

2011 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs



60 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIPS:

THE ROAD AHEAD



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Message from the High Commissioner to the 2011 Annual Consultations with NGOs

TAKE GREAT PLEASURE in welcoming you to the Annual Consultations. UNHCR's partnership with NGOs is longstanding and the consultations have been held now every year for more than two decades. They are an important platform for dialogue and networking, as well as an opportunity to discuss issues at the heart of our mutual concern for refugees, internally displaced people and the stateless. More than 320 participants will take part in this year's consultations.

The agenda for this year's consultations focuses strongly on protection, reflecting the growing complexity of the challenges we face. We need better ways to identify and assist those falling through gaps in the international protection system, to share more equitably the responsibility for hosting displaced populations and to be more effective in counteracting the growing tendency to racism and xenophobia in many countries and regions. As discouraging as the struggle may sometimes seem, let us not overlook the remarkable examples of hospitality and solidarity towards the displaced and vulnerable in places such as Tunisia, Egypt and Liberia. Here is the generosity and largeness of vision that we need to extol and to replicate.

UNHCR's ability to protect and assist refugees has always depended on the quality of its partnerships, particularly with civil society. That partnership is especially significant this year as we commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Refugee Convention, the 50th anniversary of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the 150th anniversary of the birth of Fridtjof Nansen, the first High Commissioner for Refugees. The activities will culminate in a ministerial-level event for Member States in Geneva in December.

NGOs are working hard to ensure the commemorations translate into meaningful improvements in the protection and assistance of refugees and the reduction and prevention of statelessness. They are working and advocating with States to make concrete and action-oriented pledges to improve the situation of people of

The Inter-Agency Unit would like to thank the many colleagues who have contributed to the preparation of these consultations. We would especially like to thank the speakers and moderators of the sessions, including Linda Bartolomei for her role as the Rapporteur of the Annual Consultations with NGOs and the Rapporteur of UNHCR's Executive Committee, Sofia Lascurain, for attending.

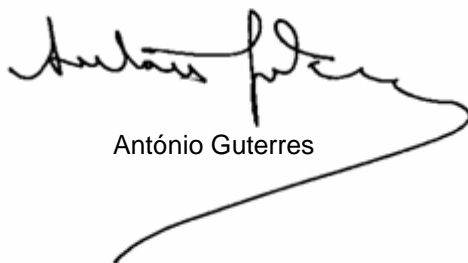


concern in their territories and around the world. NGOs have organized and participated in a number of expert meetings in the lead up to the ministerial-level event, and are key contributors to the advancement of important strategic goals, such as reducing the risk of statelessness by improving systems for birth registration.

The proportion of funds UNHCR dedicates to Implementing Partners, most of which are NGOs, has risen every year since 2006, from 32 percent of overall expenditure to 38 percent of a much greater expenditure. In nominal terms, expenditure through

implementing arrangements has increased from USD 347 million in 2006 to USD 709 million last year, or more than 100 percent. Last year, nearly 700 NGOs, more than three quarters of them national NGOs, received funding from UNHCR to protect, assist and find solutions for refugees and other people of concern.

The Annual Consultations provide us a uniquely inclusive forum to reflect on our mutual objectives and the steps needed to achieve them. As always, I encourage your full and frank participation and guarantee that from UNHCR you will get the same.



António Guterres

Tuesday 28 June 2011 | International Conference Center (CICG)

	ROOM	
08:30 – 11:00	Registration of participants (CICG entrance hall, UNHCR welcome desk)	
09:30 – 10:30	Orientation session – Séance d'orientation <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i>	3
11:00 – 13:00	PLENARY SESSION SEANCE PLENIERE <i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)</i>	2
	OPENING ADDRESS DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE António GUTERRES, <i>High Commissioner for Refugees</i>	
	Daisy DELL, <i>Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR</i> Kemlin FURLEY, <i>Acting Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR</i> Alice KOIHO KIPRE, <i>Afrique Secours et Assistance</i> Julien SCHOPP, <i>Senior Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies</i>	
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH - DÉJEUNER	
14:00 – 15:45	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i> Strengthening protection: The role of faith-based organizations <i>Renforcer la protection : le rôle des organisations confessionnelles</i>	2
	THEMATIC SESSIONS SÉANCES THÉMATIQUES <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i> Discussions on the 2010 Recommendations and their follow-up <i>Discussions sur les recommandations 2010 et leur suivi</i>	3
	Partnerships for futures: Addressing Statelessness among children and youth <i>Partenariats pour l'avenir : l'apatridie chez les enfants et les jeunes</i>	4
15:45 – 16:15	COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ	
16:15 – 18:00	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i> Strengthening protection: The role of faith-based organizations (continued) <i>Renforcer la protection : le rôle des organisations confessionnelles (suite)</i>	2
	REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in English-Russian)</i> Bureau for Europe	3
	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i> Cityscape: Taking stock of new initiatives in response to urban refugee needs <i>Paysage urbain : Bilan des nouvelles initiatives de réponse aux besoins des réfugiés urbains</i>	4
18:30	Reception UNHCR Cafeteria, UNHCR main building (94, rue de Montbrillant)	

