

## II. Work of the sixty-first session

11. As the basis for the general debate, the High Commissioner delivered an opening statement, the text of which is available on UNHCR's website ([www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)). Prior to the High Commissioner's statement, the Executive Committee heard a pre-recorded message from the Secretary-General.<sup>1</sup>

12. A summary of the ensuing general debate, delivered by the Chairman, is contained in Annex III.

## III. Conclusion and decisions of the Executive Committee

### A. Conclusion on refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by UNHCR

13. *The Executive Committee,*

*Emphasizing* that this Conclusion applies to refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by UNHCR in accordance with the provisions of international conventions and relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions,

*Taking note* of its Conclusions No. 47 (XXXVIII), No. 74 (XLV), No. 105 (LVII), No. 107 (LVIII), No. 108 (LIX) and No. 109 (LX) and the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol on 3 May 2008,

*Acknowledging* that refugees and other persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual and sensory impairments, which, in interaction with various barriers, including attitudinal and environmental barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,

*Recalling* the recognition by the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the inherent dignity and equality of persons with disabilities, recognizing that disability is an evolving concept and acknowledging the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities,

*Reaffirming* the importance of mainstreaming age, gender and diversity in identifying and responding to the views and needs of all persons with disabilities; and taking note with appreciation of UNHCR's involvement in the inter-agency support group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support the promotion and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol,

*Recognizing* that the specific needs of persons with disabilities are often overlooked, especially in the early phases of humanitarian emergencies, and that they, particularly women, children and older persons with disabilities, are exposed to

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<sup>1</sup> See summary records of the session for a full account of the deliberations of the Committee, including statements or other interventions by delegations under all agenda items, and their comments on the conclusions and decisions, as well as summing up and closing statements by the High Commissioner and by the Chairman.

discrimination, exploitation, violence, and sexual and gender-based violence, and may be excluded from support and services,

*Recognizing* that children with disabilities are at a greater risk of abuse, neglect, abandonment, exploitation, health concerns, exposure to the risk of longer term psycho-social disturbances, family separation and denial of the right to education,

*Acknowledging* that services and facilities, including assistance programmes and protection, may be inaccessible to persons with disabilities,

*Recognizing* that refugees with disabilities may be excluded from support and services when repatriating and often have fewer opportunities for other durable solutions, namely local integration and resettlement,

*Reaffirming* the primary responsibility of States to take all appropriate measures to protect and assist persons with disabilities, in all situations,

*Recognizing* that host States, which are often developing countries, have limited resources and face various challenges in providing such services and facilities; reaffirming, therefore, the international community and UNHCR's role to assist States in fulfilling these responsibilities, in the spirit of international cooperation and burden sharing,

(a) *Calls upon* States and UNHCR, in cooperation with relevant partners where applicable, to protect and assist refugees and other persons with disabilities against all forms of discrimination and to provide sustainable and appropriate support in addressing all their needs;

(b) *Also calls upon* States, UNHCR and all relevant partners to raise awareness on disability issues and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, by providing training on the needs, rights and capabilities of refugees and other persons with disabilities, among other things;

(c) *Recommends* that States, UNHCR and relevant partners ensure where appropriate a swift and systematic identification and registration of refugees and other persons with disabilities, with particular attention to those who cannot communicate their own needs, in order to identify their protection and assistance needs, including as part of a global needs assessment;

(d) *Recommends* that States include refugees and other persons with disabilities in relevant policies and programmes and provide access to services, including through the issuance of relevant documentation;

(e) *Encourages* States, UNHCR and all relevant partners to ensure the participation of refugees and other persons with disabilities through appropriate consultation in the design and implementation of relevant services and programmes;

(f) *Encourages* States, UNHCR and all partners to communicate information, procedures, decisions and policies appropriately to ensure that these are accessible and understood by refugees and other persons with disabilities;

(g) *Encourages* States, UNHCR and partners to enable children and youth with disabilities to access appropriate protection, assistance and education, and to ensure the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities, protected and assisted by UNHCR, in programmes to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and other forms of exploitation;

(h) *Encourages* States, UNHCR and relevant partners to adopt and implement appropriate and reasonable accessibility standards, including at the start of an emergency, and to ensure that all mainstream services and programmes as well as specialized services are accessible to persons with disabilities, including those services and programmes provided within the framework of international cooperation;

(i) *Reaffirms* the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of refugees and other persons with disabilities, particularly in developing countries, through ensuring timely availability of adequate humanitarian and development funding and other resources, including sufficient support for host communities;

(j) *Recommends* that States and UNHCR, as applicable, ensure that refugee status determination and all other relevant procedures are accessible and designed to enable persons with disabilities to fully and fairly represent their claims with the necessary support;

(k) *Recommends* that States, in cooperation with UNHCR and relevant partners, ensure that refugees with disabilities have equality of opportunity for durable solutions and are provided appropriate support;

(l) *Recommends* that States, in cooperation with UNHCR and relevant partners upon request, ensure that persons with disabilities, other than refugees, protected and assisted by UNHCR have equality of opportunity for solutions and are provided appropriate support;

(m) *Requests* UNHCR to include disability awareness in its policy guidelines and training programmes and to ensure that relevant policies, guidelines and operating standards for UNHCR staff and implementing partners are in line with this Conclusion;

(n) *Requests* UNHCR to provide Member States with periodic updates on the follow-up to this Conclusion, including relevant financial data.

## **B. General decision on administrative, financial and programme matters**

### *14. The Executive Committee,*

(a) *Confirms* that the activities proposed under the Biennial Programme Budget for the years 2010-2011, as set out in documents A/AC.96/1087 and A/AC.96/1087/Add.2, have been found on review to be consistent with the Statute of the Office of the High Commissioner (General Assembly Resolution 428 (V)), the High Commissioner's other functions as recognized, promoted or requested by the General Assembly, the Security Council, or the Secretary-General; and the relevant provisions of the Financial Rules for Voluntary Funds Administered by the High Commissioner for Refugees, including articles 6, 7, 8 and 11;

(b) *Recalls* that the Executive Committee, at its sixtieth session, approved programmes and budgets for Regional Programmes, Global Programmes and Headquarters under UNHCR's 2010-2011 Biennial Programme Budget amounting to a total of \$3,007,297,300 in 2010, comprising programmed activities of \$2,778,471,100, the United Nations Regular Budget contribution towards headquarters costs, an Operational Reserve (representing 10 per cent of programmed activities under Pillars I and II) of \$196,826,200, an amount of \$20 million for the "New or additional activities — mandate-related" Reserve, and \$12.0 million for Junior Professional Officers; approves the 2010 supplementary budgets currently amounting to \$281,432,331, bringing total revised requirements for 2010 to \$3,288,729,631