

2010 UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs



HEALTH AND NUTRITION CENTER
FOR IDPS WOMEN AND CHILDREN
IMPLEMENTED BY

Daryeel First Sohd.o Local Ngos

Buulo jawaanley Camp

GALKANO SOUTH

NATIONAL PARTNERS:

Providers of First Resort



UNHCR

Message from the High Commissioner to the 2010 Annual Consultations with NGOs

ALLOW ME TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME to all of you to these annual consultations with UNHCR's partners. These are the fifth consultations I have had the privilege to be involved in. I do not exaggerate in describing them as among the most thoughtful events of the year, focusing as they invariably do on better meeting the needs of those we care for.

This year's theme of "National Partnerships" could not be more timely. With the approaching anniversaries of UNHCR as an office, the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and others, we have been reflecting deeply on who we are, where we have come from and where we are going.

The increasing interaction of the world's dominant trends --population growth, urbanization, climate change and food, water and energy insecurity-- is producing new and more complex forms of forced displacement. There were already gaps in our response and these can only grow if we fail to develop stronger and more innovative partnerships.

We will need to encourage all forms of partnership but especially national ones. Already we rely heavily on national partnerships in the response to refugees and internally displaced people. In some insecure environments, we are only able to be present through the courage of the staff of national partners. In other environments, the needed expertise or resources may only be available through national partners.

Our growing reliance on partners is evident in the numbers. In 2009, implementing partners accounted for 35.9% (or more than USD 629 million) of total UNHCR expenditure, up from 31.5% of a much lower overall expenditure in 2006 (or just over USD 347 million). NGOs represent 75 percent of that expenditure, which amount to USD 478 million. The share of national NGO expenditure as a proportion of total NGO expenditure has increased steadily to nearly 44 percent in 2009, which represents more than USD 209 million.

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 Misikir Tilahun for his role as the Rapporteur of the Annual Consultations with NGOs and the Rapporteur of UNHCR's Executive Committee, Melissa Pitotti, for attending.

It is often at the local level that problems are most acutely felt and where solutions must be found. Local partners are not merely implementers of UNHCR's programmes. They are full partners and are frequently better placed to design, develop and implement programmes specifically adapted to the needs of the population being cared for.

Especially in the initial response to a forced displacement crisis, it is the local population and civil society organizations who provide help. International organizations such as UNHCR and its international NGO partners need more fully to support this vital first line of response. With the amalgamation of emergency, supply and security functions into a single Division (DESS), UNHCR believes it is better positioned to do this.

Going forward, we need to ensure our partnerships are more and more strategic, anticipating and responding to the new forms of displacement. I see three areas in particular where we will need to forge or reinforce our partnerships.

While most refugees already now live in urban areas, our protection and assistance approach has not kept pace. A more effective response will require new partnerships, particularly with municipal authorities, and increased reliance upon the ingenuity of effectiveness of NGOs.

Second, and increasingly destined to urban areas themselves, we need to strengthen our response to the refugees and migrants constituting the so-called "mixed" flows. Assuring respect for the dignity of every one in such movements is a human rights



UNHCR / P. STROMBERG

SUDAN: UNHCR HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES ANTÓNIO GUTERRES MEETING WITH WOMEN IN KRINDING II IDP CAMP, NEAR THE WEST DARFUR CAPITAL OF EL GENBINA.

imperative but one extending beyond UNHCR's specific mandate. Cooperation among key partners is the very first of the ten points in UNHCR's framework of response.

Third, with conflict proving more and more resilient, solutions are becoming harder to find. Voluntary repatriation in 2009 was the lowest in twenty years, with just over 250,000 refugees returning home – less than a quarter of the number in 2005. Inevitably, this means refugees will be refugees for longer periods of time. We must strengthen partnerships delivering education and other vital life skills so every refugee can say, in the words of this year's World Refugee Day theme, "you can take away my home but you can't take away my future."

The annual consultations have been formatted to allow us to examine these and other issues together. I look forward very much to what I am sure will be engaging and productive discussions.