Wednesday 29 June 2011 | International Conference Center (CICG)

	ROOM
08:00 – 09:00	
Regional Informal meetings <i>(no interpretation)</i> Réunions informelles régionales <i>(pas d'interprétation)</i>	
Africa & Asia region.....	21
Americas, Europe & MENA region.....	22
09:00 – 10:45	
REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in English-Russian)</i>	
Bureau for Asia and the Pacific	2
THEMATIC SESSIONS SÉANCES THÉMATIQUES <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i>	
The multi functional team & results based management: Make it work <i>L'équipe multifonctionnelle et la gestion basée sur les résultats : un défi à relever</i>	3
Overcoming barriers: Strategies for the robust and effective use of resettlement as a protection tool <i>Surmonter les obstacles : stratégies de recours fréquent et efficace à la réinstallation comme instrument de protection</i>	4
10:45 – 11:15	
COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ	
11:15 – 13:00	
REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French)</i>	
Bureau for MENA	2
THEMATIC SESSIONS SÉANCES THÉMATIQUES <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i>	
The multi functional team & results based management: Make it work (continued) <i>L'équipe multifonctionnelle et la gestion basée sur les résultats : un défi à relever (suite)</i>	3
More alternatives than detention • <i>Davantage de solutions de rechange à la détention</i>	4
13:00 – 14:00	
LUNCH - DÉJEUNER	
14:00 – 15:45	
REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i>	
Bureau for Africa	2
THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish)</i>	
Commemorations: A dialogue with refugee women, NGOs & UNHCR <i>Commémorations : Dialogue avec les femmes réfugiées, les ONG et le HCR</i>	3
THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i>	
Pinheiro into action: Challenges and way forward in housing, land and property rights – Enhancing partnerships • <i>Pinheiro en action : défis et perspectives en matière de logement et de droit foncier – Renforcer les partenariats</i>	4
15:45 – 16:15	
COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ	

16:15 – 18:00	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i> Sudan: Partnerships for protection • <i>Soudan : partenariats pour la protection</i>	2
	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in Arabic- English-French-Spanish)</i> Commemorations: Overview & role of NGOs <i>Commémorations : Présentation générale et rôle des ONG</i>	3
	REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i> Bureau for the Americas	4

Thursday 30 June 2011 | International Conference Center (ICCG)

08:30 – 10:00	THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i> The struggle to reach durable solutions for IDPs <i>Lutte pour trouver des solutions durables aux déplacés internes</i>	3
10:00 – 11:30	PLENARY SESSION SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE <i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)</i> Report back on the NGO Consultations • Rapport sur les consultations avec les ONG Linda BARTOLOMEI, <i>Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs</i> Sofia LASCURAIN, <i>Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations Office at Geneva</i> Janet LIM, <i>Assistant High Commissioner (Operations)</i> Daisy DELL, <i>Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR</i> Khassim DIAGNE, <i>Head of Secretariat a.i., UNHCR</i> Julien SCHOPP, <i>Senior Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies</i> Kemlin FURLEY, <i>Acting Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR</i>	2
11:30 – 13:00	CLOSING CLOTURE <i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)</i> Erika FELLER, <i>Assistant High Commissioner (Protection)</i>	

Tuesday 28 June 2011 | International Conference Center (CICG)

11h00 – 13h00 **PLENARY SESSION** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)*

Room 2

Opening Address by

António GUTERRES, *High Commissioner for Refugees*

Daisy DELL, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*

Kemlin FURLEY, *Acting Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*

Alice KOIHO KIPRE, *Afrique Secours et Assistance*

Julien SCHOPP, *Senior Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

13h00 – 14h00 **LUNCH - DÉJEUNER**

14h00 – 15h45 **THEMATIC SESSIONS**

Room 2

Strengthening protection: The role of faith-based organizations

(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

Whether in the midst of popular uprisings, natural disasters or violent conflicts – from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Haiti to Sudan, Somalia, Columbia, Burma and the Philippines - faith and local faith-based organizations (FBOs) play a critical role in the protection of affected communities. Stitched into the fabric of local communities and well-versed in the nuances of local culture and politics, national FBOs are present before, during and after disasters and conflicts; have the trust of local communities, and operate in areas where governments and humanitarians have little presence or authority. Yet, despite their unparalleled access to affected populations, and the fact that international humanitarian agencies increasingly rely on local actors to access affected populations, little is known about the way national FBOs operate in complex and insecure operating environments and their protection role and potential is rarely recognized or factored into the wider protection efforts. This session looks at the unique strengths and challenges faced by national FBOs in providing protection and how UNHCR, international NGOs and national FBOs can maximize their collective field-level protection efforts.

