

Oral update on the ExCom conclusion
UNHCR Standing Committee, September 2015

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

I wish to update the Executive Committee on the discussions concerning the ExCom's conclusions process, which I undertook after the previous session of the Standing Committee in June.

As the Committee may recall, during the June session, I shared with you the key timeframe and steps forward which include compilation of topics proposed by Member States, circulation of the draft working paper as well as informal meetings.

At the end of June, delegations submitted 2 proposals for possible ExCom Conclusions which were circulated together with the rapporteur's draft working paper in early July. Then, four informal meetings of Member States were convened on July 10th, September 4th, 8th and 14th.

During those consultations, delegations generally support the multi-year work plan and agreed upon an initial two years period.

While delegations have recognized the importance and value of each of the themes proposed, despite individual preferences, four topics have been shortlisted at this stage namely

(1) International cooperation and solutions for voluntary repatriation and reintegration (the focus on specific solutions remains subject for further discussion);

(2) Engagement and empowerment of youth;

(3) Resilience and self-reliance from a protection and solutions perspective;

(4) Machine-readable travel documents.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank delegations for their valuable comments made, both formally and informally, as well as their constructive contribution and engagement along the process.

However, while the flexible and indicative nature of the multi-year work plan was widely acknowledged, discussions are still on-going regarding two important elements which are (1) number of topic(s) to be addressed per year and (2) order of priority of the 4 shortlisted topics.

A final meeting to discuss the work plan will be held next week before the 66th session of the ExCom. The date and time of the meeting will be communicated to all Members in due course and the result of the said meeting will be transmitted to the ExCom for its consideration.

I therefore wish to invite all delegations to continue engaging in this process in a spirit of cooperation and compromise in order to address the last pending issues, with a view to proceed with a short decision to adopt a multi-year work plan at the ExCom meeting in the next two weeks.

I thank you.