António Guterres

Agenda at a Glance

Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

29 – 30 June 2010 | International Conference Center Geneva, Switzerland
1 July 2010 | Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Tuesday 29 June 2010 | International Conference Center ICCG

	ROOM
11:00 – 13:00 WELCOME AND OPENING ADDRESS ACCUEIL ET DISCOURS D'OUVERTURE	2
<i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)</i>	
Alexander ALEINIKOFF, <i>Deputy High Commissioner</i>	
Erika FELLER, <i>Assistant High Commissioner for Protection</i>	
Mamadou NDIAYE, <i>Office africain pour le développement et la coopération</i>	
Daisy DELL, <i>Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR</i>	
Bernard DOYLE, <i>Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR</i>	
Ed SCHENKENBERG, <i>Coordinator, International Council of Voluntary Agencies</i>	
13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH	
14:00 – 15:45 THEMATIC SESSIONS SÉANCES THÉMATIQUES	
<i>(interpretation in English-French)</i>	
Making it work: From policy to practice in urban settings	
Pragmatisme : de la politique à la pratique en milieu urbain	2
 <i>(for Partnership session only, interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)</i>	
Partnerships: Strengthening partnerships at local-national level	
Partenariats : renforcer les partenariats aux niveaux local et national	3
Promoting the rights and protection of stateless persons: Issues, challenges and ways forward	
Promouvoir les droits et la protection des apatrides : questions, défis et perspectives	4
15:45 – 16:15 COFFEE BREAK	
16:15 – 18:00 THEMATIC SESSIONS SÉANCES THÉMATIQUES	
<i>(interpretation in English-French)</i>	
Making it work: From policy to practice in urban settings (continued)	
Pragmatisme : de la politique à la pratique en milieu urbain	2
 <i>(for Partnership session only, interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)</i>	
Partnerships: Strengthening partnerships at local-national level (continued)	
Partenariats : renforcer les partenariats aux niveaux local et national	3
Back to basics: Listening and acting on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse together	
Retour aux fondamentaux : écouter et agir ensemble pour prévenir l'exploitation et les sévices sexuels	4
18:30 Reception UNHCR Cafeteria, UNHCR main building (94, rue de Montbrillant)	

Wednesday 30 June 2010 | International Conference Center ICCG

	ROOM
09:00 – 10:45 REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in Arabic-English-French)</i> MENA Bureau	2
THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i> Protecting all IDPs • Protéger l'ensemble des déplacés internes	3
10:45 – 11:15 COFFEE BREAK	
11:15 – 13:00 REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in English-Russian)</i> Europe Bureau	2
THEMATIC SESSIONS SÉANCES THÉMATIQUES <i>(interpretation in English-French-Russian)</i> Protecting all IDPs (continued) • Protéger l'ensemble des déplacés internes	3
<i>(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)</i> Working together: Strategies for protection from xenophobia, racism, intolerance and bias-motivated violence Œuvrer ensemble : stratégies de protection contre la xénophobie, le racisme, l'intolérance et la violence	4
13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH	
14:00 – 15:45 REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in English-Russian)</i> Asia Bureau	2
THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i> A harsh life in long-term exile – partnerships for overcoming vulnerabilities and empowering women – Une vie difficile pendant un long exil – partenariats pour surmonter les fragilités et autonomiser les femmes	3
REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in English-Spanish)</i> Americas Bureau	4
15:45 – 16:15 COFFEE BREAK	
16:15 – 18:00 REGIONAL SESSION SÉANCE RÉGIONALE <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i> Africa Bureau	2
THEMATIC SESSION SÉANCE THÉMATIQUE <i>(interpretation in English-French)</i> A harsh life in long-term exile – partnerships for overcoming vulnerabilities and empowering women – Une vie difficile pendant un long exil – partenariats pour surmonter les fragilités et autonomiser les femmes	3

Thursday 1 July 2010 | Palais des Nations Geneva

- 10:00 – 11:00** **PLENARY SESSION | SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE** **XIX**
(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)
Report back on the NGO Consultations • Rapport sur les consultations avec les ONG
Misikir TILAHUN, *Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs*
Melissa PITOTTI, *Permanent Mission of the United States of America,*
Rapporteur of the Executive Committee
Daisy DELL, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*
Catherine WALKER, *Head, Secretariat and Inter-Agency Service, UNHCR*
Manisha THOMAS, *Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*
Bernard DOYLE, *Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*
- 11:00 – 13:00** **CLOSING ADDRESS | DISCOURS DE CLÔTURE** **XIX**
(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)
António GUTERRES, *High Commissioner for Refugees*

Tuesday 29 June 2010 | International Conference Center ICCG

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

Room 2

Welcome and Opening Address

Alexander ALEINIKOFF, *Deputy High Commissioner*
Erika FELLER, *Assistant High Commissioner for Protection*
Mamadou NDIAYE, *Office africain pour le développement et la coopération*
Daisy DELL, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*
Bernard DOYLE, *Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*
Ed SCHENKENBERG, *Coordinator, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

13h00 – 14h00 **LUNCH**

14h00 – 15h45 **THEMATIC SESSIONS** (interpretation in English-French)

Room 2

Making it work: From policy to practice in urban settings

This session will examine good practices and successful programs that use a rights-based approach to protect and assist asylum-seekers and refugees in urban settings. The goal of the session will be to identify models for enhance and innovative partnership between UNHCR and the NGO community in meeting refugee needs in urban areas.