Session 1: National FBOs: their protection role, challenges and opportunities

Moderator: Rebecca LARSON, *ACT Alliance*

Speaker(s): Kediende Mapuor Akec CHONG, *Sudan Council of Churches*

Enrique BURBINSKY, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society*

Kimiaki KAWAI, *Sokka Gakkai Japan*

Hening PURWATI, *Humanitarian Forum Indonesia*

Break-out group discussions:

- Key challenges facing FBOs in complex and insecure environments
- FBO strengths and opportunities for enhanced protection
- Building better partnerships with FBOs.

Report back from break-out group discussions.

Session 2: Strengthening protection partnerships with national faith-based organizations

Moderator: Mark HETFIELD, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society*
Speaker(s): Hanny EL-BANNA, *Humanitarian Forum*
Khassim DIAGNE, *Head of Secretariat a.i., UNHCR*
Forbes MATONGA, *Christian Care Zimbabwe*

Room 3

Discussions on the 2010 Recommendations and their follow-up

(interpretation in English-French)

This is the first time we are trying to provide more systematic follow-up to the previous year's Consultations. The idea of this session is to look at the follow-up to some of the recommendations which transpired from last year's consultations, discuss their usefulness and try to improve the process for next year, including how to maximize their impact on the work of ExCom.

A paper providing a consolidated list of key recommendations and their follow-up has been prepared. Several of the recommendations fall under themes that are addressed in specific sessions of this year's NGO consultations (e.g. statelessness, urban refugee policy and IDPs) and can be brought up in those fora. Other issues participants may want to discuss in some substance can be highlighted in this session.

UNHCR would like to use the opportunity of the follow up session -- linking up with the issue of xenophobia and intolerance -- to share with participants the organization's new communications strategy. This will focus on public awareness raising campaigns developed for Commemorations Year. Melissa Fleming, Head of Communications Service will make a short presentation. It would be highly useful to have feedback and reactions as well as hear about other examples of communications and public awareness initiatives to build solidarity for refugees, stateless and the displaced involving NGOs. Whatever the region, the enabling environment and attitudes of affected communities and the wider public go to the heart of sustainable protection.

Moderator: Misikir TILAHUN, *Africa Humanitarian Action*
Speaker(s): Kemlin FURLEY, *Acting Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*
Manisha THOMAS, *Senior Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

Room 4

Partnerships for futures: Addressing statelessness among children and youth

(interpretation in English-French)

Among the 12 million stateless persons around the world stateless children are often the most vulnerable. They are frequently denied basic services that most of us take for granted: access to education and health care, for example. Many grow up in extreme poverty. A stateless child is also at greater risk of her freedom of movement being restricted because she doesn't have the right papers to travel, and many are subjected to arbitrary deportations or prolonged detention, or suffer from social exclusion, and in some cases a greater vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation. And yet, this is one human rights issue that rarely gets the urgent attention it needs to make a real and lasting difference to millions of children's lives.

The panel on "Partnerships for Futures: Addressing Statelessness among Children and Youth" will look at different cases of child statelessness around the world, and strategies to combat this problem.

Moderator: Sebastian KOHN, *Open Society Justice Initiative*
Speaker(s): Jane BLOOM, *NGO Committee on Migration*
Edmund FOLEY, *Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa*
Mark MANLY, *Head, Statelessness Unit, UNHCR*

15h45 – 16h15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

16h15 – 18h00 **THEMATIC SESSION** (interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

Room 2

Strengthening protection: The role of faith-based organizations (continued)

The session continues.

Room 3

REGIONAL SESSION (interpretation in English-Russian)

Bureau for Europe

The transition: Capacitating national NGOs – Role of UNHCR and International NGOs

The purpose of building the capacity of national NGOs should go beyond the mere fact of enabling them to act as implementing partners for UNHCR and other well-established international NGOs and should aim at empowering them to play a bigger role as equal partners in the national environment within which they are operating.

Such an empowerment will allow the national NGOs to expand their knowledge and skills and pass it to new emerging national entities, hence creating a humanitarian civilian network that would strengthen the civil society and the impact of the public opinion on matters related to the protection of UNHCR's people of concern.

Several positive experiences in Europe have demonstrated the ability of national non-governmental entities to take over the implementation and management of programmes and activities which were previously administrated by UNHCR and international NGOs.

This session will analyze and compare these experiences and will draw recommendations that would help replicating these initiatives in other locations.

