ADVOCATING TOGETHER FOR PROTECTION

Report

on the Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental-Organizations

11 - 13 June 2013

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Report on UNHCR's Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

11 – 13 JUNE 2013 - GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Abstract

This report provides highlights of the Annual Consultations with NGOs, which this year brought together some 411 representatives from around the world, representing 220 different NGOs, UN and international organizations from 78 different countries, of which 126 of these NGOs were national NGOs and 101 were international NGOs.

This year's main theme, A*dvocating Together for Protection,* guided much of the discussion. The consultations included five regional sessions and ten thematic sessions covering: internal displacement, sexual and gender-based violence, statelessness, UNHCR's Framework for Implementing with Partners, the High Commissioner's Structured Dialogue on Partnership, protection of children, national asylum systems, refugee resettlement, detention, and advocating together for protection. In addition, several side events took place on: faith and protection (as a follow up to the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges); cash-based interventions in UNHCR operations; kidnapping of refugees for ransom; displaced youth; stateless Rohingya; the refugee status determination (RSD) process in Latin America; professional standards; and refugees' sexual orientation and gender identity.

Three major points emerged during the consultations:

- The Syria crisis is a major concern. The international community must do more to respond not only to this crisis but also to less visible emergencies and protracted situations around the world.
- The urban refugee issue affects all regions. Humanitarian actors are encouraged to pursue creative, practical strategies to promote income generation, employment and social inclusion for this population.
- More should be done to advocate together for protection, including on issues of statelessness, detention, child protection, internal displacement, mixed migration, etc. Upcoming opportunities for joint advocacy include: the December 2013 High Commissioner's Dialogue on the Protection of IDPs, the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration.

This report has been prepared with the information provided by those responsible for each session and input from UNHCR and NGO participants. The report contains information from all of the main sessions and some of the side meetings. It has been structured in the following way: (A) introduction; (B) the opening session; (C) the five regional sessions; (D) the ten thematic sessions; (E) side events on *Faith & Protection* and *Cash-based interventions in UNHCR operations*; and (F) the closing session.

The full report may also be accessed at www.unhcr.org/ngo-consultations and www.icvanetwork.org.

Prepared with the assistance of resource persons from the following organizations:
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REPORT ON UNHCR'S ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

11 – 13 JUNE 2013 - GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

A. INTRODUCTION

This year's main theme, A*dvocating Together for Protection,* guided many of the discussions, and many participants agreed on the need to work together to promote protection and durable solutions as part of a comprehensive and holistic response. Participants discussed examples where complementary advocacy by UNHCR, civil society and refugees themselves had produced positives results, and pinpointed other situations where partnership in advocacy could be useful. Advocating together requires mutual respect, transparency and understanding of different roles and complementarities among partners.

This report has been prepared with the information provided by those responsible for each session and input from UNHCR and NGO participants. The report contains information from all of the main sessions and some of the side meetings. It has been structured in the following way: (A) introduction; (B) the opening session; (C) the five regional sessions; (D) the ten thematic sessions; (E) side events on Faith & Protection and Cash-based interventions in UNHCR operations; and (F) the closing session. Specific recommendations to advance the protection of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR are proposed throughout the document.

Over the course of the next year, several actions need to be taken together in partnership. As the High Commissioner pointed out in his closing statement, working together requires open communication and information sharing, mutual respect, trust, transparency and understanding, and the recognition that there are both complementarities and distinctions between different organisations' mandates and roles. The coming year presents important opportunities to advocate together for protection, including: (1) the December 2013 High Commissioner's Dialogue on IDPs; (2) the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; and (3) the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration.

B. OPENING SESSION

UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner (DHC) T. Alexander Aleinikoff recalled the essential role of NGO partners in working together to fulfil UNHCR's mandate.

He spoke of examples of the partnership between UNHCR and NGOs in Burundi, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Yemen, Kenya, the UK, and elsewhere. He stressed that more progress was needed on unresolved issues such as protracted refugee situations. He welcomed ideas on how to push jointly for solutions to problems that cannot be solved by humanitarian organizations alone.

UNHCR's Director for External Relations Daniel Endres recalled various helpful initiatives to improve the partnership between UNHCR and civil society, including the High Commissioner's Structured Dialogue on UNHCR-IFRC-NGO Partnership and the 2012 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Faith and Protection. He noted that advocating for protection together required joint advocacy on core protection issues.

ICVA Executive Director Nan Buzard spoke on the challenges of working with a growing number of NGO stakeholders on an increasing number of issues. She highlighted the need for more outreach towards affected populations, host governments, and development institutions. She also previewed plans to take global-level discussions on partnership to the regional and field levels.

C. REGIONAL SESSIONS

1. THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA)

Background of the session

The number of refugees in the Middle East and North Africa region has considerably increased over the last year, mainly due to the Syrian refugee crisis as well as the conflict in Mali. The region continues to experience dramatic developments resulting in more refugee outflows, more internal displacement, and sadly, more loss of life. With some exceptions, refugees in the MENA region reside largely in urban settings not camps. This requires the adoption of different assistance strategies and methods on part of the humanitarian community.