Recommended readings prior to this session are: UNHCR policy statement on “Refugee Protection and Solutions in Urban Areas” (see <http://www.unhcr.org/4ab356ab6.html>) and the 2009 High Commissioner’s Dialogue on the theme of “Challenges for Persons of Concern in Urban Settings” (see <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a12a4a26.html>).

This session will consist of two short panel presentations in a plenary format each, followed by breakout sessions designed to enable participants to interact freely, exchange examples of good practice, and contribute recommendations on the implementation of UNHCR’s new urban refugee policy. The overarching approach of both the panels and the breakout sessions will be to highlight partnerships between local and international actors, including UNHCR, in addressing the needs of refugees in urban areas.

Rapporteurs will compile the recommendations made by participants in a ‘session summary’ that will be made available as a catalyst for future action and as a contribution to implementation of the UNHCR policy statement on urban refugees.

Panel One

*Enhancing protection
by addressing legal and human rights concerns*

Moderator:
Loren LANDAU, *Forced Migration Studies Programme,
University of Witwatersrand*

Panelists:
Laban OSORO, *Kituo cha Sheria (Legal Advice Center)*
Taya HUNT, *Jesuit Refugee Service*
José RIERA, *Senior Adviser to the Director of the
Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Panel Two

*Enhancing protection
by re-envisioning assistance in urban settings*

Moderator:
Mary JO BACA, *International Medical Corps*

Panelists:
Valentiana QUSSISIYA, *Jordan River Foundation,*
Siti Mariam Nuzuriah,
Church World Service/PURE Project
Eva AHLÉN, *Senior Education Officer,
Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Room 3

Partnerships: Strengthening partnerships at local-national level

(for Partnership session only, interpretation in Arabic English-French-Russian-Spanish)

UNHCR's largest single group of implementing partners are national and local organisations. Around 79% of UNHCR partners are local/national organizations. For this reason, support to national partners and assistance with their capacity development is one of the priorities of UNHCR. Strengthening capacity is an essential element in preparedness for an effective response in times of peace and also in emergencies.

Aim of the session:

The overall idea of this session is to examine ways to improve the effectiveness of partnership between national partners and international organisations such as UNHCR.

During the session, speakers on the panel will share their experiences and views on the challenges in terms of capacity development and working together.

There will be three breakout groups each of which will discuss different aspects of this issue and will return for a final plenary discussion with concrete recommendations.

Moderator: Mamadou NDIAYE, *Office africain pour le développement et la coopération*

Speaker(s): Hawa Adan MOHAMED, *Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development*
Abdul Muneim Ahmmed HASAN, *United Foundation for Relief and Abiding Development*
Philippe GUITON, *World Vision International*
Cagatay DEMIROZ, *External Relations Officer, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*
Bernard DOYLE, *Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*

Janet LIM, *Assistant High Commissioner Operations* will respond to the discussion.

Room 4

Promoting the rights and protection of stateless persons: Issues, challenges and ways forward

This session focuses on how civil society and UNHCR can promote the rights and protection of stateless persons around the world. In the first part of the panel, speakers discuss some of the practical challenges involved in addressing statelessness at multiple levels of engagement: from community organizing amongst stateless populations, to research and policy advocacy, to creating commitment in the international community for the prevention and reduction of statelessness.

Speakers will reflect on the types of concrete actions that can be taken at the national, regional, and international levels as well as share perspectives on how statelessness can be integrated into policy discussions around citizenship, asylum, migration and human rights. In the second part of the panel, participants are invited to share their own experiences and to make practical recommendations for how civil society and UNHCR can advance the rights and protection of stateless persons more effectively, in particular in the context of the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Moderator: Alice NAH, *National Human Rights Society, Hakam*

Speaker(s): Gábor GYULAI, *Hungarian Helsinki Committee*
Nanthini RAMALO, *Education and Research Association for Consumers*
Mark MANLY, *Head, Statelessness Unit, UNHCR*

15h45 – 16h15 COFFEE BREAK

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

Room 2

Making it work: From policy to practice in urban settings *(continued)*

The session continues.

Room 3

Partnerships: Strengthening partnerships at local-national level *(continued)*

(for Partnership session only, interpretation in Arabic English-French-Russian-Spanish)

The session continues.

