. Let me summarize again today:

- The first step would be compiling written inputs from Member States. Earlier this month, I invited delegations to submit themes for possible Conclusions, as deemed appropriate, to be accompanied where possible by a short background for each proposed topic, by Monday 29 June. Delegations are encouraged to submit their proposals at the earliest opportunity.
- For transparency and inclusiveness, all written proposals received will be shared with Executive Committee's Members.
- Based on the discussions this week and the proposals the Secretariat and myself would receive, the second step will consist in preparing a draft working paper for further discussions. I will share with you a draft compiling the list of themes, on 3 July.
- Then, on 10 July, we will meet again to discuss the multi-year work plan.

I hope discussions during the present Session and the meeting on 10 July will help shed some light on possible list of topics for the multi-year work plan and shape the future work plan of the Committee. Necessary steps forward and timeframe will also be discussed during the meeting in July and will be communicated to Executive Committee's Members in due course.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation through you, Mr. Chair, to the Members of the Bureau for their continued support. I now look forward to the comments or questions the Executive Committee's Members may have.

I thank you.