

**38<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee  
6 -9 March 2007**

**Agenda Item 5(a)  
Outline for the Oral update on implementation of the Agenda for Protection**

*Presented by the Director, Division of International Protection Services*

The oral update to the Standing Committee will focus on implementation of the Agenda for Protection, including UNHCR's interventions and contributions to promote its implementation. This will be complemented by information on several current key challenges, notably internal displacement situations such as those in Sri Lanka and Darfur, and those relating to the displacement within and from Iraq.

*Key messages in relation to current protection challenges:*

On IDPs generally: UNHCR's continuing active role in the IASC coordination process in order to strengthen the inter-agency response to internal displacement and its coordination of the development of an Inter-Agency Handbook on the Protection of Internally Displaced Persons.

On Sri Lanka: the deteriorating security situation imposes serious operational and political constraints on the Office's field-level protection work; the Office has been working to keep the prospect of solutions alive.

On Darfur, Sudan: security is also a major concern with access to displaced populations very difficult; UNHCR has been asked to scale up its IDP operation in west Darfur to include first south Darfur and then north Darfur.

On displacement from and within Iraq: The Division of International Protection Services (DIPS) has provided support to Bureaux and to the Field to develop packages to reinforce asylum in neighbouring countries. .

On the ongoing structural and management change process: the restructuring process of DIPS has focused on examining the potential for bringing the delivery of protection advice and support closer to the point of delivery (e.g. through greater regionalization) at the same time as recognizing that the core DIPS function of ensuring the development and consistent application of standards, doctrine and law and of servicing the Executive Committee must remain at Headquarters.

*Update on implementation of the different goals of the Agenda for Protection:*

Goal 1 – Strengthening implementation of the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, including efforts to ensure access to asylum, e.g. in Kenya for Somali civilians; interventions in national courts to promote harmonized implementation of 1951 Convention; refugee status determination deployments to support offices and States conducting refugee status determination (RSD) in the Field.

Goal 2 – Protecting refugees within broader migration movements, including in relation to rescue-at-sea and initiatives to promote implementation of the 10-point Plan of Action.

Goal 3 – Sharing burdens and responsibilities more equitably and building capacities to receive and protect refugees, including burden and responsibility sharing in the region regarding people fleeing Iraq and among European States regarding rescue-at-sea; Strengthening Protection Capacity Project (SPCP); protection staffing initiatives.

Goal 4 – Addressing security-related concerns more effectively, including issue of Operational Guidelines on Maintaining the Civilian and Humanitarian Character of Asylum; support to the Field in Chad to address the security situation there; issue of standard operating procedures to address and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in July 2006.

Goal 5 – Redoubling the search for durable solutions, including welcoming Uruguay and Paraguay as resettlement countries; interim resettlement statistics for 2006; concept of an evacuation transit facility for refugees in immediate need of resettlement for whom a resettlement country has not yet been identified; implementation of ExCom Conclusion No. 104 on local integration.

Goal 6 – Meeting the protection needs of refugee women and children, including expansion of UNHCR's age, gender and diversity mainstreaming (AGDM) strategy; issue of Accountability Framework for mainstreaming; Conclusion No. 105 (LVI) on women and girls at risk and promotion of its implementation in 2007; women's empowerment through training modules jointly developed with partners; implementation of Best Interest Determination Guidelines.

With regard to broader implementation of the Agenda for Protection a call for suggestions from ExCom Members regarding a proposal to circulate a questionnaire to Members regarding their implementation of the Agenda with a view to producing a study assessing implementation of the Agenda by all actors involved.

With regard to proposed ExCom Conclusions for 2007, a request for ExCom Members to consider negotiating a General Conclusion in 2007.

*UNHCR  
2 March 2007*