

DECISION ON ENSURING ADEQUATE NUTRITION FOR REFUGEES

The Standing Committee,

Recalling article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which aimed to ensure the right of all children to the highest attainable standard of health, acknowledging the mother's right to appropriate pre- and post-natal service, as well as the right of women to full and unbiased access to information and education regarding child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation; and *affirming that* refugee children, like all children, are entitled to all of the other rights granted under the Convention, including the rights to life and development, adequate nutrition and adequate healthcare,

Further recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) according to which every human being has the right to be free from hunger and malnutrition, the right to adequate food, nutrition and clean, safe drinking water, including in emergency situations,

Also recalling the World Bank's Report on Repositioning Nutrition as Central to Development (2006) as well as UNICEF's Report Progress for Children – A Report Card on Nutrition (2006),

Reaffirming the recognition that adequate nutrition is essential to achieve the aims of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the first of which calls for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by 2015,

1. *Takes note* of document EC/57/SC/CRP.17 on Nutrition which presents UNHCR's global strategy for an integrated approach to ensuring adequate nutrition for refugees, notably refugee children and refugee women;
2. *Requests* UNHCR to pursue its development of appropriate action plans to meet acceptable standards related to the nutrition and health status of refugees through effective service delivery and systematic monitoring;
3. *Calls on* Governments and other stakeholders where possible to provide for the access to and cultivation of land by refugees in order to supplement food sources and provide a degree of dietary diversification;
4. *Encourages* UNHCR to further pursue its close collaboration with WFP and other relevant partners to meet nutrition targets in a systematic fashion;
5. *Notes* that meeting nutrition targets will require resources and the support of all concerned governments whether as donors or as host countries, on all aspects relating to nutrition and related factors, i.e. food security, water and sanitation, and health; and

6. *Calls for* the support of concerned governments and other humanitarian partners in including all persons of concern to the Office, notably refugee children and women, in any relevant future national, regional and international initiatives that may be undertaken, notably the Ending Child Hunger and Undernutrition Initiative (ECHUI).