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**Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme**

Seventieth session

Geneva, 7 - 11 October 2019

Item 4 of agenda

**Consideration of reports on the work
of the Standing Committee**

Report on the Work of the Standing Committee*

Report of the Secretariat

* As per the decision contained in paragraph 19 of A/71/12/Add.1, this document is not subject to the standard submission pattern for official documents and is excluded from simultaneous distribution.

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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-ninth session in October 2018, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2019¹. This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.
2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2019: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2018 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the agenda items in 2019. This is provided in the work programme contained in annex I.
3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each meeting of the Standing Committee in 2019 is contained in the following documents: the report of the seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1188); the report of the seventy-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1195); and the report of the seventy-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1196). A list of conference room papers, strategic overviews and other documents considered at these meetings is contained in annex II.

II. Issues considered by the Standing Committee in 2019

A. Programme budgets and funding

4. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee considered updates on budgets and funding, through which it was kept informed of programme requirements, budgetary measures and funding levels. The Committee also adopted decisions on budgets and funding, as listed in chapter III below. In June, the Standing Committee was briefed on UNHCR's Global Report on activities in 2018. At its September meeting, the Committee reviewed the biennial programme budget for 2020-2021 and received a summary of the deliberations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)² in relation to the biennial budget.

B. International protection

5. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges. In June, the Committee discussed the note on international protection; an update on UNHCR's engagement with internally displaced persons (IDPs); a paper on solutions; and an oral update on preparations for the high-level segment on statelessness at the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee. It also considered an oral update on the Executive Committee conclusions, where it was agreed not to embark on a negotiations process for a conclusion in 2019.

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6. UNHCR's operations in all five regions (Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; and the Middle East and North Africa) were comprehensively discussed at the Standing Committee meeting in March. The Committee also reviewed updates on global programmes (including HIV/AIDS) and emergency preparedness and response.

D. Programme/protection policy

7. In March, June and September, the Standing Committee received oral updates on the Global Compact on Refugees and preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum. The June Standing Committee reviewed a report on UNHCR's global strategic priorities and discussed

¹ A/AC.96/1187, para. 14.

² The report of the ACABQ was subsequently issued as A/AC.96/1191/Add.1.

UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees.

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

8. In March, the Standing Committee received oral updates on the work of the Inspector General's Office and on UNHCR's operational regionalization plan. It also adopted a decision on the revision of the terms of reference of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee, which had been discussed at an informal consultative meeting in February 2019, as listed in chapter III below.

9. In September, the Committee received a report from the Board of Auditors on UNHCR's financial statements for the year 2018 and discussed the key issues identified in the report and measures taken by UNHCR in response, as well as follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on financial statements for previous years. The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken at UNHCR for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, and the Committee discussed the annual report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee (IAOC). Reports were also provided on risk management in UNHCR; efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment; human resources, including staff welfare; and UNHCR reform.

F. Coordination

10. In March, the Committee considered a report on strategic partnerships and coordination (including United Nations reform) and in September, it received an update on the "grand bargain".

G. Governance

11. The Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2019 in March, as proposed at its December 2018 planning meeting. In June, the Committee was invited to make suggestions on issues to be included in the High Commissioner's opening statement to the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee.

III. Standing Committee decisions

12. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted the following decisions, which are annexed to the reports of the Standing Committee meetings:

- (a) Report of the seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1188)
 - Decision on budgets and funding for 2018 and 2019;
 - Decision on the revised terms of reference and criteria for membership of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee.
- (b) Report of the seventy-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1195)
 - Decision on budgets and funding for 2018 and 2019.
- (c) Report of the seventy-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1196)
 - Decision on budgets and funding for 2019.

**Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme:
Standing Committee work programme for 2019**

<i>Theme</i>	<i>74th meeting 5-7 March 2019</i>	<i>75th meeting 18-20 June 2019</i>	<i>76th meeting 18-19 September 2019</i>
Programme budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding Global Report 2018	Update on budgets and funding Biennial programme budget 2020-2021 Report of the ACABQ on the biennial programme budget for 2020-2021
International protection	Oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges	Note on international protection UNHCR's engagement with internally displaced persons Solutions Oral update on the preparations for the High-level segment on Statelessness at ExCom Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s)	Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s) – as needed
Regional activities and global programmes	Regional updates (Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa) Global programmes (including HIV/AIDS) Emergency preparedness and response		
Programme / protection policy	Oral update on the global compact on refugees and on preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum	Report on UNHCR's global strategic priorities Oral update on the global compact on refugees and on preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees	Oral update on the global compact on refugees and on preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum

<i>Theme</i>	<i>74th meeting 5-7 March 2019</i>	<i>75th meeting 18-20 June 2019</i>	<i>76th meeting 18-19 September 2019</i>
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	<p>Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office</p> <p>Revision of the terms of reference of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee (+ decision)</p> <p>Oral update on UNHCR operational regionalization plan</p>		<p>Financial statements for the year 2018 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly</p> <p>Key issues and measures taken in response to the Report of the Board of Auditors for 2018</p> <p>Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years</p> <p>Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on internal audit in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</p> <p>Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee</p> <p>Risk management in UNHCR</p> <p>Efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment</p> <p>Human resources, including staff welfare</p> <p>UNHCR reform</p>
Coordination	Strategic partnerships and coordination (including UN reform)		Update on the grand bargain
Governance	Adoption of the Standing Committee work programme for 2019	Suggestions for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 70 th session of the Executive Committee	

**70th PLENARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME:
7-11 October 2019**

Standing Committee documentation issued in 2019

Seventy-fourth meeting (5-7 March 2019)

EC/70/SC/CRP.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/70/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee Work Programme for 2019
EC/70/SC/CRP.3	Global programmes (including HIV/AIDS)
EC/70/SC/CRP.4	Emergency preparedness and response
EC/70/SC/CRP.5/Rev.1	Revision of the terms of reference and criteria for membership of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee
EC/70/SC/CRP.6/Rev.1	Strategic partnerships and coordination (including UN reform)
EC/70/SC/CRP.7/Rev.2	Update on budgets and funding
EC/70/SC/CRP.8	Report of the seventy-fourth meeting of the Standing Committee

Strategic overviews on:

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- The Americas
- The Middle East and North Africa

Other:

- Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office
- Oral update on UNHCR's operational regionalization plan
- Oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges
- Oral update on the Global Compact on Refugees and on preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum

Seventy-fifth meeting (18-20 June 2019)

EC/70/SC/CRP.9	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/70/SC/CRP.10	Note on international protection
EC/70/SC/CRP.11	Update on UNHCR's engagement with internally displaced persons
EC/70/SC/CRP.12	Solutions
EC/70/SC/CRP.13/Rev.1	Report on UNHCR's global strategic priorities
EC/70/SC/CRP.14	UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees
EC/70/SC/CRP.15	Update on budgets and funding for 2019 and reporting for 2018
EC/70/SC/CRP.16	Report of the seventy-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee

Other:

- Oral update on the preparations for the high-level segment on statelessness at the seventieth plenary session of the Executive Committee
- Oral update on the Global Compact on Refugees and on preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum

Seventy-sixth meeting (18-19 September 2019)

EC/70/SC/CRP.17	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/70/SC/CRP.18	Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee (IAOC) 2018-2019
EC/70/SC/CRP.19	Risk management in UNHCR
EC/70/SC/CRP.20	Efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment
EC/70/SC/CRP.21	Human resources, including staff welfare
EC/70/SC/CRP.22	UNHCR reform
EC/70/SC/CRP.23	Update on the grand bargain
EC/70/SC/CRP.24	Update on budgets and funding
EC/70/SC/CRP.25	Report of the seventy-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee

Other:

- Oral update on the Global Compact on Refugees and on preparations for the first Global Refugee Forum
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