



General Assembly

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**Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme**
Seventy-fourth session
9-13 October 2023
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Consideration of reports of the Standing Committee

Report of the Standing Committee on its eighty-sixth meeting (7-9 March 2023)

I. Introduction

1. The Standing Committee of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (Executive Committee) held its eighty-sixth meeting at the International Conference Centre Geneva from 7 to 9 March 2023.
2. The First Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva, opened the eighty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee. The Second Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva, assisted in the chairing of the meeting.
3. New requests for observer status were approved for the following States: Central African Republic (the), Dominican Republic (the), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia (the), Liberia, Niger (the) and Sierra Leone. Including those approved at the seventy-third session of the Executive Committee in October 2022,¹ this brought the total number of Standing Committee observer States for the period October 2022 to October 2023 to 16.²
4. 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, may be found on the Standing Committee webpage (<https://www.unhcr.org/standing-committee-meetings>).

II. Representation

5. The following Executive Committee members were represented at the meeting:
Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo (the), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Holy See (the), Hungary, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico,

¹ See A/77/12/Add.1, para 16.

² See <https://www.unhcr.org/media/excom-composition-period-october-2022-october-2023> (accessed on 23 March 2023).



Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines (the), Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea (the), Republic of Moldova (the), Romania, Russian Federation (the), Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan (the), Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the), United Republic of Tanzania (the), United States of America (the), Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

6. Other United Nations Member States present as Standing Committee observers were as follows:

Angola, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gambia (the), Guatemala, Indonesia, Iraq, Niger (the), Sierra Leone and Ukraine.

7. The European Union was represented as an observer. Also present were the following intergovernmental organizations and other entities:

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

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

United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme.

9. Eleven non-governmental organizations were in attendance.

III. Adoption of the agenda and Standing Committee work programme for 2023

10. The Committee adopted by consensus the following agenda for the meeting:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Adoption of the Standing Committee work programme for 2023.
3. Regional activities and global programmes:
 - (a) Regional updates:
 - i. Asia and the Pacific;
 - ii. Europe;
 - iii. Middle East and North Africa;
 - iv. Americas;
 - v. West and Central Africa;
 - vi. East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes; and
 - vii. Southern Africa.
 - (b) Global programmes;
 - (c) Emergency preparedness and response;
 - (d) Security of the workforce and operations of UNHCR.
4. Programme/protection policy: Programme of UNHCR in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2024.
5. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources: Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office.
6. International protection: Oral update on the outcomes of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges.
7. Coordination: Strategic partnerships, including coordination.

8. Programme budgets and funding.
9. Any other business.

11. The Standing Committee work programme for 2023, as discussed at the planning meeting held in December 2022 and as contained in annex I, was adopted as presented.

IV. Work of the eighty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee

12. The Deputy High Commissioner delivered an opening statement. The Assistant High Commissioner (Operations) then provided an overview of the challenges and opportunities facing UNHCR operations in the seven regions under its organizational structure and highlighted advances in key programmatic areas.

13. 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 (<https://www.unhcr.org/standing-committee-meetings>). The documents considered during the meeting are listed in annex II and are also available on the Standing Committee webpage.

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

A. Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for 2024

14. *The Standing Committee,*

Takes note of part VI, section 25, programme 21: International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees of the United Nations proposed programme budget for 2024.

B. Decision on budgets and funding for 2022 and 2023

15. *The Standing Committee,*

Recalling the Executive Committee's decisions at its seventy-third session on administrative, financial and programme matters (A/77/12/Add.1, para. 13(c)) as well as its discussions under the programme budgets and funding item at the eighty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee in September 2022,

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

Recalls that the Executive Committee, at its seventy-second session, approved original programmes and budgets for regional programmes, global programmes and headquarters under the UNHCR 2022 annual programme budget, amounting to \$8,993.7 million,

Notes that the final 2022 supplementary budgets amounted to \$1,720.3 million for programmes benefiting the UNHCR programmes and projects,

Takes note of the increase in the UNHCR annual budget for 2022 to a final total of \$10,714.0 million, representing the sum of the original budget of \$8,993.7 million and the final supplementary budgets of \$1,720.3 million,

Recalls that the Executive Committee, at its seventy-third session in October 2022, approved original programmes and budgets for regional programmes, global programmes

and headquarters under the UNHCR 2023 annual programme budget, amounting to \$10,211.3 million (A/AC.96/1224),

Takes note of the increase in the UNHCR annual budget for 2023 at a current total of \$10,417.1 million as of 31 January 2023, representing the sum of the original budget of \$10,211.3 million, supplementary budgets of \$305.8 million and a budget reduction of \$100.0 million,

Recognizes that emergencies and unforeseen activities unfolding in 2023 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

Urges Member States to continue to respond generously, 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 2023.

Annex I

[English and French only]

Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme: Standing Committee work programme for 2023

| <i>Theme</i> | <i>86th meeting 7-9 March 2023</i> | <i>87th meeting 14-16 June 2023</i> | <i>88th meeting 13-14 September 2023</i> |
|---|--|--|--|
| Programme budgets and funding | Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) | Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) Global Report 2022 | Update on budgets and funding (+ decision) Programme budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for 2024 Report of the ACABQ on the programme budget for 2024 |
| International protection | Oral update on the outcomes of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges | Note on international protection Statelessness (including an update on the #Ibelong campaign) Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s) | Oral update on Executive Committee conclusion(s) on international protection Oral update on the preparations for the Global Refugee Forum |
| Regional activities and global programmes | Regional updates: (Americas, Asia and Pacific, East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes, Europe, Middle East and North Africa, Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa) Global programmes Emergency preparedness and response Security of the workforce and operations of UNHCR | Solutions Engagement of UNHCR with internally displaced persons | |
| Programme / protection policy | Programme of UNHCR in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2024 | Update on the coordination efforts of UNHCR to measure the impact arising from hosting, protecting and assisting refugees | |

| <i>Theme</i> | <i>86th meeting 7-9 March 2023</i> | <i>87th meeting 14-16 June 2023</i> | <i>88th meeting 13-14 September 2023</i> |
|---|--|--|--|
| Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources | Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office | | <p>Financial statements for the year 2022 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 2022</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>Human resources, including staff welfare</p> <p>Oral update on integrity in UNHCR</p> |
| Coordination | Strategic partnerships, including coordination | | |
| Governance | Adoption of the Standing Committee work programme for 2023 | | |

74th plenary session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme:
9-13 October 2023

Annex II

[English and French only]

List of documents considered by the eighty-sixth meeting of the Standing Committee*Conference room papers*

- Provisional annotated agenda
- Standing Committee work programme for 2023
- Global programmes
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Security of the workforce and operations of UNHCR
- Programme of UNHCR in the United Nations: proposed framework for 2024
- Strategic partnerships, including coordination
- Update on budgets and funding

Strategic overviews on:

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

Elements of oral updates on:

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