Moderator: to be confirmed

Speaker(s): Daniel ENDRES, *Director*

Guillermo BETTOCHI, *Deputy Director*

Room 4

THEMATIC SESSION (interpretation in English-French)

Cityscape: Taking stock of new initiatives in response to urban refugee needs

This year's session is the third in a series that has examined the response of UNHCR, the NGO community and other partners in addressing the needs of urban refugees. Since 2009, when UNHCR issued its new urban refugee policy, entitled "Refugee Protection and Solutions in Urban Areas", there has been a renewed effort to respond more creatively, comprehensively and effectively to refugee needs in urban areas. UNHCR has supported the development of pilot projects and has carried out Real-Time Evaluations of a number of its urban programs. Both UNHCR and NGOs have re-examined their past approaches to addressing urban refugee needs and have developed innovative new initiatives, often engaging non-traditional partners in sectors such as health care, education and livelihoods.

In this year's session, participants will hear from NGO and UNHCR staff and other actors involved in implementing some of the new approaches to addressing urban refugee needs that have been piloted since 2009. The session will seek to examine both what has been achieved and identify remaining gaps. It will make recommendations as to how partnership between UNHCR and the NGO community can be strengthened and broadened so as to engage municipal authorities, public institutions and civil society in a positive and comprehensive response to urban refugee needs.

Moderator: Valentina QUSSISIYA, *Jordan River Foundation*

Speaker(s): David HOLDCROFT, *Jesuit Refugee Service Southern Africa region*

Kellie J. LEESON, *International Rescue Committee Kenya*

José RIERA, *Special Advisor, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Norman WRAY, *City Councilman, Quito, Ecuador*

18h30- 20h00 **RECEPTION – UNHCR Cafeteria, UNHCR main building (94, rue de Montbrillant)**

Wednesday 29 June 2011 | International Conference Center (CICG)

08:00 – 09:00 **Regional Informal meetings** (*no interpretation*)
Réunions informelles régionales (*pas d'interprétation*)
Africa & Asia region | Room 21
Americas, Europe & MENA region | Room 22

09h00 – 10h45 **REGIONAL SESSION** (*interpretation in English-Russian*)

Room 2

Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

Partnerships and solutions for protracted refugee situations

Today, the Asia-Pacific region is hosting more than 3.5 million refugees, many of whom are in situations of protracted displacement. Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran currently host 2.7 million registered Afghan refugees, including some who have been there for over 30 years, constituting one of the largest protracted refugee populations in the world; and UNHCR's refugee operations in Bangladesh and Nepal, and along the Thailand-Myanmar border, are now over 20 years old. UNHCR Asia is promoting community-based approaches to improve the services available in refugee-hosting communities and ensure refugees' access to those services, and to encourage peaceful co-existence between refugees and their hosts, pending a durable solution. This approach would contribute to preserving asylum space while addressing host community fatigue. The session will explore how strengthened partnerships can contribute to local solutions to protracted refugee situations, and exchange best practices.

Moderator: Stephen H.B. YAU, *International Social Service Hong Kong*
Speaker(s): Kasidis ROCHANAKORN, *Director*
Pervez IQBAL, *Water, Environment and Sanitation Society*
Meghna GUHATHAKURTA, *Research Initiatives Bangladesh*

THEMATIC SESSIONS (*interpretation in English-French*)

Room 3

The multi functional team & results based management: Make it work

Many international organizations and NGOs have over recent years introduced a more distinct results-orientation in their preparation and presentation of plans, their monitoring of implementation and in their reporting. For its part, UNHCR has introduced a new results framework and new software in order to better organize planning and management of operations along results based management (RBM) principles.

This session presents an opportunity for NGOs working with UNHCR as implementing or operational partners to share their experience in working with the results framework and identifying areas for collaboration and improvement. The panelists will share their perspectives on working with the new UNHCR framework in the field. There will be two breakout groups to allow for fuller discussion and development of recommendations.

Breakout groups will be dedicated to:

- Standards, Indicators, Targets – how to measure the most important things effectively? Do we need sets of core indicators? How to build on NGO's monitoring plans? How to ensure the expertise required to carry out the monitoring, analysis and follow-up?
- Proximity through partnership – how to stay close when one is far from the population being served? How to pursue the "right" programmes in remote and/or difficult regions? Is there a major difference between operating in insecure or in extremely remote locations? What can UNHCR and its partners do differently? Any "best practice"?