The discussion centred on current conflicts in the region, with a particular focus on Syria and the implications of this conflict in terms of protection, coordination, resource optimization and involvement of local NGOs. Participants were also keen to ensure that other emergencies in the region were not overlooked.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- The Syria situation, with more than 1.6 million refugees and 4 million IDPs, is becoming one of the worst humanitarian situations the MENA region has ever faced, with increasing difficulties in accessing populations in need and delivering humanitarian assistance due to deteriorating security conditions on the ground.
- There is a disparity of treatment between Syrian and Palestinian-Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Humanitarian aid helps but cannot resolve the on-going conflict in Syria due to the political root causes of the situation.
- On 7 June 2013, the UN launched the largest humanitarian appeal ever for the Syria situation, seeking $2.9 billion to assist Syrian refugees and $1.4 billion to assist IDPs. Along with the Jordanian and Lebanese Governments' own appeals, the appeal surpasses $5 billion, making it the biggest humanitarian appeal in the history of the UN.
- While the situation in Syria is catastrophic and warrants a massive humanitarian response, it is eclipsing other humanitarian situations in the region that also deserve attention and funding.
- The majority of funds available for MENA are allocated for Syrian refugees, thereby limiting the funds available for other situations in the region. In the case of Egypt, Syrian refugees receive twice the amount of money, clothing and food vouchers that other refugee populations receive (e.g., Eritreans.)
- The influx of Syrian refugees into neighbouring countries is creating a scarcity of local resources in host countries and causing local discontent. Host communities' generosity cannot be taken for granted.
- Across MENA, the absence of a legal framework in a majority of countries in the region places an excess of responsibility on UNHCR. The responsibility to protect refugees is lies first and foremost with the governments.
- There is a new web portal (www.data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees) that is an information-sharing and coordination tool.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- Participants requested agencies operating inside Syria to do more collectively when it comes to the protection of civilians, opening of humanitarian corridors, etc.
- The international community should not take refugee-hosting countries for granted. They should share the burden.
- NGOs and UNHCR should work together to create more targeted initiatives. They should coordinate better amongst themselves in order to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Skills gained by responding to previous conflicts in the region (e.g. the Iraqi refugee crisis) should be utilized and shared more effectively.
- Local NGOs should be more involved in the humanitarian coordination because of their knowledge of the local circumstances.
- Cultural differences should be assessed when determining solutions.
- The emergence of new refugee crises, like Syria, should not prevent other existing refugee crises from receiving adequate attention and aid.

2. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Background of the session

The absence of legal and institutional frameworks for refugee protection in many countries in Asia poses great challenges. Disparities in asylum practices often lead to secondary movements as refugees and asylum seekers search for countries where they have a better chance of having their needs met.

Of the 3.6 million refugees in Asia, fewer than 1.3 million live in refugee camps. The overwhelming majority are in urban environments. While urban settings may sometimes offer certain advantages compared to camp settings, such as greater freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities, they also bring significant risks for vulnerable populations. In some countries, the granting of residence permits and socio-economic rights have allowed good progress in the situation of urban refugees. However, other challenges persist in terms of access, assistance, and funding.

This session discussed the need to think creatively about urban refugees, including local integration, access to work permits and participation in the labour economy. The Asia Bureau renewed its commitment toward women and children and the SGBV framework, especially in the urban context.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- Civil society has played and is playing an important role in supporting governments and UNHCR to ensure the protection of refugees and asylum seekers in mixed migratory flows (e.g. through or in parallel to the Almaty and Bali processes).
- There are ways to improve the situation of urban refugees through advocacy, even in countries which have not acceded to the Refugee Conventions (e.g. India's example of access to work permits, employment in the formal sector, ATM cards, etc.)
- It is useful to exchange country-specific practices and engage in constructive discussions to find alternatives to detention (e.g. successful joint advocacy in Thailand).
- Effective livelihood programming, including training, is required to address refugee needs. There is no "one size fits all" approach to this, especially in the case for youth (e.g. tertiary education, language education, basic skills, etc.)

- Boat movements and recent tragedies highlight the need to put better reception arrangements in place.
- A variety of situations were discussed, including Afghanistan, the Bhutanese in Nepal, the Chin in Mizoram, IDP reintegration in Pakistan, Tibetan refugees in Nepal and India, Hazara refugees in Iran and Pakistan, and the overall situation in Myanmar, including IDPs in remote, inaccessible areas.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- **Livelihoods:** There is a need for a fresh, creative approach towards alternative forms of "local integration" that include self-reliance programs such as youth clubs and campaigns, income generation programs and placement support, business grants, long-term visas, bank accounts and work permits. It should promote access to work permits and better livelihoods within the regular labour economy, with social networks providing a safety net. It should avoid undermining refugees' abilities to cope with real-life situations (e.g. repaying their loans, fulfilling their responsibilities, etc.) and creating parallel systems. UNHCR should partner with local NGOs to help them promote youth's skills in line with market demand. It would be helpful to have more UN bodies such as ILO present during future consultations to generate more partnership opportunities.
- **Protection of children in urban areas:** Partners should encourage governments to develop protocols for dealing with unaccompanied minors (UAM). NGOs can be involved in various forms of care to UAMs.
- **Durable solutions:** Addressing durable solutions from the onset of a situation is necessary, as most issues raised at the Consultations are associated with the lack of durable solutions. NGOs need substantial funding to support durable solutions.
- **Engage NGOs and CBOs from the beginning:** Session participants acknowledged the great work carried out by civil society in Asia (especially the APRRN network) in launching initiatives, capacity building and work towards promoting national legislation in countries that currently do not have refugee laws. UNHCR and NGOs could better promote each other's missions and mandates with governments. Joint messaging and transparency of UNHCR's actions are important to reduce refugee population anxiety, including in the Thailand / Myanmar border camps.
- **Gender:** A gender focal point should exist within each of UNHCR's Divisions to ensure women and children issues do not slip off the agenda. A renewed commitment of the Asia Bureau towards Women and Children's issues should be addressed not only in a specific "Women and Children" context or in the SGBV framework, but at all levels. Networking with women's organizations should be pursued, especially in the urban context.

