

## **DPSM Deputy Director's Introductory Remarks**

### **UNHCR's Programme in the UN's Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period 2018—2019 (EC/67/SC/CRP.4)**

**17 March 2016**

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to introduce Conference Room Paper 4, which presents UNHCR's Programme in the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the 2018-2019 biennium.

UNHCR's biennial programme plan sets out the main directions that UNHCR will pursue in relation to international protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees and other people of concern to the High Commissioner – within the broader objectives of the United Nations – during the forthcoming 2018-2019 biennium. The purpose of the document is to support UNHCR's proposals to the General Assembly for the allocation of funds from the UN Regular Budget for this period.

Before briefly introducing the main elements of the programme, I would like to highlight two important points that characterize the context for our biennial programme plan.

First, UNHCR works in a highly dynamic and constantly changing global environment. For this reason the programme plan for the 2018-2019 biennium has been structured along broad themes that afford a significant measure of flexibility to react and adapt to new and evolving situations.

Second, UNHCR's ability to deliver the results outlined in the plan depends fundamentally upon the cooperation and support of the Member States. This support can come in many different forms. From receiving and protecting refugees on their territory, engaging in efforts to address the root causes of displacement situations, to assisting in finding durable solutions and contributing financial resources in support of these efforts.

The themes set out in UNHCR's biennial programme plan for 2018—2019 are aligned with UNHCR's Global Strategic Priorities and the broader strategies and policy initiatives that have been set by the High Commissioner for the current biennium.

UNHCR will maintain a strong focus on emergency preparedness, engaging in joint contingency planning activities with host governments and other partner organisations in order to strengthen response capacities and ensure an effective and efficient response to new displacement situations.

During the forthcoming biennium, UNHCR will seek to ensure greater quality and consistency in the delivery of international protection, working closely with Member States to address growing pressures on the institution on asylum. UNHCR will also continue to advocate for improvements to national laws and policies governing refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless

UNHCR will also promote coordinated and protection-sensitive regional strategies aimed at ensuring that refugees and asylum-seekers travelling in mixed migratory flows are identified and protected, with a special focus on protection at sea.

UNHCR will also maintain its longstanding engagement with situations of internal displacement where our work focuses primarily on the areas of protection, emergency shelter and camp coordination and camp management, in support of national governments and within the framework of interagency coordination arrangements.

UNHCR will continue working to strengthening our fundamental accountability to the people whom we protect and serve by ensuring that our programmes are based on participatory approaches – in line with our Age, Gender and Diversity policy – to ensure that our protection and programmatic take into account the different needs and capacities of women and men, boys and girls, youth and the elderly, the disabled and people living with disabilities and health conditions that require differentiated responses.

UNHCR will review the achievements made under the current Global Strategies on key programme and protection areas, assess the challenges encountered, and based on the experience and lessons gained decide on how best to make further progress on these areas.

Within the area of solutions, UNHCR will redouble our efforts and engagements with States, UN Agencies and other development partners to develop comprehensive strategies that promote return, resettlement and local integration in a complementary and mutually reinforcing manner and build upon the new momentum to strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus.

UNHCR will continue to put a strong emphasis on working together with its many partners; governments, international agencies, local organisations and civil society in order to make progress towards shared objectives. UNHCR will also be promoting the full inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern into national development actions in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals.

UNHCR will present the Programme to the United Nations Committee for Programme and Coordination in July this year. Review and approval by the General Assembly should follow toward the end of the year. In 2017, UNHCR's regular budget submission for the 2018–2019 biennium, based on the Programme Plan, will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), prior to discussion at the 5<sup>th</sup> Committee and adoption by the General Assembly in late 2017.

We would like to request the continuing support of the Executive Committee Member States – through their New York delegations – during the process of reviewing and approving the UNHCR's programme plan for 2018–2019.

Mr Chairman, before closing, I would like to invite Ms Preeta Law, Deputy Director in the Division of International Protection to add a few remarks on the programme plan after which we will be looking forward to any observations that the delegations may have regarding to UNHCR's Programme in the United Nations proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019.