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## **Report on the Work of the Standing Committee<sup>1</sup>**

### **Report of the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its seventy-first session in October 2020, the Executive Committee adopted a decision that set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2021.<sup>2</sup> This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.

2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2021: in March, July and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee Member States in December 2020 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the agenda items in 2021. 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 2021 is contained in the following documents: the report of the eightieth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1210); the report of the eighty-first meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1217/Rev.1); and the report of the eighty-second meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1218). 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 2021**

##### **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 July, the Global Report on the activities of UNHCR in 2020 was presented. At its September meeting, the Committee reviewed the programme budget for 2022, together with an advance copy of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ),<sup>3</sup> and also heard a report on private sector fundraising.

##### **B. International protection**

5. In March, the Committee received an oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges that took place in December 2020, and was briefed on efforts by the

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> A/AC.96/1209, para. 14.

<sup>3</sup> The report of the ACABQ was subsequently issued as A/AC.96/1213/Add.1/Rev.1.

Rapporteur to advance an Executive Committee conclusion on international protection, focusing on international protection and durable solutions in the context of a public health emergency. In July, the Standing Committee discussed the note on international protection, a paper on statelessness and a report on solutions. Oral updates on the conclusion process were also given in July and September.

### **C. Regional activities and global programmes**

6. The operations of UNHCR in all seven regions (the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, the Middle East and North Africa, southern Africa, and West and Central Africa) were comprehensively discussed at the Standing Committee meeting in March. The Committee also received an update on global programmes. In July, papers on emergency preparedness and response (including the security of the workforce of UNHCR and its operations) and on the organization's engagement with internally displaced persons were presented to the Committee.

### **D. Programme/protection policy**

7. In March, the Standing Committee considered a paper on the programme of UNHCR in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 2022. At its next meeting in July, the Committee reviewed a report on the organization's global strategic priorities and discussed the coordination efforts of UNHCR to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees. In July and September, it received an oral update on preparations for the high-level officials meeting (Global Refugee Forum).

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

8. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office and in July, it considered a report on the transformation in UNHCR.

9. In September, the Committee considered a report from the Board of Auditors on the financial statements of UNHCR for the year 2020 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 presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken in UNHCR for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, and the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee briefed the Committee on its annual report. The Committee also considered a paper on the financial regulations of UNHCR. An oral update was provided on integrity in UNHCR, and the Committee was briefed on human resources, including staff welfare.

### **F. Coordination**

10. In March, the Committee discussed a report on strategic partnerships, including coordination, and in September, it received an update on the Grand Bargain.

### **G. Governance**

11. In March, the Standing Committee adopted a work programme for 2021 in March, as proposed at its December 2020 planning meeting. The work programme was revised in July to reflect the addition of an item on UNHCR financial regulations. At its July meeting, the Committee was reminded that the High Commissioner's opening statement at the seventy-second annual plenary session of the Executive Committee in October would form the basis of the general debate, and delegations were invited to propose topics for inclusion.

### 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 eightieth meeting of the Standing (A/AC.96/1210):
  - Decision on UNHCR's draft programme in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 2022; and
  - Decision on budgets and funding for 2020 and 2021.
- (b) Report of the eighty-first meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1217/Rev.1):
  - Decision on budgets and funding for 2020 and 2021.
- (c) Report of the eighty-second meeting of the Standing Committee (deferred):
  - Decision on budgets and funding for 2021; and
  - Decision on the proposal to request approval from the General Assembly for UNHCR to develop its own financial regulations.

## Annex I

[English and French only]

## Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme: Standing Committee work programme for 2021

<i>Theme</i>	<i>80<sup>th</sup> meeting 23-25 March 2021</i>	<i>81<sup>st</sup> meeting 5-7 July 2021</i>	<i>82<sup>nd</sup> meeting 15-16 September 2021</i>
Programme budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding  Global Report 2020	Update on budgets and funding  Programme budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2022  Report of the ACABQ on the programme budget for 2022  Private sector fundraising
International protection	International protection and durable solutions in the context of a public health emergency  Oral update on the HC's dialogue on protection challenges	Note on international protection  Statelessness  Solutions  Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s) –as needed	Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s)
Regional activities and global programmes	Global programmes, inclusion and resilience  Regional updates: (West and Central Africa, East and Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa)	Emergency preparedness and response, security of UNHCR workforce and operations  UNHCR's engagement with internally displaced persons	
Programme / protection policy	UNHCR's draft programme in the Secretary- General's proposed programme budget for 2022	Oral update on the preparations for the high-level officials meeting (GRF)  Oral update on UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees  Report on UNHCR's global strategic priorities	Oral update on the preparations for the high-level officials meeting (GRF)

<i>Theme</i>	<i>80<sup>th</sup> meeting 23-25 March 2021</i>	<i>81<sup>st</sup> meeting 5-7 July 2021</i>	<i>82<sup>nd</sup> meeting 15-16 September 2021</i>
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office	UNHCR's transformation	<p>Financial statements for the year 2020 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 2020</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>UNHCR financial regulations</p> <p>Human resources, including staff welfare</p> <p>Oral update on integrity in UNHCR</p>
Coordination	Strategic partnership including coordination		The grand bargain
Governance	Adoption of the Standing Committee work programme for 2021		

**72<sup>nd</sup> PLENARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME: 4-8 October 2021**

## Standing Committee documentation issued in 2021

### Eightieth meeting (23-25 March 2021)<sup>4</sup>

#### *Conference room papers:*

- Provisional annotated agenda
- Standing Committee Work Programme for 2021
- Global programmes, inclusion and resilience
- UNHCR's draft programme in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 2022
- International protection and durable solutions in the context of a public health emergency
- Strategic partnerships, including coordination
- Update on budgets and funding

#### *Strategic overviews on:*

- Americas
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region
- Middle East and North Africa
- Southern Africa
- West and Central Africa

#### *Outline of the oral updates on:*

- Work of the Inspector General's office
- High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

### Eighty-first meeting (5-7 July 2021)<sup>5</sup>

#### *Conference room papers:*

- Provisional annotated agenda
- Note on international protection
- Statelessness
- Solutions
- Emergency preparedness and response
- UNHCR's engagement with internally displaced persons
- Report on UNHCR's global strategic priorities
- Update on budgets and funding
- UNHCR's transformation
- Security of UNHCR's workforce and operations

<sup>4</sup> Available at <https://www.unhcr.org/80th-meeting-of-the-standing-committee>.

<sup>5</sup> Available at <https://www.unhcr.org/81st-meeting-of-the-standing-committee>.

*Outline of the oral updates on:*

- ExCom conclusions process
- Preparations for the high-level officials meeting (Global Refugee Forum)
- UNHCR's coordination efforts to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees

**Eighty-second meeting (15-16 September 2021)<sup>6</sup>**

*Conference room papers:*

- Provisional annotated agenda
- Annual report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee, 2020-2021
- Proposal to establish financial regulations for UNHCR
- Human resources, including staff welfare
- Progress made towards implementing the grand bargain commitments
- Update on budgets and funding
- Private sector fundraising and partnership
- Report of the eighty-second meeting of the Standing Committee

*Outline of the oral updates on:*

- Integrity in UNHCR
- ExCom conclusions process
- Preparations for the high-level officials meeting (Global Refugee Forum)

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<sup>6</sup> Available at <https://www.unhcr.org/82nd-meeting-of-the-standing-committee>.