3. AFRICA

Background of the session

The Africa session focused on the use of new approaches to protection and included discussions on: strategic litigation to protect urban refugees in Kenya; supporting durable solutions for refugees in protracted situations; the global strategic priorities in Africa; and the challenges presented in addressing growing needs with limited funding. The Africa session was divided in three main parts:
(1) A discussion on UNHCR's urban refugee policy and on how advocating together in an urban setting can bring tangible protection results. The discussion centred on the situation in Kenya and the experience of Kituo Cha Sheria (Legal Advice Centre), the NGO that filed a petition asking the Kenyan High Court to pronounce itself on the legality of a government directive that effectively suspended Kenya's urban refugee policy.

(2) An update on the implementation of the comprehensive solutions strategies for refugees in protracted situations in Africa, including Rwandan refugees. The Director of the Bureau briefed

on the outcomes of the Ministerial meeting recently held in Pretoria, South Africa, involving the countries of asylum and of origin, as well as on the next steps with regard to the strategy's recommendation to invoke by 30 June 2013 cessation of refugee status for those who fled Rwanda before 31 December 1998.

(3) A briefing on UNHCR's programmes in Africa for 2014 and 2015. While funding for UNHCR programmes in Africa has increased, so have the needs, with multiple emergencies on the continent receiving the bulk of available funding. The Deputy Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management presented the Office's 2014-15 Global Strategic Priorities that will guide the prioritization of programme activities for the next two years.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

Urban refugee policy

- Participants discussed the need to work jointly with all actors in the field and explored ways to respond collectively to the threats on the urban protection space.
- Concerns were raised about some governments reversing the implementation of the urban refugee policy in the region, illustrated by the halting of registration of refugees in urban areas in Kenya and the closing of registration centres in urban areas in South Africa.
- Some participants underscored the perception that UNHCR had failed to publicly respond to allegations of serious abuse of Somali refugees by Kenyan police after the issuance of the Directive in Nairobi. UNHCR acknowledged that there are times when UNHCR's ability to react publicly and robustly is limited, and there are also instances when protection-related advocacy is more effective when communicated privately.
- Participants highlighted the need for a change in mind-set with regard to non-camp approaches of refugee operations.
- Participants emphasized the importance of outreach to urban populations. Humanitarian actors are still not reaching a large part of the urban refugee population, and the underfunding of urban operations remains a big challenge.
- Participants expressed concern about some governments' lack of registration capacity and resources. Governments have a fundamental role to play in the implementation of the urban refugee policy.
- As shown in the Kenya case study, litigation is an important protection tool in urban areas. It is crucial to establish funding mechanisms to support local initiatives for local cases, as the costs of litigation processes can be high.
- Participants highlighted the importance of providing urban refugees not only legal protection but also social protection (e.g. housing, livelihoods, etc.).
- In many locations the urban policy is working well (e.g. an urban refugee orientation centre in Senegal).
- The use of cash-based assistance was cited as a critical consideration when determining whether the camp or out-of-camp option would be the best approach in a certain situation.

Comprehensive solutions strategies for refugees in protracted situations

The Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa briefly presented the main comprehensive solution strategies that have been implemented with the aim of bringing a closure to specific displacement situations. Four situations were mentioned in particular:

1. Situations almost resolved, but with outstanding issues: Congolese from the Republic of Congo in Gabon, Sierra Leoneans, and the Mtabila situation in Tanzania
2. Situations for which important outstanding issues remain before going to closure: Angolans, and Liberians
3. Recent situations (considered as specially complex and extremely sensitive): Rwandans and Somalis in Kenya

4. A situation in limbo whose positive momentum could be reversed: the 162,000 newly naturalized Tanzanians (former Burundian refugees) in Tanzania

With regard to the Rwandan strategy, the main components were presented, i.e. voluntary repatriation, local integration, the recommendation to cease refugee status, and continuing protection for those who require it. A meeting of all States concerned was organized in Pretoria in April 2013 to review how to move forward on the implementation of the Rwandan strategy. Pursuing local integration opportunities remains at the heart of the strategy. The different asylum countries have started implementing several components of the strategy at a different pace. It was stressed that there was no general agreement about the recommendation to cease refugee status.

States which could roughly be divided into three groups:

- States which will invoke cessation: Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- States which cannot invoke cessation: Republic of Congo, South Africa and Uganda
- States announcing that they will not implement cessation: DRC, Mozambique.

The situation of Rwandan refugees in Ugandan was then presented by Ms. Charity Ahumuza from the Refugee Law Project in Uganda. While this NGO had collected testimonies of those who did not want to return, there is currently no body to deal with those cases, which has created some tensions within the community. Therefore, the Refugee Law Project would like to work on a mechanism to process such cases.