Room 4

Back to basics: Listening and acting on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse together

Since the 2002 UNHCR/Save the Children report on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in West Africa by humanitarian aid workers of refugees and other vulnerable populations, much work has been done to better protect populations from SEA. There was much work done in the context of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on prevention from SEA (PSEA) before the issue was moved to the UN only bodies. UNHCR and NGOs worked closely together to develop the Building Safer Organizations' project, originally housed by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and then later by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International (HAP), which worked to develop complaints and response mechanisms for beneficiaries and the investigative capacity of humanitarian organizations to follow up on allegations of SEA by their staff. Over the years, however, the focus on PSEA seems to have diminished. There have been mixed messages about PSEA, with the result that it is often mixed in with gender based violence (GBV). PSEA by aid workers is a gross breach of accountability to affected populations.

In 2009, the IASC agreed to a stock-taking and needs analysis to look at where the humanitarian community is with regards to PSEA and to suggest ways forward. The draft report found that, while much progress has been made, it is inadequate, particularly in terms of accountability and leadership. The review found that, at a policy and guidance level, organizations, in general, have made substantive progress, but that acceptance and absorption of this guidance at the field level must increase. The report recommends a number of ways forward that NGOs and UNHCR should take seriously, as well as suggesting that the issue of PSEA be brought back to the IASC, which includes both UN and non-UN humanitarian agencies. Humanitarian organizations have a direct responsibility to prevent SEA by their staff. This panel will not only provide an overview of some of the efforts made to date on PSEA, but will look at practical ways in which NGOs and UNHCR can work to better protect populations from SEA.

Chair: Katharina SAMARA, *Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International*
Speaker(s): Moira REDDICK, *Consultant on IASC Prevention Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*
Philippe KARANI, *Senior Liaison Officer, UNHCR*

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

Wednesday 30 June 2010 | International Conference Center ICCG

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

Room 2

MENA Bureau

The MENA region generates and hosts a considerable number of refugees and displaced persons. Despite the harsh effect of the global financial crisis on the already fragile economies of the host countries, efforts were made to absorb these populations. As such, UNHCR strategy focuses on the provision of protection and basic humanitarian assistance, including self-reliance opportunities to refugees and others of concern, while searching for durable solutions.

The discussions will be geared towards strengthening partnership with relevant government and civil society institutions as well national and international NGOs with a view to enlarge the protection space through promoting the establishment of national legal frameworks and responsive asylum systems

Chair: Barges AL-BARGES, *Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society*
Moderator: Jala AL-JAZARI, *Syrian Women Union*
Speaker(s): Radhouane NOUCER, *Director*
Ursula ABOUBACAR, *Deputy Director*

THEMATIC SESSION

Room 3

Protecting all IDPs (interpretation in English-French-Russian)

In many situations, IDPs are often “invisible” to international agencies, either by choice or as a result of particular type of displacement for which humanitarian organizations have not developed sufficient expertise. In these cases, it is challenging for UNHCR and NGOs to identify and locate IDPs, and develop interventions, which respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of each group whilst also taking into account the situation of host populations.

The aim of the session is to discuss the specific challenges of identifying IDPs as the majority are outside camps, to make concrete recommendations on how to provide effective protection and assistance to IDPs outside camps, including to groups with special vulnerabilities and needs. Partnerships, especially international – national, and UN – NGOs / CBOs will be given special consideration throughout the session.

Moderator: Loren LANDAU, *Forced Migration Studies Programme, University of Witwatersrand*
Speaker(s): Laban OSORO, *Kituo cha Sheria (Legal Advice Center)*
Marzia MONTEMURRO, *IDMC, Norwegian Refugee Council*
Kathrine STARUP, *Danish Refugee Council*
Josep ZAPATER, *Senior Protection Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Working Group

Facilitator(s): Leonard ZULU, *Senior Protection Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Christophe BEAU, *IDMC, Norwegian Refugee Council*
Claus LARSEN, *Danish Refugee Council*
Speaker(s): Hawa Adan MOHAMED, *Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development*
Munyaradzi CHAUMBA, *Caritas Zimbabwe*
Svetlana GANNUSHKINA, *Memorial Human Rights Centre*

10h45 – 11h15 **COFFEE BREAK**

11h15 – 13h00 **REGIONAL SESSION** (interpretation in English-Russian)

Room 2

Europe Bureau

Partnerships for refugee protection: Preserving and expanding asylum space in Europe

Humanitarian space, including asylum space, is under strain in many parts of the world. Europe is no exception. In some countries in Europe, internal displacement continues to be a major challenge, with internally displaced persons facing limited prospects for durable solutions. In the European Union, efforts continue to build a Common European Asylum System, but there is still a large gap between law and practice and there is little political will to raise standards further. Access to the EU and to the territory of other countries for persons seeking protection becomes ever more difficult.

In the Western Balkans, efforts to put an end to the protracted displacement situation continue. At the same time, the region is coming under growing pressure from migratory flows, including persons who are seeking and may be in need of international protection. Investment in building protection capacity in countries of Eastern Europe has borne fruit in some countries but not in others. Overall the region is witnessing a worrying 'slow onset' deterioration of asylum. There are also large numbers of stateless people in Europe, as well as individuals at risk of statelessness.

