



United Nations

Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**Seventy-fifth session
(14–18 October 2024)**

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Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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Note

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I. Introduction

A. Opening of the session

1. The Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees held its seventy-fifth plenary session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from 14–18 October 2024. It was opened by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee, the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Second Vice-Chairperson, the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva, assisted in the chairing of the session.

B. Representation

2. The following Executive Committee members were represented at the session:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, 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.

3. Other United Nations Member States present as observers were as follows:

Albania, Bahrain, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatoria Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, the Gambia, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Monaco, Nepal, the Niger, Panama, Qatar, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam.

4. The European Union was represented as an observer.

5. Also present were the following intergovernmental organizations and other entities:

African Union, Council of Europe, Economic Community of Central African States, Economic Community of West African States, Inter-Parliamentary Union, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, International Development Law Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Olympic Committee, International Telecommunication Union, League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Sovereign Order of Malta

6. The United Nations system, specialized agencies and related organizations were represented as follows:

Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, United Nations Office at Geneva, World Bank Group and World Food Programme.

7. Some 32 non-governmental organizations and other partners were in attendance.

C. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

8. The Executive Committee adopted by consensus the agenda contained in [A/AC.96/75/1](#).

D. Election of the officers for the seventy-sixth session

9. Under rule 10 of its rules of procedure, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation to serve the Committee from the day immediately following their election to the end of the last day of the following annual plenary session:

Chairperson:	Ambassador Marcelo Vázquez Bermudez (Ecuador)
First Vice-Chairperson:	Ambassador Bilal Ahmad (Pakistan)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Ambassador Tsegab Kebebew Daka (Ethiopia)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Lisa Advani (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

II. Work of the seventy-fifth session

10. The High Commissioner's statement and comprehensive summary records of each meeting of the session will be made available on the dedicated webpage relating to the seventy-fifth session of the Executive Committee.

III. Conclusion and decisions of the Executive Committee

A. Conclusion of the Executive Committee on durable solutions and complementary pathways

11. The Executive Committee,

Recognizing the mandate of UNHCR to provide international protection and seek durable solutions for refugees; to identify and protect stateless persons and to prevent and reduce statelessness; and to contribute to inter-agency responses by protecting and assisting internally displaced persons under State leadership,

Noting with concern the increasing number of refugees worldwide in recent years and the limited number of those finding durable solutions; noting with particular concern the growing number of refugees in protracted displacement; and recognizing the impacts thereof on refugees and, in many cases, on host countries and communities,

Considering that international cooperation in solving international problems of a humanitarian nature and uniting our strength to maintain international peace and security are among the purposes of the United Nations, as defined in its Charter; noting that violent conflict continues to be a major driver of displacement across borders; and considering that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees underscores the importance of international cooperation for achieving solutions to the situation of refugees,

Recognizing the major efforts made by host countries to welcome, assist, protect and provide access to services to asylum-seekers and refugees, amidst the ongoing financial pressures faced by host countries and by UNHCR, and recalling the urgent need for support to host countries to facilitate durable solutions,

Reaffirming its commitment to international solidarity and more equitable responsibility- and burden-sharing involving all members of the international community, and recalling the importance of international cooperation, in particular to support

communities and countries hosting refugees, in ensuring protection and assistance and achieving solutions for refugees,

Recognizing that States need to demonstrate strong political will to address the root causes of displacement for the purpose of achieving durable solutions,

Noting that a combination of solutions, taking into account the specific circumstances of each refugee situation, need to be pursued; although voluntary repatriation in conditions of safety and dignity remains the preferred solution in the majority of refugee situations,

Recognizing that complementary pathways are not a substitute for but are additional and complementary to voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement, and can play an important role in facilitating solutions for many refugees,

Recalling the right to seek and enjoy asylum, which paves the way for durable solutions,

Recognizing that solutions are often interconnected and may be realized on a progressive basis,

Recalling the Global Compact on Refugees, which defined the facilitation of access to durable solutions as a primary objective and recognized that eliminating root causes is the most effective way to achieve solutions; and recalling the second Global Refugee Forum of 2023, where member States and other stakeholders committed to take concrete measures to facilitate access to durable solutions for refugees in a wide range of multi-stakeholder pledges,