Some of the key issues that came out of the following discussion included the following:

- Information should be shared more regularly and transparently among UNHCR, partners and governments.
- NGOs stressed that the choice for repatriation should be voluntary and the process open and fair.
- Participants expressed concern about the risk of people becoming stateless after the cessation of refugee status and highlighted the need to provide for alternative status.
- Participants wanted to know more about UNHCR's approach after 30 June. In particular, some questions were raised on the status of UNHCR's discussions with governments to avoid abuses once the cessation clause entered into force. UNHCR stated that it would "keep the door open" and continue working with all actors, including relevant governments, on any pending issues after the invocation of the cessation clause on 30 June.
- UNHCR reported it was not putting pressure on governments to invoke the cessation clause, and that it was focusing mostly on the local integration component of the strategy.

UNHCR's programmes in Africa for 2014 and 2015

The Deputy Director of UNHCR's Division of Program Support and Management (DPSM) presented UNHCR's Global Strategic Priorities (GSPs) and their overall objectives (e.g. to strengthen protection, improve the quality of life and contribute to durable solutions). He pointed out that reaching the GSPs is an incremental, continuous process. All actors need to communicate and exchange information to ensure the eventual achievement of measurable progress. The importance of GSPs for monitoring programmes to measure the actual change in the beneficiaries' situation (as reported annually through UNHCR's Global Reports) was highlighted. The need to work collectively and raise enough resources to meet these essential priorities was also stated.

The following are some of the key issues that came out of the ensuing discussion:

- The difficult humanitarian situations in Chad, Sudan and South Sudan were raised. In particular, the recent inflow of Darfurian refugees into Chad in a context of decreasing operations in this country was discussed. The decision of the Chadian government to stop

considering displaced Chadians as IDPs as of 2014 raised some concerns. The lack of access to populations in need in South Kordofan and the Blue Nile States (Sudan) was also mentioned by participants.

- Some participants raised the issue of statelessness in Côte d'Ivoire for returnees, but also for host populations. UNHCR briefed participants on statelessness in the country and in South Sudan, its biggest statelessness operation in the Africa region.
- Some participants underscored the challenge of being held accountable when funding is limited and donors communicate conflicting priorities.
- Changes in the planning process have raised the expectations of refugees, putting additional pressure on local partners who do not always have enough information to be able to manage these expectations.
- Participants reiterated the need for more joint planning and a more participatory process in the field.
- UNHCR invited all participants to make suggestions on how to improve monitoring and measure impact. Participants suggested UNHCR focuses too much on quantifying results and is not asking the right questions or using the right metrics to measure success in improving the quality of life.
- Participants expressed concern about the lack of funding and the difficulties to prioritize activities. They urged UNHCR to ensure more predictability and stability in funding. Participants discussed the need for all actors to plan and fundraise jointly.
- UNHCR called upon all partners for collective planning, prioritization, and monitoring of activities.

Recommendations/Conclusions

Urban Policy

- There is a clear need for a more collective approach to operations in urban areas, in particular with regard to the following:
- Responding collectively to protection threats in urban areas (e.g. developing a joint strategy to respond to those threats, using regional treaty bodies, mitigating risks, and reviewing partnership with municipal and national actors)
- Improving access to social services in urban areas
- Complementing each other and coordinating actions and strategies
- Changing minds about encampment policies by using new tools to promote protection of refugees and their assistance in urban areas.

Comprehensive solutions strategies for refugees in protracted situations

- There is a need for more collective discussions to set priorities and for UNHCR to share the outcomes of the Pretoria meeting.
- There were concerns on detention and alternatives to detention in the Africa region.

UNHCR's programmes in Africa for 2014 and 2015

- UNHCR and partners committed to work together on the issues raised during the session. There is a need to define new ways of planning, working and raising funds.
- Regarding programmes, participants advocated for better joint planning, prioritization and programming. They called upon more transparency and sharing of information on resourcing.
- Participants were encouraged to contact UNHCR's new focal points in the region, including a focal point on statelessness based in Dakar.

4. AMERICAS

Background of the session

This session was titled *Advocating for protection of persons with specific needs: LGBTI, unaccompanied children, indigenous people and Afro-descendants in the Americas.* While all individuals forced to flee because of persecution, conflict or violence leave behind their homes, families and communities and find themselves in a situation of acute vulnerability, asylum-seekers, refugees and displaced persons have distinct and specific needs depending on their gender, experience during flight or their belonging to minority groups. These needs require special attention to ensure access to protection and to safeguard individual rights.

Participants in the Americas session looked into developing a multi-faceted integrated advocacy strategy, including political and legal responses, for protection of persons with specific needs: LGBTI individuals, indigenous people and Afro-descendants. They also discussed using the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration to address protection gaps and promote effective responses. The aim was to explore challenges and share best practice in addressing the plight of persons of concern with specific needs in the region.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- On LGBTI issues in Haiti, Mr. Laguerre of Fondation SEROvie provided insights on the protection needs among the LGBTI displaced population, mainly in terms of access to justice, shelter, medical, and psychosocial support. He indicated that private medical assistance is more neutral to LGBTI issues but is less accessible and more costly, that rural areas are somewhat more tolerant than urban centres on sexual orientation and that certain religious groups are spreading prejudice and discrimination against LGBTI people. Underground networks of advocates can bring forward the protection agenda for this group and create a trustworthy and reliable system for LGBTI individuals to access protection.
- Mr. Nunez Medina presented the work of Fundación Casa Alianza in Mexico in helping migrant children coming out of violence, trafficking, drug addiction and street life. Their project aims to integrate unaccompanied children into Mexican life. A significant challenge remains for those who want to proceed north towards the U.S. rather than repatriate or stay in Mexico. There is a need for a more concerted approach at the regional level to address the issue of UAMs.
- Mr. Minda of Universidad Luis Vargas Torres de Esmeraldas presented the challenges for protection of indigenous people and Afro-Colombians who flee armed conflict. He highlighted new displacement trends due to megaprojects and mining in Colombia. This new source of displacement is left unattended. International mobilization is needed to provide solutions to those most affected by this phenomenon, namely indigenous people whose attachment to the land is intrinsic to their culture and being.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- While different in nature and needs, the common trait among groups with specific needs is their minority status. Protection responses need to take this into account in diversified yet coordinated actions.
- There is a need to establish multi-layered advocacy interventions aiming at bringing together international, national and local actors dealing with the specificities of the protected groups in an integrated approach.
- There is a need to reinforce public policies aimed at protecting groups with specific needs. Neutral or favourable legislation is not enough.
- More regional cooperation is needed on a differentiated strategy for persons with specific needs.