In the limited time available at the Consultations it will not be possible to discuss all these issues. As separate thematic sessions are foreseen on IDPs and stateless persons, as well as on combating xenophobia, it is proposed to focus the discussion with NGO partners on how we can strengthen our partnership to preserve and expand refugee protection space across Europe. UNHCR and Human Rights Watch will introduce this topic before opening the floor to discussion. It is suggested to focus the discussion on access to territory, quality of asylum systems, and expanding prospects for durable solutions, including integration and resettlement.

Moderator: Walter BRILL, *International Catholic Migration Commission*

Speaker(s): Judith KUMIN, *Director*

Bill FRELICK, *Human Rights Watch*

THEMATIC SESSIONS

Room 3

Protecting all IDPs (continued) (interpretation in English-French-Russian)

The session continues.

Room 4

Working together: Strategies for protection from xenophobia, racism, intolerance and bias-motivated violence (interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss strategies for improving protection for refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees stateless and internally displaced persons who are affected by xenophobia, racism, racial discrimination, intolerance, and bias-motivated violence. The panel's topic – focused on collaborative action and strengthening national partnerships – complements the overarching theme of the 2010 Annual NGO Consultations, as efforts to mitigate xenophobia, racism, intolerance and bias-related violence require the development of collaborative actions involving States, civil society, UNHCR, and other stakeholders, including international and regional organizations.

The discussion will address human rights standards, existing efforts to combat these challenges, models for effective national partnerships and civil society engagement with States, and tools and best practices to strengthen NGO advocacy and assistance efforts. Written resources that may assist groups as they develop or revise plans to address these challenges will also be shared, including UNHCR's December 2009 Strategy Note on Combating Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance Through a Strategic Approach. The discussion will also highlight areas for greater collaboration as well as steps that should be taken towards a more comprehensive approach. The panel will help spark a discussion on existing gaps, recommendations for addressing those gaps, as well as roles that can and should be played by states, UNHCR, civil society and other stakeholders. Participants are encouraged to identify concrete recommendations for cooperation in this field.

In addition to the panelists, the following persons will participate in the discussions and be ready to share their experiences. Duncan Breen, The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA) and Mactar Ndoye, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Moderator: Tad STAHNKE, *Human Rights First*
Speaker(s): Luz Marina BECERRA, *Association for Displaced Afro-Colombians*
Githu MUIGAI, *UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance*
Larry OLOMOOFE, *Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE-ODIHR)*
Voker TURK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

13h00 – 14h00 LUNCH

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

Room 2

Asia Bureau

New challenges and stronger partnerships in the Asia-Pacific

Building new and innovative partnerships constitutes an important way forward towards overcoming some of the key challenges that UNHCR continues to face in the provision of protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern in the Asia-Pacific region.

Foremost among those are issues particularly related to the shrinking of humanitarian space in general, including the erosion of protection and asylum space. Working in high risk security environment is a reality in several operations requiring a new approach in partnership and reaching out to beneficiary communities. Furthermore, and taking into consideration that the region is particularly prone to natural disasters, the Consultations provide an excellent opportunity to examine partnerships also in the context of building protection capacity in natural disaster situations.

During the session, the Director of the Bureau for the Asia-Pacific will provide an overview of the above challenges which are among UNHCR's key regional priorities, to be followed by presentations from selected national NGOs. The session aims to shape concrete recommendations on the best approach to partnerships in the above areas.

Moderator: Steven MUNCY, *Community and Family Services International*
Speaker(s): Kasidis ROCHANAKORN, *Director*
Shakir ISHAQ, *Basic Education for Afghan Refugees (BEFARE)*
Andrew KHOO, *Bar Council Malaysia*

THEMATIC SESSION (interpretation in English-French)

Room 3

A harsh life in long-term exile – partnerships for overcoming vulnerabilities and empowering women

During the first part of the session, participants will be updated by UNHCR on the follow up to the 2008 High Commissioner Dialogue on Protection Challenges concerning protracted refugee situations (PRS). The second part of the session will focus mainly on the situations of women in protracted situations.

Presenters will frame the two subjects for discussion – violence against women in PRS and livelihoods - by presenting four case studies on their practical experience and on example of effective partnerships at national and local level. Participants will be then divided into two break-out sessions with the aim of mapping examples of effective partnerships and of elaborating recommendations for effective partnerships, which help to improve the situation of women. The sessions will look specifically at the protracted situations of refugee women in camp settings.