Recalling relevant Executive Committee conclusions on durable solutions and the role they continue to play in guiding UNHCR in its mandate to protect and seek solutions for refugees,

Recalling the multi-year work plan of 2023 for Executive Committee conclusions and the significant costs and challenges faced by countries hosting refugees, and acknowledging that measuring the impacts of hosting, assisting and protecting refugees can inform ongoing efforts to achieve durable solutions:

(a) Calls upon States, in cooperation with UNHCR and other partners, to enhance efforts to prevent displacement and facilitate durable solutions for refugees at the earliest possible stage, including from the outset of a displacement situation;

(b) Stresses the need for States, with support from UNHCR and the international community, including donors, and peace and development stakeholders, to create conditions conducive for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, based on a free and informed choice; and further calls for enhanced and additional humanitarian and development cooperation among countries of origin, hosting States and donor partners to enable the sustainable reintegration of returnees in countries of origin;

(c) Welcomes the important work done by States with support from relevant stakeholders to contribute to local integration, including facilitating socioeconomic inclusion, mindful of hosting communities; and to the establishment and implementation of conducive legal, policy and institutional frameworks and facilitation of naturalization, consistent with Article 34 of the 1951 Convention and in accordance with relevant national laws and policies; and calls for additional efforts, including from UNHCR and the international community, to support this work;

(d) Calls upon more States to engage in offering more refugee resettlement places, with the support of UNHCR, while adhering to protection-centered resettlement criteria and while using flexible processing modalities, in the spirit of equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing;

(e) Calls upon States to engage in, facilitate and expand opportunities for refugees to take up complementary pathways, with support from relevant stakeholders, which are additional to voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement through laws, policies and practices;

(f) Calls upon States to facilitate all possible complementary pathways, recognizing that such pathways can lead to durable solutions on a progressive basis, including the following:

- (i) needs-based pathways, including humanitarian pathways, based on broad protection, vulnerability and context-specific criteria;
- (ii) refugee labour mobility and education pathways for refugees to take up employment and/or education in another country;
- (iii) sponsorship pathways, to which a wide range of stakeholders should be encouraged to contribute, including to support the integration of refugees; and
- (iv) family reunification, based on principles of family unity, as an important pathway to durable solutions; and calls on States to facilitate effective procedures and clear referral pathways for reunification with family members, as well as to consider efforts to bring together persons in relationships of dependency, where appropriate and in accordance with national law; and to promote access to procedures and flexible requirements to restore refugees' family unity and enjoyment of their right to family life.

(g) Calls upon States, UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders to identify the particular obstacles and challenges to realizing durable solutions that are faced by refugees, especially women, and children, persons with disabilities, older persons, and other refugees in vulnerable situations; and work with them to develop and implement measures to overcome such barriers;

(h) Calls on UNHCR to continue the efforts to measure the impacts of hosting, assisting and protecting refugees;

(i) Calls upon States, in cooperation with UNHCR and with sustainable and predictable financial support from the international community, including donor partners and development partners, to take concrete measures to support and facilitate the following important elements, which can enable all forms of durable solutions and complementary pathways:

- (i) enhanced engagement in regional and international cooperation, support platforms and solutions strategies, including to address root causes in all relevant dimensions in, and to prevent displacement from, countries of origin;
- (ii) inclusion of refugees, enabling access to national services and the economy, to encourage refugees' self-reliance and ability to pursue solutions of all kinds, where possible, including access to labour markets, in coordination with the private sector;
- (iii) work with humanitarian, development and peace stakeholders, as well as international financial institutions, to enhance prevention, resilience, protection and durable solutions, including by:
 - providing assistance to host countries for implementation of protection and solution-focused refugee policies, as well as sustainable local integration;
 - supporting countries of origin, including through building infrastructure and creating livelihood options, in their efforts to reinforce conditions which can foster an enabling environment by boosting confidence among prospective returnees for voluntary repatriation and reintegration.
- (iv) access to information, legal advice and support for refugees on their rights and obligations throughout relevant processes; and access to the means to establish legal identity through documentation including birth registration, which can play an invaluable role in enabling refugees to find durable solutions;
- (v) issuance of machine-readable travel documents to enable refugees to pursue complementary pathways and durable solutions in ways that ensure protection from refoulement;