- Building safety nets at various levels is key to success, including acting at the political level, awareness-raising to change public opinion, and legal support through judicial interventions and counselling.
- Participants noted the importance of working within the framework of the 30th Anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration to address protection gaps and provide adequate responses.

5. EUROPE

Background of the session

This session was entitled *Refugee Protection and International Migration in Europe: Challenges and Responses.* All countries in Europe are, albeit in different ways, affected by irregular mixed movements of refugees and migrants and all are struggling with the complex challenges arising in this context. Countries in the EU's eastern and south-eastern neighbourhoods are located along major migration routes. They face a particularly challenging task in managing irregular migration in a way that takes into account the protection needs of people within these movements.

Civil society plays a vital role in assisting governments to set in place protection-sensitive responses, including through the direct provision of assistance to those in need. In many countries, civil society and UNHCR are working together with governments following UNHCR's 10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration. Rising xenophobia in some countries constitutes another challenge requiring enhanced cooperation among stakeholders.

This session brought together representatives of NGOs from all around Europe to share their experience, exchange relevant good practices and explore areas for enhanced cooperation with each other, with their governments and with UNHCR. Twenty years after UNHCR established a presence in Eastern Europe and eighteen years after the ParInAc Conference, the session offered an opportunity to take stock of the challenges facing NGOs in Eastern Europe and review in which ways partnership and sustainability could be enhanced.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

The discussion focused in particular on access to the territory and to the asylum procedures in countries in Eastern and South-eastern Europe.

Particular protection challenges identified include:

- Difficulties accessing territory (entry officials are not always able to identify asylum-seekers and persons with specific needs and may refuse their entry)
- The lack of adequate reception capacity and long-term detention of asylum-seekers
- The lack of adequate NGO access to detention facilities
- Difficulties accessing asylum procedures and a substantive examination of the asylum request (asylum requests are, inter alia, rejected with reference to the "safe third country" concept, but a proper procedure is missing in many countries to ensure that individuals returned to a safe third country are referred to the relevant asylum procedure)
- The lack of adequate access to legal aid in the asylum procedure
- The lack of protection safeguards for groups with specific needs, such as children, victims of trafficking, persons fleeing Syria and failed Afghan asylum-seekers
- Xenophobia (which affects the protection environment).

NGOs are actively engaged, often in cooperation with UNHCR, to address these challenges. Examples include:

- The provision of practical assistance to state authorities, for instance in identifying asylum-seekers and in their referral to the asylum procedure
- Data collection and analysis as well as public awareness-raising
- Cross-border cooperation among NGOs in South-eastern and Eastern Europe (such as through the Zagreb Protocol) contributes to the provision of protection and information sharing
- The Strengthening Reception Capacity to Handle Migrants Reaching the Island of Lampedusa (Praesidium project), which is an initiative of the Italian government to develop protection-sensitive reception systems for sea arrivals together with several humanitarian agencies, demonstrating the importance of a multi-agency approach when addressing mixed maritime movements.

Recommendations/Conclusions:

- UNHCR and civil society should further promote dialogue and practical cooperation. Organizing a separate UNHCR-NGO session for Europe and/or different sub-regions in Europe outside of the annual UNHCR-NGO consultations would allow for more detailed and focused discussions on specific issues and help to identify areas where more practical cooperation is needed. It would also contribute to enhanced cross-border and regional coordination.
- UNHCR and civil society should closely cooperate, with entry officials, on protection-sensitive entry systems. Border monitoring projects could assist countries that face difficulties in establishing effective asylum referral systems at the borders.
- Joint UNHCR-NGO advocacy efforts and detention monitoring could contribute to the reduction of the use and duration of detention and improvements in detention conditions.
- Recent successful court decisions demonstrate that strategic litigation can be an important advocacy tool.
- Sustainable capacity building of asylum and entry authorities, in particular in Eastern and South-eastern Europe continues to be necessary. Such capacity building has to be part of a comprehensive and balanced strategy. Asylum processing needs to be developed in parallel with enhanced reception and integration capacities.
- Cross-border cooperation among NGOs is resource-intensive and requires support.
- Good practices and lessons learned from the Praesidium Project (Lampedusa Model) can be replicated elsewhere. This includes a multi-agency approach with closely established mandates and methodologies for the deployment of mixed teams of experts when addressing mixed migratory movements, in particular in the context of large-scale arrivals.
- UNHCR must continue efforts to support governments and NGOs in Europe to fight xenophobia and fully integrate asylum seekers and refugees (focusing on education, health care and employment).