Moderator: Mamadou NDIAYE, *Office africain pour le développement et la coopération (OFADEC)*
Speaker(s): Syed AFTAB AHMAD, *Sarhad Rural Support Programme*
Richard CROTHERS, *International Rescue Committee Burundi*
Laura LO CASTRO, *Chief, Programme Analysis & Support Section, Division of Programme Support & Management, UNHCR*

Room 4

Overcoming barriers: Strategies for the robust and effective use of resettlement as a protection tool

This session will focus on using resettlement as a key refugee protection tool, and will provide opportunities for NGOs from traditional and emerging resettlement countries to examine different ways to overcome the barriers to the most effective use of resettlement as a durable solution. Session speakers and participants will explore steps that NGOs can take at the field level to help bridge humanitarian gaps through resettlement, including how to increase resettlement expertise and capacity within UNHCR and NGOs; techniques to buffer NGOs' core activities and program integrity from resettlement activities; and, discussion of concerns around the "magnet effect" of resettlement and some methods to minimize it. The session will also address how to increase reception capacities and best practices in integration at the resettlement country level, as well as specific techniques that NGOs can use to advocate for the resettlement of specific populations; increased resettlement quotas; and, improved service provision for resettled refugees.

This session will consist of a short roundtable discussion in a plenary format, followed by three break-out sessions that will allow participants to exchange best practices and discuss steps for moving forward.

- One break out session will be dedicated to overcoming barriers to resettlement at the field level;
- The second will focus on overcoming barriers to resettlement at the resettlement country level;
- The third will foster discussion about specific NGO resettlement advocacy techniques.

Following the break-out sessions, all of the participants will reconvene in order to summarize their findings and recommendations for next steps, including recommendations that will be shared during the 2011 Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR).

Moderator: Karin KEIL, *Caritas Internationalis*

Speaker(s): Robert CAREY, *International Rescue Committee*

Paul POWER, *Refugee Council of Australia*

Manal STULGAITIS, *Mapendo International*

Johannes VAN DER KLAUW, *Senior Resettlement Coordinator, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Field level Break-out session:

Moderators: Manal STULGAITIS

Mapendo International & Mark HETFIELD, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society*

Resettlement country Break-out session:

Moderators: Paul POWER

Refugee Council of Australia & Anastasia BROWN, *US Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Advocacy techniques Break-out session:

Moderators: Robert CAREY

International Rescue Committee & George JOSEPH, *Caritas Sweden*

10h45 – 11h15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

11h15 – 13h00 REGIONAL SESSION (interpretation in Arabic-English-French)

Room 2

Bureau for MENA

In the rapidly changing dynamics in the region with many parts of the MENA region going through a challenging period, this year's NGO Consultation comes at a time of unprecedented volatility in the region. Pressures faced today provide both challenges and opportunities and force UNHCR and its partners to adjust to emerging realities, to continually update contingency and programming plans in order to meet the needs of persons of concern to UNHCR under trying circumstances.

The discussion will be focused on identifying current challenges facing refugees, IDPs and persons of concern, and in particular within the context of urban setting at a time of crisis disrupting provision of protection and services.

Moderator: Hana SHAHIN, *Noor Al Hussein Foundation*
Speaker(s): Yacoub EL HILLO, *Director*
Taher CHENITI, *Tunisian Red Crescent Society*
Mouna KURDI, *Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society*

THEMATIC SESSIONS (interpretation in English-French)

Room 3

The multi functional team & results based management: Make it work (continued)

The session continues.

Room 4

More alternatives than detention

Detention of refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless persons and other persons of concern to UNHCR continues to affect thousands of men, women and children detained in conditions often falling below international standards. International human rights laws and standards require that immigration detention should be used only as a last resort, in exceptional cases and after all other options have been shown to be inadequate in the individual case. Where a government intends to detain a person for immigration-related reasons, it should first consider and pursue alternatives in compliance with international and regional human rights standards. An increasing number of governments have begun to implement alternatives to detention and recent research highlights the benefits of efficient and reliable programmes that reduce the financial and human cost of immigration detention.

This session follows the side meeting at the 2010 Annual NGO Consultations and in particular the Global Roundtable on ATDs held in Geneva in May 2011. The panel discussion aims to update participants on the latest research into alternatives to immigration detention, the outcomes of the global roundtable and to explore national and regional strategies and possibilities for advocacy, partnership and monitoring. Individuals and groups are invited to share examples of alternatives to detention, experiences and advocacy opportunities.

Moderator: Veerawit TIANCHAINAN, *Thai Committee for Refugees Foundation*
Speaker(s): Alice EDWARDS, *Head, Protection Policy and Legal Advice, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Grant MITCHELL, *International Detention Coalition*
Leslie VELEZ, *Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service*

13h00 – 14h00 LUNCH – DÉJEUNER

14h00 – 15h45 REGIONAL SESSION (interpretation in English-French)

Room 2

Bureau for Africa

The Africa Regional session provides a platform for an open discussion between the NGO participants and the Africa Bureau's management team on current programme and policy issues in sub-Saharan Africa. The session will include an overview and update on UNHCR's programmes in region, with

particular attention given to the ongoing emergencies in West Africa and the Horn and East Africa. Relevant policy issues to be looked at include the comprehensive strategies for refugees from Angola, Burundi, Liberia and Rwanda; progress in resolving statelessness issues in Africa; and an update on the ratification and implementation of the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

The Regional Bureau for Africa also looks forward to discussing ways to strengthen further partnership between national and international NGOs and UNHCR.

