

68th Standing Committee meeting,
Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme
Introductory Remarks by Kelly T. Clements, Deputy High Commissioner
Item 4 - Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human
resources
Room XVIII, Palais des Nations
14-16 March 2017

Mr. Chairperson,

Excellencies,

The topics included under this agenda item relate to our continuing efforts to improve how we manage our financial resources, and ensure that our staff are properly cared for—even after they have concluded their careers.

Our Controller and Director of DFAM, Ms. Ryan, along with the Deputy Director Mr. Soll, will take us through a suggested increase in funding for after-service health insurance (ASHI) liabilities. This is suggested in view of the fact that UNHCR is required to extend the funding of ASHI liabilities to all staff funded through voluntary contributions and is suggested in conjunction with the implementation of additional measures to contain the ASHI liability.

Controller Ryan will also discuss our follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors. As I have

mentioned before, we take these recommendations very seriously and welcome the Board's expert input. I am happy to highlight their finding, based on our 2015 financial statements, that we remain in a strong financial position. I would also like to echo their concern about the difficulties we face in regards to the timing and earmarking of donations, with concomitant effects on our efforts to optimize our resource allocation process. Predictable and flexible funds are essential for effectively managing an institution as complex as ours.

Our new Inspector General, Ms. Farkas, will also present an oral update on her office's work. This is an exciting and transitional time for our oversight functions, as we continue to implement a number of changes recommended by recent reviews by external consultants and endorsed by the High Commissioner in 2016. Ms. Farkas' update will offer more details, though I would like to emphasize how important her current work is, in terms of best preparing UNHCR to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Maximizing the coherence and complementarity of our various oversight functions will bolster their individual performance, reduce overlap and

improve the quality of information and analysis provided to UNHCR management in the exercise of their functions.

Thank you.