- (vi) education and training for refugees, including for girls, boys, women and persons with disabilities, to foster resilience and to expand opportunities for post-secondary education, alongside host communities;
 - (vii) systems and tools, as used by UNHCR, States and other relevant stakeholders, to promote durable solutions, including intentions surveys, comprehensive, high-quality and disaggregated data-gathering and analysis that capture both the needs and capacities of refugees in accordance with data protection and privacy principles and inter-agency cooperation, among other things, supported by States; and
 - (viii) enhance investments, in collaboration with the private sector, to broaden access to employment opportunities for returnees, refugees and host communities.
- (j) Encourages UNHCR to work with development actors, international financial institutions and the private sector, to bring education and vocational training opportunities to refugees and host communities to develop skills that enhance their self-reliance and access to durable solutions and complementary pathways;
- (k) Calls on UNHCR to enhance strategic partnerships, including coordination, among States, relevant United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society, including, among others, faith-based organizations, and other relevant partners, to work together effectively in the planning and implementation of durable solutions;
- (l) Recognizes the importance of meaningful participation of refugees and host communities in matters concerning them to realize durable solutions and complementary pathways; and
- (m) Requests the High Commissioner to report on the implementation of this conclusion to the Executive Committee.

B. General decision on administrative, financial and programme matters

12. The Executive Committee,

- (a) Recalls that the Executive Committee, at its seventy-fourth session, approved programmes and budgets for the country and regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters under the annual programme budget 2024, as set out in document [A/AC.96/74/5](#), amounting to \$10,621,668,339 for 2024; notes that the additional needs under the supplementary budget in 2024 amount to \$143,735,659 at 31 May 2024; approves the total current requirements for 2024 amounting to \$10,765,403,998 and authorizes the High Commissioner, within these total appropriations, to effect adjustments in regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters budgets;
- (b) Confirms that the activities proposed in the programme budget for 2025, as set out in document [A/AC.96/75/5](#), are consistent with the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner ([A/RES/428 \(V\)](#)); the High Commissioner's other functions as recognized, promoted or requested by the General Assembly, the Security Council or the Secretary-General; and the relevant provisions of the financial rules for voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees ([A/AC.96/503/Rev.12](#));
- (c) Approves the programmes and budgets for the country and regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters under the proposed 2025 programme budget as set out in document [A/AC.96/75/5](#), amounting to \$10,247,505,865 for 2025 including the United Nations regular budget contribution towards headquarters costs, the operational reserve and the Junior Professional Officer programme; and authorizes the High Commissioner, within this total appropriation, to effect adjustments in regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters budgets;
- (d) Takes note of the 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/79/5/Add.6](#)) and the

report by the High Commissioner on key issues and measures taken in response to the recommendations in the Report of the Board of Auditors (A/AC.96/75/4/Add.1); and requests to be kept regularly informed on the measures taken to address the recommendations and the observations raised in these documents;

(e) Requests the High Commissioner, within the resources available, to respond flexibly and efficiently to the needs indicated under the programme budget for 2025; encourages his Office to be as efficient and effective as possible with the funds provided in implementing his mandate, including for durable solutions, while not diminishing life-saving protection and assistance to forcibly displaced and stateless people; and authorizes him, in the case of additional emergency needs that cannot be met fully from the operational reserve, to create supplementary budgets and issue special appeals under all pillars, with such adjustments being reported to the subsequent Standing Committee meeting for consideration;

(f) Acknowledges with appreciation the burden that continues to be shouldered by developing and least developed countries hosting refugees; and urges Member States to recognize this valuable contribution to the protection of refugees and to participate in efforts to promote durable solutions and more predictable and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing; and

(g) Urges Member States, in light of the extensive needs to be addressed by the Office of the High Commissioner, and in parallel with the long-standing and substantial support provided by refugee-hosting countries, to respond generously and in a spirit of solidarity to his appeal for resources to meet in full the 2025 programme budget and to ensure that the Office is resourced in a timely and predictable manner, while keeping earmarking to a minimum level.