D. THEMATIC SESSIONS:

1. Advocating Together to Resolve Statelessness

Background of the session

Collaborative advocacy efforts between UNHCR, civil society, academic institutions and stateless persons themselves are vital to resolving statelessness. While there has been

significant progress towards realizing commitments made by governments in areas such as the reform of nationality laws, creation of determination procedures and accession to the two UN Conventions, more effective strategies are needed to resolve protracted situations of statelessness, such as those affecting the Rohingya in Myanmar and former Soviet citizens in Europe and Central Asia. There is also a need to develop strong, working partnerships and to increase the number of NGOs working on statelessness worldwide. To this end, the upcoming commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954 Convention) provide an excellent opportunity through which to strengthen existing and develop new advocacy partnerships and networks.

This session focused on improving advocacy and collaboration in three key areas, with speakers from civil society and UNHCR for each:

- Advocating for implementation of State commitments to address statelessness
- Advocating for the resolution of protracted situations of statelessness
- Advocating for action in the context of the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- There has been forward momentum on statelessness since the 2011 Ministerial Meeting involving a significant number of State pledges and the 2012 High Level of Rule of Law Event. In addition, the UPR process has increasingly addressed the issue.
- This "statelessness renaissance" enjoys increased knowledge and interest in statelessness. There is now a consensus in the analysis of the problem of statelessness and where action is needed.
- Challenges remain:
  - Very few NGOs work exclusively on statelessness
  - NGO actors have a different understanding of statelessness
  - Partners have failed to articulate the human impact of statelessness
  - The concepts of statelessness and refugees are sometimes conflated
  - It is difficult to involve stateless persons in discussions and efforts on their behalf
  - Stateless individuals are often not themselves aware that they are 'stateless'
  - Nationality remains a sensitive issue (particularly in protracted situations which have a historical genesis)
  - It is difficult to resolve the tension between state sovereignty and the human right to a nationality (for everyone)
  - The lack of baseline data on the number and situations of stateless persons hampers advocacy efforts
  - Funding is lacking.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- Speakers discussed developing global and regional networks to build a more proactive movement to eradicate statelessness and the need to engage with stateless communities to highlight the 'human face of statelessness.'
- UNHCR and NGOs working on statelessness should develop a better understanding of each other's mandates and strengths to enable better collaboration.
- NGOs and UNHCR were encouraged to participate in international fora to influence States to take action on statelessness (i.e. the OHCHR report on arbitrary deprivation of nationality, the post-2015 Millennium Development agenda, the UPR process, treaty body sessions, etc.).

- With respect to protracted situations, there is a need to find a way to stop the spread of intergenerational statelessness.
- A wider range of NGOs should form global and regional networks on statelessness. This includes 'non-traditional' NGOs working at the grass roots level with stateless people, community-based organizations, and country-level advocacy groups. NGOs need to identify how addressing statelessness can be incorporated into the work they are already doing.
- One area of collaboration is to collect evidence on the number and situation of stateless populations. UNHCR, NGOs and academic institutions can partner together to complement each other's skills and resources.
- Discussion should continue to determine whether a "Day of Action" or "Week of Action" on statelessness is a good way to highlight the issue, raise awareness and galvanize action – especially in the context of the upcoming anniversary of the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Statelessness Convention.
- NGOs and UNHCR should collaborate to provide legal assistance to stateless persons.
- NGOs and UNHCR should work together to share knowledge and train a wider network of stakeholders, including policy makers, the judiciary, the media and other civil society actors.

2. Sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies: our collective responsibility to move from rhetoric to reality, from policy to implementation

Background of the session

Humanitarian response should be designed to deliver assistance in ways that strengthen protection and mitigate risk. Humanitarian organizations know that conflict and displacement increases vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) for women, girls, men and boys. We also know that humanitarian response will be more effective and risks will be reduced if protection considerations are integrated into all programming and if SGBV programs are in place at the beginning of an emergency. The humanitarian community has developed guidelines for addressing SGBV across program areas, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, which are currently being revised. UNHCR and NGOs have pledged to hold one another accountable for meeting basic protection standards in their work. Yet in too many places, they continue to fall short, and those most at risk pay the price. This session focused on the concrete, practical steps that must be taken across program areas to address SGBV and meet collective responsibilities to affected populations.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- It was stressed that SGBV programming is a life-saving activity and must be prioritized. SGBV prevention and response are still not treated as life-saving interventions, and pooled funding allocations do not adequately address SGBV.
- UNHCR was encouraged to ensure that resources are prioritized for SGBV prevention and response interventions both from the start of new emergencies and in the context of protracted refugee situations.
- UNHCR stressed that the main challenge arising in the context of SGBV in emergencies is cultural. There is a need to identify what it can be done collectively to achieve social change.
- A study conducted by Raising Voices and Save the Children revealed around 48 per cent of school drops-outs are linked to violence in schools. The Good Schools Toolkit, a programme developed in Uganda, emphasizes working with children as agents of change as well as ensuring teachers are motivated and qualified and treat girls and boys equally.
- The International Rescue Committee (IRC) shared the experience of a program model for accurate emergency programming that takes into account the following lessons: there is a

need to deploy experts to lead coordination bodies, advocate for necessary funding, and ensure standards are met and SGBV is prioritized within the first 12 weeks of an emergency.

