

**Opening Statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
at the Sixty-Seventh Session
of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme**

(Geneva, 3 October 2016)

Elements

In his opening statement to the sixty-seventh session of the Executive Committee, the High Commissioner will share his analysis of the context of forced displacement today, the key elements which are emerging in the process of an internal reflection on UNHCR's strategic directions for the next five years, and his observations on the way forward following the United Nations General Assembly Summit on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants that took place on 19 September.

- Operating environment: dimensions, speed and complexity of forced displacement, protection challenges and rising xenophobia, pressure on hosting States and communities, new and ongoing emergencies; growing recognition of need for new approaches, high-level events in 2016 as a powerful platform for mobilizing international solidarity;
- UNHCR strategic directions: an overview of internal reflection on the key priorities for advancing protection and solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless people;
- Key emerging priorities:
 - protection as the central pillar of UNHCR's engagement;
 - emergency preparedness and response;
 - engaging development actors - new approaches and opportunities;
 - internal displacement - achieving a more predictable and robust collective response;
 - preventing, addressing and eliminating statelessness;
 - pursuing a solutions orientation from the outset, voluntary repatriation, expanding resettlement and alternative pathways;
- Key approaches: principles, people first, participation and accountability, presence, partnership;
- Internal capacities and systems: efficient, agile accountable systems, streamlined policy development, headquarters-field relationship, creativity and innovation, investing in our workforce, staying and delivering;
- New York Declaration and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework: making these concrete - the way forward.

*UNHCR
20 September 2016*