Moderator: Misikir TILAHUN, *Africa Humanitarian Action*
Speaker(s): Liz AHUA, *Deputy Director*
Steven CORLISS, *Deputy Director*
Raouf MAZOU, *Deputy Director*

THEMATIC SESSIONS

Room 3

Commemorations: A dialogue with refugee women, NGOs & UNHCR

(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish)

This session will present the outcomes of the Regional Dialogues with refugee women that took place in seven UNHCR operations between November 2010 and May 2011. After an introduction by Ms Feller about the Dialogues, ten refugee and displaced women who participated in the Dialogues in five different countries, will shortly present their main protection concerns and proposed solutions. This will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience.

Introduction and final remarks:
Erika FELLER, *Assistant High Commissioner for Protection*

Moderators: Eileen PITTAWAY, *University of New South Wales Australia*
Luisa CREMONESE, *Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Refugee Women, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Speaker(s): Refugee and displaced women from Colombia, Finland, Jordan, Uganda and Zambia

Room 4

Pinheiro into action: Challenges and way forward in housing, land and property rights – Enhancing partnerships

(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

Refugees and other displaced persons often flee leaving behind their houses and properties. When they decide to return to their country and former habitual place of residence, they usually face numerous obstacles to re-acquiring their houses, lands and other property rights. These include destruction of ownership records, to occupation of land and new policies by authorities. Facing these challenges in an environment of post-conflict, and sometimes even on-going conflict, requires a strong institutional leadership and close coordination of all involved actors, including UN agencies and NGO partners.

This session provides a discussion forum to explore these issues and exchange best practices. How can actors join efforts to assist authorities in ensuring effective access and implementation of rights contained in the Pinheiro Principles?

Moderator: Raul HERNANDEZ RODRIGUEZ, *Legal Opción*
Speaker(s): Agnes HURWITZ, *Senior Refugee Law Research Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Barbara MCCALLIN, *IDMC, Norwegian Refugee Council*
Marco ROMERO, *Consultoría para los Derechos Humanos y el Desplazamiento (CODHES)*
Josep ZAPATER, *Senior Protection Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

15h45 – 16h15 COFFEE BREAK – PAUSE CAFÉ

16h15 – 18h00 THEMATIC SESSIONS (interpretation in English-French)

Room 2

Sudan: Partnerships for protection

UNHCR will present a short video on its operations in Sudan, which will focus on all four areas of operations: Southern and eastern Sudan, Darfur and Khartoum. Each panelist will be invited to speak briefly on how to advance protection in Sudan through partnerships in different situations, i.e. internally displaced people, protracted refugee situations, stateless people and in a returnee situation.

The ensuing discussion is expected to come up with a set of recommendations of how partnerships can enhance the protection of people of concern to UNHCR in Sudan.

Moderator: Nadia EL TOM, *Al Manar Association*

Speaker(s): Kediende Mapuor Akec CHONG, *Sudan Council of Churches*
Dominik BARTSCH, *Operations Manager, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*
Domenica COSTANTINI, *Intersos South Sudan*
Simon RUSSELL, *Senior Protection Coordinator, UNHCR Juba*

Room 3

Commemorations: Overview & role of NGOs

(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish)

UNHCR turned 60 last year, and this year marks the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR will facilitate the convening of a ministerial meeting in December to commemorate these landmarks. It is hoped that States will use the meeting to reaffirm their commitment to these instruments and the values and principles that underpin them, and also to revitalize protection and give a new dynamic to the regime. It is envisaged that States will come forward during the meeting with action-oriented and forward-looking pledges to this end.

This session is an opportunity to learn more about preparations for the ministerial meeting and, more specifically, how NGOs can become involved during the remainder of this commemorations year. In particular, this session will address the role of NGOs in engaging with States at national and regional level in the formulation of pledges, to ensure that they are designed to impact concretely and positively the actual situation of refugees and stateless people.

Introduction by Erika Feller, *Assistant High Commissioner (Protection)*

Room 4

REGIONAL SESSION (interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

Bureau for the Americas

Partnerships for local integration of displaced women: Past achievements and current challenges

The region faces increasingly complex protection issues and the search for durable solutions for refugees remains elusive. Local integration, livelihood strategies and coping mechanisms, as well as access to basic services for persons of concern to UNHCR living in urban contexts are all major challenges. In urban environment, displaced women have heightened vulnerabilities and protection needs.

This session will focus on how UNHCR and its partners develop effective protection responses facilitating local integration for displaced women and girls and the sharing of best practices. The session will also look into how cooperation could be strengthened to achieve better results.

