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Agenda item 7

Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Imelda Smolcic (Uruguay)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 21

International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

1. At its 16th meeting, on 13 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 21)).
2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposed programme plan for programme 21 for the period 2014-2015. Satisfaction was also expressed with the numerous innovations and improvements introduced in the programme, in particular the introduction of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards in the operations of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Multidimensional aspects of the work of UNHCR and its numerous responsibilities were underscored.
4. Satisfaction was expressed with the inclusion of issues related to internally displaced persons into the document. The view was also expressed that the activities related to internally displaced persons should be undertaken in support of the countries concerned at their request.



5. Clarifications were sought with regard to the capacity of UNHCR to plan its future activities, organize emergency response and rapid deployment, ensure the implementation of refugees' rights and provide legal protection. Concern was expressed that some regional UNHCR activities, programmes and agreements, in particular those with regard to Latin America, were not adequately reflected in the document. The view was also expressed that a holistic, rather than regional, approach should prevail in the programme.

6. Questions were raised on the capacity of UNHCR with regard to activities on mixed migration, gender-related protection and equal treatment of refugees and provision of education for refugee children, as well as activities to promote accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 21.5

Replace the second sentence with the following text: "It will be guided by the UNHCR global strategic priorities and incorporate concerted responses to the challenges it met in the previous biennium, including an increasingly urban-based population of concern and the growing complexity of the asylum-migration nexus."

Paragraph 21.6

Revise subparagraph (d) to read:

(d) Ensuring that UNHCR fully participates in and supports the strengthened collaborative response of the United Nations to situations of internal displacement, consistent with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, through its leadership and coordination of areas for which the Office has been given special responsibility under the "cluster approach": protection, emergency shelter and camp management/coordination;

In subparagraph (g), after the words "Further developing", delete the words ", in consultation with concerned parties,".

Strategy

Paragraph 21.9

In the first sentence, revise “Division of International Protection Services” to read “Division of International Protection”.

Paragraph 21.13

Replace the last sentence with the following text: “To strengthen international refugee protection, UNHCR will continue to build partnerships and promote collaboration on refugee protection with a wide range of actors.”

Paragraph 21.17

In the second sentence, after the word “approaches”, replace the existing text with the following text: “through voluntary return, and, where appropriate and feasible, through local integration and resettlement”.
