

## NOTE ON THE AGENDA FOR PROTECTION

1. The Agenda for Protection and its Programme of Action, which resulted from the Global Consultations on International Protection, sets out an agreed framework for pursuing protection priorities globally. It was endorsed in 2002 by UNHCR's Executive Committee and welcomed by the General Assembly.
2. The agenda was the product of a multilateral process and was intended as more than only a catalogue of good intentions. It was designed to give focus to those elements of protection which could benefit from strengthened multilateral cooperation and collective responsibility. While States are of course primarily responsible for protection, partnership of action, built around the concept of burden sharing, is a central feature of the Agenda. In this context, the role of UNHCR as a catalyst and facilitator, acting on the basis of its mandate, is emphasized. The Agenda also underlines the role and contribution of other partners, based on their relative advantages, mandates, expertise and standing.
3. Upon its adoption, the Executive Committee recognized that implementation of the Agenda would be a multi-year undertaking. In its Conclusion No. 92, the Committee called upon UNHCR to report to it both on its implementation of the Agenda and on the activities of States and other partners.
4. During the past five years, UNHCR has accordingly reported annually to the Executive Committee on its implementation of the Agenda through its annual Note on International Protection and regular oral updates to the Standing Committee. Some States have provided reports on their implementation of the Agenda. Such reports have however been few, and there has not been a comprehensive picture elaborated at the global level of the activities and measures States have taken in this regard, the successes they have achieved or the challenges they still face.
5. In discussions over the last two years as to the next phase in the initiatives based on the Agenda, there has been consensus that attention should be given to the progress made by States and other stakeholders towards the achievement of its six Goals and related Objectives. UNHCR has therefore requested all its country offices to approach the relevant authorities in their respective countries of representation to initiate this exercise. The objective of the process would be, in the first instance, to elicit a country perspective of the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. In particular, States

would be encouraged to reflect on their own performance nationally, regionally and globally in the pursuit of protection objectives. The challenges still faced in these respects would be identified, and strategies and a way forward in addressing them developed.

6. UNHCR hopes that the exercise will, like the original drafting of the Agenda, be a genuinely joint undertaking. The Office therefore encourages the carrying out of the process, as far as possible, as a national dialogue on protection, involving a broad range of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, civil society and refugees themselves. This would ensure that the strategies elaborated for further action reflect a common vision and ownership and command the support and active participation of all.

7. A matrix has been developed to assist States in this process and is available at [www.unhcr.org/ExCom](http://www.unhcr.org/ExCom). In countries where comprehensive reports on the implementation of the Agenda already exist, these will of course serve to inform the exercise. Once the national-level consultations are completed, the results will be shared with Headquarters and a comprehensive report will be prepared on the state of the implementation of the Agenda globally.