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Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Sixty-eighth session

Geneva, 2 - 6 October 2017

Item 5 of agenda

**Consideration of reports on the work
of the Standing Committee**


Report on the Work of the Standing Committee

Report of the Secretariat

GE.17-17321(E)



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I. Introduction

1. At its sixty-seventh session in October 2016, the Executive Committee adopted a decision which set out the issues to be examined by the Standing Committee in its programme of work for 2017.¹ This report provides a summary of the implementation of this programme.

2. The Standing Committee held three meetings in 2017: in March, June and September. A planning meeting of Executive Committee members in December 2016 established the calendar of meetings and determined the distribution of the agenda items in 2017. This is provided in the work programme contained in annex I.

3. A detailed account of the work undertaken at each meeting of the Standing Committee in 2017 is contained in the following documents: the report of the sixty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1166); the report of the sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1173); and the report of the seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1174). A list of conference room papers, strategic overviews and other documents considered at these meetings is contained in annex II.

II. Issues considered by the Standing Committee in 2017

A. Programme budgets and funding

4. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee considered updates on budgets and funding, through which it was kept informed of programme requirements, budgetary measures and funding levels. The Committee also adopted decisions on budgets and funding, as listed in chapter III below. In June, the Standing Committee was briefed on UNHCR's Global Report on activities in 2016. At its September meeting, the Committee reviewed the biennial programme budget for 2018-2019, as well as an advance version of the Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ), in relation to the biennial budget.

B. International protection

5. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee was briefed on developments concerning the Executive Committee conclusions on international protection. In March, the Standing Committee received an oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges. In June, the Standing Committee discussed the note on international protection; updates on statelessness and resettlement; and a paper on machine-readable travel documents.

C. Regional activities and global programmes

6. UNHCR's operations in all five regions (Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Pacific; Europe; and the Middle East and North Africa) were comprehensively discussed at the Standing Committee's meeting in March. The Committee also received updates on global programmes; resilience and self-reliance from a protection and solutions perspective; and emergency preparedness and response. In June, the Committee was presented with reports on cash-based interventions and on the strengthening of humanitarian-development cooperation in forced displacement situations.

¹ A/AC.96/1165, para. 16.

D. Programme/protection policy

7. The June Standing Committee reviewed updates on community-based protection and accountability to affected populations, and on education. It also discussed the global strategic priorities.

E. Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources

8. In March, the Standing Committee considered a report on the funding of after-service health insurance (ASHI) and repatriation benefit liabilities and subsequently adopted a decision on the funding of end-of-service and post-retirement benefits, as listed in chapter III below. The Committee also reviewed a report on follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years and received an update on the work of the Inspector General's Office.

9. In September, the Committee reviewed the report of the Board of Auditors on UNHCR's financial statements for the year 2016 and discussed the key issues identified in the report and measures taken by UNHCR in response. The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services presented its annual report on internal audit activities undertaken at UNHCR for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, and the Committee received the annual report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee. Updates were also provided on progress toward implementing the "grand bargain" commitments; human resources, including staff welfare; and staff safety and security.

F. Coordination

10. At each of its meetings, the Standing Committee was briefed on developments concerning the follow-up to the New York Declaration and the comprehensive refugee response framework.

G. Governance

11. The Standing Committee adopted the work programme for 2017 in March, as proposed at its December 2016 planning meeting. In June, the Committee was invited to make suggestions on issues to be included in the High Commissioner's opening statement to the sixty-eighth plenary session of the Executive Committee.

III. Standing Committee decisions

12. In accordance with the authority vested in it by the Executive Committee, the Standing Committee adopted the following decisions, which are annexed to the reports of the Standing Committee meetings:

- (a) *Report of the sixty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1166)*
Decision on the funding of end-of-service and post-retirement liabilities;
Decision on budgets and funding for 2016 and 2017;
- (b) *Report of the sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1173)*
Decision on budgets and funding for 2016 and 2017;
- (c) *Report of the seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee (A/AC.96/1174)*
Decision on budgets and funding for 2017.

**Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme:
Standing Committee work programme for 2017**

<i>Theme</i>	<i>68th meeting 14-16 March 2017</i>	<i>69th meeting 28-30 June 2017</i>	<i>70th meeting 21-22 September 2017</i>
Programme budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding	Update on budgets and funding Global report 2016	Update on budgets and funding Biennial programme budget 2018-2019 Report of the ACABQ on the biennial programme budget for 2018-2019
International protection	Oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s)	Note on international protection Update on statelessness Update on resettlement Machine-readable travel documents Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s)	Oral update on ExCom conclusion(s)
Regional activities and global programmes	Regional updates (Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa) Global programmes Resilience and self-reliance from a protection and solutions perspective Emergency preparedness and response	Cash based interventions Strengthening humanitarian-development cooperation in forced displacement situations	
Programme / protection policy		Update on the global strategic priorities Community-based protection from an age, gender and diversity (including disabled persons) perspective Update on education	

<i>Theme</i>	<i>68th meeting 14-16 March 2017</i>	<i>69th meeting 28-30 June 2017</i>	<i>70th meeting 21-22 September 2017</i>
Management, financial control, administrative oversight and human resources	<p>Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years</p> <p>Funding of after-service health insurance (ASHI) and repatriation benefit liabilities</p> <p>Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office</p>		<p>Financial statements for the year 2016 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 2016</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>Progress towards implementing the grand bargain commitments</p> <p>Human resources, including staff welfare</p> <p>Staff safety and security</p>
Coordination	<p>Strategic partnerships, including coordination</p> <p>Oral update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework</p>	<p>Follow-up to the New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework</p>	<p>Oral update on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework</p>
Governance	<p>Adoption of the Standing Committee Work Programme for 2017</p>	<p>Suggestions for the High Commissioner's opening speech at the 68th plenary session of the Executive Committee</p>	

**68th PLENARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME:
2-6 October 2017**

Annex II

[English and French only]

Standing Committee documentation issued in 2017**Sixty-eighth meeting (14-16 March 2017)***Conference room papers:*

EC/68/SC/CRP.1	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/68/SC/CRP.2	Standing Committee work programme for 2017
EC/68/SC/CRP.3	Global programmes
EC/68/SC/CRP.4	Resilience and self-reliance from a protection and solutions perspective
EC/68/SC/CRP.5	Emergency preparedness and response
EC/68/SC/CRP.6	Follow-up to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors on the financial statements for previous years
EC/68/SC/CRP.7	Funding of after-service health insurance and repatriation benefit liabilities
EC/68/SC/CRP.8	Strategic partnerships, including coordination
EC/68/SC/CRP.9	Update on budgets and funding
EC/68/SC/CRP.10	Report of the sixty-eighth meeting of the Standing Committee

Strategic overviews:

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- The Americas
- The Middle East and North Africa

Other documents:

- Oral update on the work of the Inspector General's Office
- Oral update on the High Commissioner's Dialogues on Protection Challenges

Sixty-ninth meeting (28-30 June 2017)*Conference room papers:*

EC/68/SC/CRP.11	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/68/SC/CRP.12	Note on international protection
EC/68/SC/CRP.13	Update on statelessness
EC/68/SC/CRP.14	Update on resettlement
EC/68/SC/CRP.15	Machine-readable travel documents

EC/68/SC/CRP.16	Cash-based interventions
EC/68/SC/CRP.17	Strengthening humanitarian-development cooperation in forced displacement situations
EC/68/SC/CRP.18	Update on the global strategic priorities
EC/68/SC/CRP.19	Community-based protection and accountability to affected populations
EC/68/SC/CRP.20	Update on education
EC/68/SC/CRP.21	Follow-up to the New York Declaration and the comprehensive refugee response framework
EC/68/SC/CRP.22	Update on budgets and funding for 2017 and reporting on 2016
EC/68/SC/CRP.23	Report of the sixty-ninth meeting of the Standing Committee

Seventieth meeting (21-22 September 2017)

Conference room papers:

EC/68/SC/CRP.24	Provisional annotated agenda
EC/68/SC/CRP.25	Progress toward implementing the “grand bargain” commitments
EC/68/SC/CRP.26	Human resources, including staff welfare
EC/68/SC/CRP.27	Staff safety and security
EC/68/SC/CRP.28	Report of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee, 2016-2017
EC/68/SC/CRP.29	Update on budgets and funding
EC/68/SC/CRP.30	Report of the seventieth meeting of the Standing Committee