Speaker(s): Marta JUAREZ, *Director*
Susan KREHBIEL, *Refugee Council USA*
Luisa CREMONESE, *Senior Coordinator, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Maria Rosa CAJAS, *Fundación Ambiente y Sociedad, Ecuador*

Thursday 30 June 2011 | International Conference Center (ICCG)

08:30 – 10:00

Room 3

THEMATIC SESSION (interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

The struggle to reach durable solutions for IDPs

Many IDPs find themselves in situations of protracted displacement where return is not a feasible option. There is a need to promote and facilitate different settlement options for IDPs to re-establish their lives, including local integration and settlement elsewhere in the country, as outlined in the IASC *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons*.

Governments and international actors have tended to focus on return as a settlement option for IDPs, even in situations where return is not conducive to durable solutions. Local integration can be relevant in protracted displacement situations where return is not possible because of insecurity or unresolved conflict, lack of services and livelihood opportunities in places of origin, or because IDPs have established new networks at their current residence and are reluctant to return.

Finding the right solutions for IDPs is often lengthy and complex. The session will acknowledge that settlement options available to and chosen by IDPs are not necessarily successful and will discuss efforts to promote durable solutions for IDPs, with a special emphasis on local integration.

The session will examine policies and practice which support local integration when return is not an option and will promote the *Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons* as an advocacy and monitoring tool in the search for durable solutions for IDPs.

Moderator: Vladimir HERNANDEZ, *Community and Family Services International*
Speaker(s): Mohammad ALAZAB, *Al Amel Charitable Community for Social Welfare*

Chaloka BEYANI, *Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs*

Kathryn HALFF, *IDMC, Norwegian Refugee Council*

Lucy KIAMA, *Refugee Consortium of Kenya*

Kathrine STARUP, *Danish Refugee Council*

Josep ZAPATER, *Senior Protection Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

10h00 – 11h30

Room 2

PLENARY SESSION (interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)

Report back on the NGO Consultations

Linda BARTOLOMEI, *Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs*

Sofia LASCURAIN, *Rapporteur of the Executive Committee, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations Office at Geneva*

Janet LIM, *Assistant High Commissioner (Operations)*

Daisy DELL, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*

Khassim DIAGNE, *Head of Secretariat a.i., UNHCR*

Julien SCHOPP, *Senior Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

Kemlin FURLEY, *Acting Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*

11h30 – 13h00

Room 2

PLENARY SESSION (interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)

Closing

Erika FELLER, *Assistant High Commissioner (Protection)*

Agenda of side meetings

Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

28 – 30 June 2011 | International Conference Center Geneva, Switzerland

Tuesday 28 June 2011

International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 3

Advocacy within UNHCR's governance structure

Julien SCHOPP, *International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)*
José RIERA, *Special Advisor, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

In this side meeting, participants will develop strategies for strengthening NGOs relationships and advocacy with UNHCR's various governance structures and bodies.

- How can we be more effective in influencing Executive Committee discussions, including with recommendations from the Consultations?
- How can we strengthen a constructive dialogue with host country governments, and how can we support NGOs from these countries in their own advocacy with their governments?
- How can NGO statements to the Executive and Standing Committee meetings be strengthened further, i.e. have more and better input?
- What role can NGOs play in pushing States towards meaningful commitments in their pledges on the occasion of the Commemorations this year, and what can we do in terms of monitoring of, and follow-up to, these pledges?

We will look both at Geneva-level advocacy and what can be done at the country level. We are especially hoping for the participation of national and local partners who may be less familiar with the Geneva-level bodies and processes.

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 4

Turning policy into practice: Implementing the SAFE guidance on cooking fuel

World Food Programme (speaker to be confirmed)

Dorothy MCINTOSH, *Mercy Corps*

Valentine NDIBALEMA, *Senior Technical Officer Environment, UNHCR*

Erin PATRICK, *Women's Refugee Commission*

With the participation of Janet LIM, *Assistant High Commissioner (Operations)*

This session will focus on determining the specific constraints that inhibit consistent and predictable cooking fuel response in humanitarian settings, and discuss how UNHCR and its implementing partners can best work together, using the IASC SAFE guidance as a model, to overcome these constraints and ensure that refugees can safely cook their food.

The outcomes of the side event are to:

- Share and discuss the existing IASC guidance on cooking fuel as a framework for guiding interagency response to cooking fuel needs
- Develop a common understanding amongst participants of cooking fuel-related challenges and possible solutions in a variety of humanitarian contexts
- Understand the opportunities and limitations of using carbon finance for cooking fuel-related programming
- Determine a concrete set of next steps for promoting the implementation of safe and sustainable cooking fuel interventions in a coordinated, predictable and interagency manner
- How humanitarian partners could work together to ensure that IDPs women and children have safe access to appropriate cooking fuel.