- The Human Rights Center of the University of California presented research conducted in four countries in 2012 examining safe shelter available to SGBV survivors among refugees and other forced migrants. It identified available options for safe shelter and examined gaps in protection. Several challenges were identified, such as: lack of security, lack of emotional support for both residents and staff; limited transition options leading to protracted stays; weak linkages between programs serving the host community and those serving refugees; legal and policy barriers; and limited services for LGBTI survivors, men and boys survivors, and persons with severe health conditions or survivors of certain types of SGBV.
- CARE spoke of the importance of engaging men and boys in discussions about cash-based assistance for female household members to prevent conflict in the household and ensure SGBV prevention and response are integrated into cash-based programming.
- Best practice includes: providing information on men's and women's rights (including both for staff as well as communities); working with community leaders to advocate for positive role models; and ensuring complaint mechanisms are in place for issues to be raised in a confidential manner, including by women.
- With regard to survival sex, it is important to remember the longer-term objective of helping individuals transition from survival sex to alternative forms of self-reliance through livelihoods programming. It is also important to ensure protection and services for individuals currently engaging in survival sex (e.g. reproductive health and HIV services). Education is closely linked to the prevention of SGBV and survival sex. There is learning required within the humanitarian community on how cash-based assistance can provide positive protection outcomes and how this can impact survival sex.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- Multi-sectoral actors must recognize SGBV prevention and response as life-saving interventions and should be involved in both activities from the onset of an emergency.
- Men and boys must be engaged in multi-sectoral programs such as cash-based assistance to help prevent SGBV within households and communities.
- Men, boys and other marginalized groups of survivors need access to SGBV services.
- Cultural factors, including masculinities and community coping mechanisms, contribute to SGBV and are exacerbated by displacement. UNHCR and NGOs need to find a way to act collectively to plant seeds for social change regarding SGBV, challenging patriarchal norms, and promoting gender inequality.
- We should not impose a one-size-fits-all approach to SGBV, as this may be rejected by communities of concern and lead to a failure of SGBV prevention and response programmes. We need to work with local organizations and with local religious leaders, including before a crisis happens as part of emergency preparedness.
- The way we address SGBV must ensure that our intervention does not cause harm. This requires training and expertise.

3. Achieving durable solutions for IDPs in a changing operational context

Background of the session

The UN Secretary-General's Framework on Durable Solutions calls on all UN agencies to engage in the process of finding durable solutions for IDPs. Various governments have recently taken steps to include IDP protection and durable solutions in development and social protection programs. The adoption of the Kampala Convention, which recognizes all forms of durable solutions, is a major step forward. Many civil society organizations, national and international, implement programs in support of the search for durable solutions. The search for

durable solutions for internal displacement almost always continues well beyond the humanitarian emergency phase. Sustained engagement with a wide array of actors, including with governments, civil society, and development actors is required.

The session promoted dialogue on the steps UNHCR and NGOs can take to jointly engage in the search for durable solutions, especially in fast-changing operational contexts facing diminishing resources. Panel presentations addressed: UNHCR's vision for IDP protection and solutions, the role of advocacy, lessons learnt from the past, and opportunities for advocacy to promote durable solutions.

Major points raised by speakers and participants (trends & challenges)

- With 28.8 million IDPs displaced by conflict and 32.4 million newly displaced by sudden-onset natural disasters, there is a broad acknowledgment that the global number of IDPs continues to grow. The majority of IDPs find themselves in protracted displacement context, suggesting that the search for durable solution is not working.
- It is challenging to: (1) advance protection, assistance, solutions, and prevention simultaneously; (2) find solutions for IDPs when their plight is often not high on the political agenda and political will is often lacking with respect to other solutions than return; (3) grapple with the politicization of solutions; and (4) create local ownership for solutions despite the stigma attached to IDPs and disregard of the IDPs' citizenship.
- Twenty years ago consistent advocacy efforts, particularly from NGOs, brought internal displacement onto the international agenda. Yet today the specific needs of IDPs remain overlooked for a combination of reasons: (1) a decline in IDP-focused advocacy; (2) inadequate resources; and (3) a lack of security at the national level. One significant repercussion is that there is still no predictable protection system for IDPs in place. For example, in Iraq the government's overwhelming desire is to return IDPs back to their place of origin despite IDPs' fear for their security and an increased sectarian divide in the country.
- Positive steps are taking place at the national level as more and more countries continue to develop, amend or implement laws and policies on IDPs. Recognition of internal displacement in a country is the necessary first step to improve the protection of IDPs. In Colombia, this was achieved through the empowerment of IDPs to demand their rights and the prominent role played by the Colombian Constitutional Court that led to a culture of enforcing IDP rights and relevant laws to protect IDPs. Addressing the past is not enough --, solutions must be forward looking, address socio-economic needs of IDPs and include peace-building efforts.
- The partnership of NGOs and UNHCR is invaluable for advocacy.
- Advocacy efforts have to become more nuanced and look at forced migration more holistically, also taking into account the linkages between internal and external displacement.
- Sustained advocacy is indispensable in order to achieve solutions for IDPs. National NGOs and community-based organizations play a critical role due to their sustained presence, deep knowledge and long-term relationships built with authorities and displaced communities. They can also serve as 'watchdogs' of current UN processes including on durable solutions.
- States assume the primary responsibility in the search for durable solutions. The only sustainable long-term solution is to anchor IDP protection with authorities at the national level through technical support and capacity building. This also requires strong and concerted advocacy from national civil society and the international community, sometimes together and other times apart.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- Advocacy on IDP protection needs to consider the broader perspective of forced migration and the changing environment in the context of solutions, and in particular include development agencies early on in advocacy efforts.