C. Decision on the programme of work of the Standing Committee in 2025

13. The Executive Committee,

Having reviewed the issues before it at its seventy-fifth session, and bearing in mind the decisions adopted at that session:

(a) Decides to convene three formal meetings of the Standing Committee in 2025, to be held in March, June/July and September;

(b) Reaffirms its decision on the framework for the Standing Committee's programme of work (A/AC.96/1003 paragraph 25, sub-paragraph 2(c)); authorizes the Standing Committee to add and delete items, if appropriate, to this framework for its meetings in 2025; and requests member States to meet in December 2024 to prepare a detailed work plan for formal adoption by the Standing Committee at its first meeting in 2025;

(c) Calls upon its members to continue efforts to ensure that debate at the Executive Committee and its Standing Committee is of a substantive and interactive nature, yielding practical guidance and clear advice to the High Commissioner, in keeping with the Committee's statutory functions;

(d) Calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to be explicit and analytical in its reports and presentations to the Committee and to submit documentation in a timely manner; and

(e) Further requests the Standing Committee to report on its work to the seventy-sixth session of the Executive Committee.

D. Decision on the observer participation in the meetings of the Standing Committee in 2024–2025

14. The Executive Committee,

(a) Approves applications by the following Government observer delegations for participation in meetings of the Standing Committee from October 2024 to October 2025:

Central African Republic, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, the Gambia, Honduras, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, the Niger and Sierra Leone.

(b) Authorizes the Standing Committee to decide upon any additional applications from Government observer delegations to participate in its meetings during the aforementioned period; and

(c) Approves the following list of intergovernmental and international organizations to be invited by the High Commissioner to participate as observers in relevant meetings of its Standing Committee from October 2024 to October 2025:

United Nations specialized agencies, departments, funds and programmes, African Union, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Commonwealth of Independent States, Council of Europe, Central African Economic and Monetary Community, Economic Community of Central African States, East African Community, Economic Community of West African States, European Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Development Law Organization, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, League of Arab States, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, International Organization of La Francophonie, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Southern African Development Community, Sovereign Order of Malta and the University for Peace.

E. Decision on the provisional agenda of the seventy-sixth plenary session of the Executive Committee

15. The Executive Committee,

(a) Recalling its decision on working methods adopted at its fifty-fifth plenary session ([A/AC.96/1003](#) paragraph 25);

(b) Decides to adopt as the provisional agenda for the seventy-sixth session of the Executive Committee the standard model contained in sub-paragraph 1(f) of the above-mentioned decision.

F. Decision on the participation of intergovernmental organizations in private meetings of the Executive Committee

16. The Executive Committee,

(a) Recalling rule 38 of its Rules of Procedure ([A/AC.96/187/Rev.8](#)) and its decision on the participation of intergovernmental organizations in private meetings of the Executive Committee adopted at its sixty-seventh plenary session;

(b) Approves the application by the European Union to participate as an observer in the Committee's private meetings on asylum and refugee matters within its competence during the seventy-sixth session of the Executive Committee.

G. Decision on the simultaneous distribution of documents of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

17. The Executive Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [69/324](#) on multilingualism, which underlines the responsibility of the United Nations to integrate multilingualism into its activities, as well as General Assembly resolution [70/9](#) on the pattern of conferences, which emphasizes multilingualism as a core value of the Organization and calls for the strict respect of the rules concerning the simultaneous distribution of General Assembly documents in all six official languages,

Reaffirming the importance of multilingualism as a means of promoting international understanding and respect, peace and security, and cooperation among nations, and

Recalling the decision adopted by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's programme at its sixty-seventh session in October 2016, as contained in [A/AC.96/1165](#) paragraph 19:

(a) Notes that the following documents prepared for the annual sessions of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme cannot, for procedural reasons, be submitted to the United Nations Documents Management Service within the stipulated timeframes to allow for the simultaneous distribution in all official six languages: (i) Key issues and measures taken in response to the report of the Board of Auditors; (ii) the UNHCR annual programme budget; (iii) the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions; and (iv) the reports of the June/July and September meetings of the Standing Committee;

(b) Recalls that the official and working languages of the Committee are English and French, and agrees to consider these documents and their draft decisions on the basis of the equally authentic English and French originals submitted by the substantive secretariat;

(c) Acknowledges that the requirement of simultaneous distribution of these five documents in the six official United Nations languages may be exceptionally lifted for the annual sessions of the Executive Committee; and

(d) Acknowledges further the need to make available these documents in all six official United Nations languages as early as possible.