Moderator: Karin KEIL, *Caritas Austria*
Speaker: Jean-François DURIEUX, *Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*

Working Group

Moderator: Daisy FRANCIS, *Catholic Relief Services*
Speaker(s): Lucy KIAMA, *Refugee Consortium of Kenya*
Mungreiphy SHIMRAY, *Caritas India*
Leonie DOCHAMOU, *Caritas Benin*
Najla CHAHDA, *Caritas Lebanon*

Room 4

REGIONAL SESSION *(interpretation in English-Spanish)*

Americas Bureau

Protection in mixed migratory movements: Importance of national partnerships

The Bureau will provide a summary of the main recommendations further to the San Jose Conference and will point out the importance of all partnerships including those with national NGOs.

Moderator: Emilio CHÁVEZ, *Sin Fronteras*
Speaker(s): Marta JUAREZ, *Director*
Agostino MULAS, *Senior Desk Officer*
Davide TORZILLI, *Senior Protection Officer*

15h45 – 16h15 COFFEE BREAK

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

Room 2

Africa Bureau

The Africa Regional Session will allow for an open exchange between the NGO participants and the Director of the Africa Bureau and his management team. The Director will make an opening statement that will provide an overview of plans for UNHCR's operations on the continent next year, while also focusing key areas where the Bureau hopes to engage with NGO implementing partners in strengthening our programmes, including realizing the potential of results-based management, including use of *Focus*, and financial due diligence and accountability.

During the session, the Director of the Bureau will also highlight the importance of the African Union Kampala Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa adopted last year, and the crucial role that NGOs and other civil society actors can play in encouraging governments to sign, ratify and implement this ground breaking instrument.

The Africa Bureau would also look forward to an exchange with NGO participants regarding sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), which continues to terrorize people of concern of UNHCR and its partners, including how to move forward more decisively from a focus on process and procedures to delivering services to survivors and ensuring against impunity.

Moderator: Mark LEVERI, *Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service*
Speaker(s): George OKOTH-OBBO, *Director*
Marie-Christine BOCOUM, *Deputy Director*
Steven CORLISS, *Deputy Director*
Raouf MAZOU, *Deputy Director*

Room 3

THEMATIC SESSION *(interpretation in English-French)*

A harsh life in long-term exile – partnerships for overcoming vulnerabilities and empowering women *(continued)*

The session continues.

Thursday 1 July 2010 | Palais des Nations Geneva

10h00 –11h00 **PLENARY SESSION** (interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)

Room XIX

Report back on the NGO Consultations

Misikir TILAHUN, *Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs*

Melissa PITOTTI, *Permanent Mission of the United States of America,*

Rapporteur of the Executive Committee

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

Catherine WALKER, *Head, Secretariat and Inter-Agency Service, UNHCR*

Manisha THOMAS, *Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

Bernard DOYLE, *Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*

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

Room XIX

Closing Address by

António GUTERRES, *High Commissioner for Refugees*

Tuesday 29 June 2010

International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 3

Alternatives to immigration detention

Jane RASMUSSEN, *Senior Legal Officer, Asylum Migration, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Pia OBEROI, *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*

Grant MITCHELL, *International Detention Coalition*

Alice EDWARDS, *Oxford Refugee Studies Centre*

Background: Governments around the world are increasingly using detention as a migration management tool, with hundreds of thousands of men, women and children detained in conditions falling below international standards and that deny basic rights. Where a government intends to detain a person for immigration-related reasons, it should first consider and pursue alternatives before detention, in compliance with international and regional human rights standards. While many governments fail to utilize alternatives to detention or focus on restrictive or intrusive options, or on different forms of detention, some governments are implementing alternatives with success. This includes community-based alternatives to detention that ensure the rights, dignity and well being of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Expectation: This session follows the side meeting on Alternatives to Detention held during the 2009 UNHCR Executive Committee of the High Commissioner (EXCOM) attended by 30 governments, and meetings held during the 12th and 13th Sessions of the Human Rights Council. The panel discussion aims to update participants on the current alternative to detention (ATD) trends, research initiatives and the range of positive ATD developments in the past year. Individuals and groups are invited to share experiences of examples of alternatives to detention, good practice and lessons learned.

The meeting will assist both current ATD research projects, inform participants of developments, help shape the upcoming EXCOM side meeting and UNHCR Global ATD Roundtable, discuss developments at the Human Rights Council and relevant work of OHCHR, and to explore international, regional and national advocacy opportunities, challenges and priorities.

