
Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

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Standing Committee Ninety-first meeting

Report of the ninety-first meeting of the Standing Committee (12-13 September 2024)

I. Introduction

1. The Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (Executive Committee) held its ninety-first meeting in room XVIII at the Palais des Nations on 12-13 September 2024.
2. The Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva, opened the ninety-first meeting of the Standing Committee. The Second Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, assisted in the chairing of the meeting.
3. All documents cited in this report and all available presentations made by senior managers of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during the meeting can be found on the Standing Committee webpage.

II. Representation

4. The following Executive Committee members were represented at the meeting:
Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (Republic of), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
5. Other United Nations Member States present as Standing Committee observers were as follows:
Burundi, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gabon, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Malaysia, the Niger and Panama.
6. The European Union was represented as an observer. Also present were the following intergovernmental organizations and other entities:
Council of Europe, International Development Law Organization and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

7. Present from the United Nations system, specialized agencies and related organizations was the World Food Programme.
8. Four non-governmental organizations were in attendance.

III. Adoption of the agenda

9. The Committee adopted by consensus the following agenda for the meeting:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda.
 - (b) Programme budgets and funding:
 - (i) Update on budgets and funding;
 - (ii) Programme budget of UNHCR for 2025 ([A/AC.96/75/5](#)) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/AC.96/75/6](#));
 - (c) Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources:
 - (i) Financial statements for the year 2023 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the financial report and audited financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2023 ([A/AC.96/75/4](#));¹
 - (ii) Key issues and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2023 ([A/AC.96/75/4/Add.1](#)), as well as follow-up to the recommendations from previous years;
 - (iii) Internal audit in UNHCR ([A/AC.96/75/7](#));
 - (iv) Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee;
 - (v) Update on human resources, including staff welfare;
 - (vi) Oral update on integrity in UNHCR.
 - (d) International protection:
Oral update on the Executive Committee conclusion.
 - (e) Any other business.

IV. Work of the ninety-first meeting

10. At the start of the meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner gave overarching remarks, highlighting the significant transformation that UNHCR has undergone in recent years. She described how UNHCR met humanitarian needs faster and in more efficient ways through innovation, data and technology, especially amid new and ongoing emergencies and the rising numbers of forcibly displaced persons worldwide.

11. Presentations under each agenda item were made by senior management of UNHCR, and Executive Committee members and Standing Committee observers were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions. Comprehensive summary records of the discussion will be made available on the Standing Committee webpage. The documents considered during the meeting are listed in the annex and are also available on the Standing Committee webpage.

¹ Also to be issued under document symbol [A/79/5/Add.6](#) and posted on the Official Document System of the United Nations as well as on the UNHCR global website.

V. Decision of the Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Decision on budgets and funding for 2024

12. At its meeting, on 12 September 2024, the Standing Committee,

Recalling the Executive Committee's decision, at its seventy-fourth session on administrative, financial and programme matters (A/78/12/Add.1, para. 13 (c)), as well as discussions by the Standing Committee on the programme budgets and funding item at its ninetieth meeting in June 2024,

Reaffirming the importance of responsibility-sharing in solidarity with countries hosting refugees,

(a) Takes note of the increase in UNHCR's annual budget for 2024 at 31 July 2024 to a current total of \$10,785.4 million, representing the sum of the original budget of \$10,621.7 million and supplementary budget of \$163.7 million;

(b) Recognizes that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding in 2024 may result in the need for additional or expanded supplementary budgets and that additional resources, over and above those for existing budgets, would be needed to meet such needs; and

(c) Urges Member States to continue to respond generously with flexible and unearmarked contributions, in the spirit of solidarity and in a timely manner, to the High Commissioner's appeal for resources to meet in full the annual budget for 2024.

Annex

List of documents considered by the ninetieth-first meeting of the Standing Committee

Conference room papers:

- Provisional annotated agenda;
- Update on budgets and funding;
- Programme budget of UNHCR for 2025 ([A/AC.96/75/5](#)) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions ([A/AC.96/75/6](#));
- Financial statements for the year 2023 as contained in the Report of the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly on the financial report and audited financial statements of the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the year ended 31 December 2023 ([A/AC.96/75/4](#));
- Key issues and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors for 2023 ([A/AC.96/75/4/Add.1](#));
- Internal audit in UNHCR ([A/AC.96/75/7](#));
- Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee;
- Update on human resources, including staff welfare.

Elements of oral updates on:

- Integrity in UNHCR;
 - The Executive Committee conclusion.
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