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 5 (3rd floor)

Distance Learning: A window of opportunity

Marina ANSELME, *Refugee Education Trust*

Cindy BONFINI, *Jesuit Refugee Service*

Niamh DE LOUGHRY, *World Education*

Don DIPPO, *York University*

Chris TALBOT, *Educationalist*

How can we overcome the challenges of limited resources and capacities to enable refugees to access and successfully complete certified education courses? How can refugee children and young people be supported to become critical thinkers and provide input to societal development?

The impact and extent of technology is expanding, and can facilitate the extension of education to students even in remote contexts.

This session aims to bring together some players working in the field of distance education for refugees, both at secondary and tertiary levels, to share experiences on how they are working on learning through technology.

It aims to open up discussion on how distance education can be used at secondary school level both to increase access to certified programmes in situations where formal schooling access is inadequate or too costly and to improve quality in the event that suitably qualified teachers are not available. It aims to explore the possibility of using distance education as a means to improve teacher quality and capacity, through exposure to teaching methodologies.

The session aims to discuss access for refugees to tertiary level education through distance learning, looking at a couple of different models, and to open the discussion to the range of issues involved in supporting refugee students to access and complete a tertiary education programme appropriate to their needs.

Wednesday 29 June 2011

International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

8h00 – 9h00 • Regional Informal Meetings *(no interpretation)*

Africa & Asia Region • Room 21 (level 0)
Americas, Europe & MENA Region • Room 22 (level 0)

These informal meetings are set up to encourage your organization to meet participants from other NGOs working in the same region/country as your organization to exchange information and share views and ideas in preparation for the Regional Sessions.

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 3

The role of NGOs in protection of refugees fleeing persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity

Eric GITARI, *HIAS Refugee Trust of Kenya*
Rachel LEVITAN, *Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration (ORAM)*
Bulent PEKER, *UNHCR Ankara*
Kaajal RAMJATHAN-KEOGH, *Lawyers for Human Rights*
Michael TIMMINS, *Asylum Access Thailand*

This panel will explore access to NGO service provision by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) refugees. ORAM will highlight results of its first-ever worldwide survey of refugee-assisting NGOs on attitudes toward LGBTI refugees. Other panelists will address institutional barriers (such as homophobia and transphobia among front-line and other NGO staff) as well as institutionalized barriers (such as laws criminalizing same-sex relations and penalizing agencies serving LGBTI individuals). Each panelist will describe effective strategies for addressing these challenges – including staff training, field research, community and NGO network-building through social media and joint advocacy.

For the first time at an Annual Consultations with NGOs, this session will highlight some of the key barriers facing NGOs charged with providing LGBTI asylum seekers and refugees with legal, social and medical protection. The panel will not only explore external challenges (e.g., laws criminalizing homophobia), but more importantly, will address the barriers within NGOs to effective service provision to refugees fleeing persecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It will identify some of the best practices employed by NGOs in combating these barriers – whether through training, advocacy or research. Critically, the panel will encourage NGO representatives to identify barriers within their own organizations to effective LGBTI refugee protection and highlight ways forward.

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 4

Strengthening national RSD systems

Yonathan BERMAN, *Hotline for Migrant Workers*
Fatima KHAN, *University of Cape Town*
Janice MARSHALL, *Deputy Director for Policy and Law, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Karina SARMIENTO, *Asylum Access Ecuador*

Refugee status determination (RSD) is essential to effective refugee protection, especially in cases of mixed migration. It is in principle a state responsibility, but setting up an effective RSD system is complicated, demanding attention to fairness, efficiency, training, and the unique vulnerabilities of asylum-seekers. This panel will discuss what UNHCR and civil society can do to strengthen national RSD systems, with particular focus on the challenges involved in newly established RSD systems.

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 5 (3rd floor)

Towards a protection strategy for children of concern to UNHCR

Karen GULICK, *Chief, Protection Operational Support, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Monika SANDVIK-NYLUND, *Senior Adviser (Children), Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
NGO representatives participating in the session

Children make up almost half of UNHCR's population of concern. Over the years, UNHCR has demonstrated its commitment to protection of children, but more recently through the inclusion of selected child-focused indicators in its Global Strategic Priorities. These relate to best interest determination, child recruitment, birth registration and out-of-school adolescents. In order to further strengthen UNHCR's protection delivery for children of concern to the organization, UNHCR is in the process of developing a multi-year protection strategy for children. The strategy will be developed through a consultative process that will seek to engage UNHCR field staff, partner NGOs, beneficiary communities and children of concern themselves.

The Office wants to use the occasion of the Annual Consultations with NGOs to invite NGO representatives to an interactive and participatory side event as part of the child protection strategy development process.

The objectives of this side event are to:

- Solicit the views, perspectives and inputs of NGO counterparts regarding a UNHCR protection strategy for children of concern.
- Strengthen global partnerships for children.

Programme of Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

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