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 4

The Sphere Project: Achievements and ways forward

Mary PICARD, *Consultant, Co-author of revised Humanitarian Charter*

Roland SCHLOTT, *Lutheran World Federation*

Aninia NADIG, *The Sphere Project*

This session will provide a brief general introduction to the Sphere Project and its activities – both at the Project office in Geneva, and presenting an example of the institutionalization and practical application of Sphere by an NGO. We will then discuss specific aspects of the current Handbook revision process, focusing in particular on the revised Humanitarian Charter, the corner stone of the Sphere Handbook. It spells out the core legal and moral principles that govern humanitarian action and asserts the right of populations to protection and assistance. Sphere is based upon these core values.

Given its importance, it will also be a stand-alone document. Other Handbook chapters can be discussed during the side event, at the request of participants.

The Sphere Project is an initiative by NGOs and the Red-Cross – Red-Crescent movement and contributes to improving the quality and accountability in humanitarian response. Its Handbook collects a set of broadly agreed-upon minimum standards in disaster response.

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 5 (3rd floor)

**From the margins to the centre:
Realizing the rights of Refugee Women and Girls
A Meeting of the International Working Group to monitor the implementation of
the ExCom Conclusion on Women and Girls at Risk**

Linda BARTOLOMEI, *University of New South Wales*
Luisa CREMONESE, *Senior Coordinator Women and Gender, CDGECs, UNHCR*
Dale BUSCHER, *Women's Refugee Commission*
Salwa ALHAG, *Australian National Committee on Refugee Women*
Melika Yassin SHEIKH-ELDIN, *Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES)*

The panel will discuss our ongoing efforts to bring the concerns of refugee women and girls to the centre of protection work and to recognize refugee women and girls as key agents of social change within their communities. Progress will be reviewed and some of the ongoing challenges in fighting for the rights of refugee women and girls to protection, safe livelihoods and gender equality will be discussed. Refugee women will share their experiences of advocating for the rights of refugee women during various stages of the refugee journey.

During this session, UNHCR will present a new tool to raise awareness on the rights of displaced women and facilitate the understanding of women rights and how to work them at field level. This tool is composed by four short movies and a companion guide, which helps to identify the rights of women and the corresponding actions taken by UNHCR to protect them.

Wednesday 30 June 2010

International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG)

8h00 – 9h00 • Regional Informal Meetings

Africa Region • Room 5 • 3rd floor
Americas Region • Room 12 • 2nd floor
Asia Region • Room 6 • 3rd floor
Europe Region • Room 19 • 3rd floor
MENA Region • Room 20 • 3rd floor

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. One room has been allocated per region. **Coffee will be available.**

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 3

UNHCR's mandate status determination (RSD) procedures: Progress and current challenges

Suzanne DUFF, *Senior Legal Officer, RSD Unit, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Rachel LEVITAN, *Helsinki Citizens Assembly Turkey*
Michael KAGAN, *Asylum Access*

In recent years, UNHCR has introduced new standards, training programmes and pilot projects to improve the way it conducts refugee status determination (RSD) in dozens of countries around the world. At the same time, UNHCR faces continuing challenges in providing adequate resources for its RSD operations. NGOs have generally welcomed the changes that UNHCR has made, but have continuing concerns about some UNHCR RSD policies and about the pace of implementation. The panel will give an overview of recent developments and current challenges in UNHCR RSD reform, and will open the floor to wider discussion about UNHCR's mandate RSD activities.

13h00 – 14h00 • Room 4

Advocacy for the Rights of Refugees through Domestic Legislation

Anoop SUKUMARAN, *Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum Asia)*

Gopal KRISHNA, *INHURED International*

Sarah PETRIN WILLIAMSON, *US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*

Youngah PARK, *Korean Public Interest Lawyer's Group, GONGGAM*

This side session focuses on the protection of the rights of refugees through domestic legislation in Asia. This is of particular importance in non-Convention signatory countries, where specific legislation on refugees is often non-existent. Speakers will discuss the efforts made by national civil society groups and lawyers in using existing legislation to protect asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons, as well as in proposing additional legislation to strengthen the rights of refugees in different countries in Asia. Through the presentations and ensuing discussion, we hope to explore identify areas of concerns and challenges while advocating for domestic law as well as to examine potential areas for civil society collaboration, action and advocacy across borders.

Thursday 1 July 2010

Palais des Nations Geneva

9h00 – 10h00 • Room XXII

**From strategy to action:
Next steps for supporting strong partnerships to address SGBV
in displaced settings**

Heidi LEHMANN, *International Rescue Committee*
Volker TURK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is one of the most urgent, grave and pervasive problems facing displaced women and girls around the world. To address this issue, UNHCR has developed a five-year (2010-2015) strategy that will improve the Organization's ability to work in partnership to prevent and respond to SGBV. This document provides a framework for confronting this complex, multi-faceted problem and for harnessing a unified, multi-sectoral response. Specifically, it outlines a set of institutional and programmatic focus areas to guide UNHCR's strategic direction over the next five years. It highlights steps needed to institutionalize SGBV as a core protection concern within UNHCR, enhance leadership and accountability on this issue, promote collaborative partnerships, build knowledge, and enhance data collection. Finally, the document directs attention to strategic priorities for SGBV programming.

The purpose of this side meeting is to provide UNHCR with an opportunity to share and review this strategy with the NGO community and to allow for a joint discussion between UNHCR and NGOs on critical next steps for its full implementation. Discussion will focus on what is needed to ensure that implementation efforts result in effective partnerships that bring concrete and tangible improvements to the protection of displaced women and girls in displacement settings.

9h00 – 10h00 • Room XXIII

Promoting Resettlement in Europe - Partnership with NGOs

George JOSEPH, *Caritas*
Vincent COCHETEL, *Deputy Director, Comprehensive Solutions, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Martin WATSON, *European Council on Refugees and Exiles*

The aim of the session is to promote awareness on the importance of partnerships between international and local/national organisations in resettling refugees and to mobilise partners to advocate for a (higher) resettlement quota in more European countries. The specific objective is to share approaches and tools to influence targeted national policy makers and politicians who determine the number of places allocated to resettlement.

Panellists will present the advantages of tripartite consultation and cooperation in designing and implementing resettlement operations and programmes in Europe. Based on lobbying experience with governmental agencies, panellists will analyse what has worked in the past, and why it was successful. The side-event intends to focus on areas where more involvement could be envisaged through the promotion of tripartite consultations on a national level. The session should also incite a discussion on how trust between the partners can be established in order to initiate or strengthen operational cooperation in resettlement operations.

The expected outcome is an increased level of awareness and knowledge of current resettlement activities as well as clear ideas on areas where resettlement cooperation can be enhanced.

13h15 – 14h45 • Room XXII

A hearing on Boat People: Different people, different needs and rights to protection

Alice CHARBONNEAU-BLOOMFIELD, *International Catholic Migration Commission*

Anja KLUG, *Head, Asylum/Migration Team, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Houssam MU' ALLEM, *International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society tbc*

Representatives of IOM and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Unit tbc

Brief description: What are the needs of today's boat people—and how can these needs be differentiated and matched to rights and practical responses of protection and assistance—among boat people arriving in Europe or Yemen from Africa; in the US from Haiti; in various parts of south and southeast Asia and Australia from Burma or Sri Lanka, or following other sea crossings? This session is organized as a hearing, not a series of presentations. It will begin with a brief introduction of the importance of differentiating needs and rights to protection and assistance among all the people arriving, (i.e., refugees, victims of human trafficking and smuggling, victims of torture, children, etc.) Conclusions from an experts roundtable in Tunis last year will then be offered as a reference, which participants will be invited to comment upon and at the end of the session, consider supporting. During the bulk of the session however, panelists from UNHCR, IOM, IFRC and UNODC will serve as a hearing board: listening, probing and recording the experience, concrete practices and recommendations of NGO participants who respond to boat people, either in Europe or in other parts of the world. Input will then be organized and submitted to the international organizations and to government policy makers, including the European Union and Council of Europe through the new EU-funded NGO partnership “DRIVE” (Differentiation for Refugee Identification and Vulnerability Evaluation).

13h15 – 14h45 • Room XXIII

Count me in: Birth Registration – a protection tool

Volker TURK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Simon HEAP, *Plan International*

Denise ALLEN, *World Vision International*

Maha MUNA, *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*

Although a child's right to an identity is set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), it is estimated that over 51 million of children every year are not registered at birth. Millions of refugee, displaced and stateless children are denied the right to registration at birth and to an identity. The goal of 100% birth registration for children who fall under UNHCR's mandate continues to be a challenge in many parts of the world due to legal, administrative, political, and cultural obstacles. UNHCR estimates that only 46% of newborn refugees in camps are issued birth certificates and 59% of refugees in urban areas. As NGOs have similar concerns regarding low birth registration rates and the protection of refugee and stateless children, we welcome that birth registration has been suggested as a potential theme for an ExCom conclusion. A specific interactive side-event has been set up to:

- Raise awareness on the policy and operational challenges for birth registration
- Identify gaps at policy and operational levels
- Identify existing experiences and practices that address some of these challenges.

Expert's speakers will provide background and information on the current situation regarding birth registration of persons of concern to UNHCR, outline protection challenges and risks for undocumented children. The working groups will address the challenges of birth registration and some practices that have been developed to address them.

The side event will end with a summary of the debate and recommendations on how to move this subject forward.
Sandwiches and drinks will be served 13.00.

Programme of Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

29 June - 1st July 2010

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