- The particular challenges for IDPs who find themselves in urban settings should be recognized.
- Advocacy for solutions needs to involve the participation of national NGOs, community-based organizations and IDPs.
- Anchoring IDP protection at the national level is indispensable for solutions. Comprehensive legislation and clear national policies on IDPs should be developed with the recognition of all durable solutions and plans for national standards and instruments to be implemented.
- Solutions require strong and concerted efforts from humanitarian, development, human rights and peace-building actors, as well as donors.
- Independent voices are needed to hold authorities and organizations, including UNHCR, accountable to their commitments. Additional funding should be allocated and prioritized for IDPs, especially when the primary obstacle is not a lack of political will but rather economic hardship.
- 2015 will mark 10 years since the beginning of the humanitarian reform. This opportunity will be seized to take stock, highlight achievements and identify gaps to promote a humanitarian institutional system that provides a more predictable approach to internal displacement.

4. Advocacy and action for the protection of children

Background of the session

Children represent half of the population of concern to UNHCR, and their protection is a priority for UNHCR. The UNHCR Framework for the Protection of Children, launched last year, outlines the direction for the protection of children as it pertains to the mandate of the organization. Effective Partnership between UNHCR and NGOs is crucial for the implementation of the Framework.

The session was an opportunity to share experiences in effective advocacy and action for the protection of children. Two contexts were considered: emergencies and mixed migration flows. The concept of “a children’s emergency” has emerged within UNHCR and partners over the past few years, recognizing that children are often those most affected and with the most acute protection needs during emergencies. An increasing number of children are moving across borders, either moving on their own or with the ‘assistance’ of smugglers.

These two scenarios pose new and unprecedented challenges to governments, UN agencies, and NGOs as they try collectively to address the protection risks facing children and adolescents.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

Children in mixed migration flows:

- Unaccompanied children are a global issue. Examples include children on the move in Latin America, the Horn of Africa and MENA (Egypt, Sinai, and Yemen), South East Asia (Indonesia), and Southern Africa.
- The Best Interest Determination (BID) procedure is a useful tool for screening, assessments and case management. All are important for child protection.
- The return of rejected unaccompanied children involves many considerations. Sometimes children are returned to their country of origin without considering that they have never lived in that country or without successful tracing for relatives.

Advocacy and action for children in emergencies:

- Strong, sustainable child protection systems that include a clear solutions orientation from the very beginning are critical to successful outcomes for children. Emphasis must be placed on not setting up parallel systems. It is critical that such an approach focuses on

building the capacity of local systems and local actors and not burdening possibly fragile national systems.

- Children face a multiplicity of protection risks in emergencies. It is important to ensure services and programmes include all children and address the increasing risks to children as displacement becomes longer-term and family coping mechanisms are weakened.
- Participants also emphasized the critical importance of linking SGBV prevention and response programmes to child protection responses to ensure SGBV programs are child focused and child friendly.
- Education is an important tool for child protection, in particular for preventing recruitment into armed forces or groups, and increasing knowledge and awareness to avoid separation and landmines.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- Given the demographics – e.g. 57 per cent of refugees in camps are children – there is a need for a paradigm shift in UNHCR.
- Child protection in emergencies needs to be recognised as a life-saving sector. Children are being killed and maimed, whether as civilians or while recruited into an armed force or group. They are at risk of brutal domestic violence and being abandoned or separated from their parents as infants or toddlers, all of which life are threatening.
- Child protection procedures and services need to become more child-friendly and include the participation of children themselves.
- Identification of children in need of international protection/trafficked is the responsibility of any official who encounters children. Border guards need to be trained in identification.
- Governments should separate immigration enforcement from child protection functions.
- Data management and sharing information on trends and cases between countries is key for the protection of children.
- There is a need to review family reunification procedures. Many children move for family reunification purposes, sometimes facilitated by smugglers.
- Child protection risks and gaps must be addressed from the outset of emergencies and with an understanding of the increasing complexity of the child protection issues in humanitarian emergencies.
- Identifying what works and strong, comprehensive child protection programming is central to address the multiplicity of protection risks that children face in emergencies as well as the increasing risks to children as displacement becomes longer-term and family coping mechanisms diminish. Programmes to strengthen family resilience are essential components of a comprehensive, systems approach to child protection.

5. Partnership in focus

Background of the session

At the end of 2011, the High Commissioner invited the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), InterAction and their members, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to participate in a 'Structured Dialogue' to review the quality of partnership with UNHCR with the broad objective of strengthening operational collaboration in the field through stronger mutual respect and trust, and a culture of transparency and shared responsibility. The Dialogue served as a platform to develop a series of recommendations on translating into action the five Principles of Partnership (PoP), namely equality, transparency, results-oriented approach, responsibility and complementarity, to which UNHCR and partners are all committed. UNHCR, ICVA, InterAction and the IFRC committed to take these recommendations forward in the field as well as in various fora in 2013, including at the Annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

Participants were given an overview of the process and outcomes of the Structured Dialogue and discussed the follow-up to the Dialogue's recommendations to be taken forward both at the HQ and field level.

- UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner (AHC) for Operations Janet Lim underscored the importance of partnerships for UNHCR's work.
- Mitzi Schroeder of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS-USA) outlined the Structured Dialogue's work in key areas of joint planning, information sharing, partnership, advocating together for protection, and urban refugees.
- Nan Buzard, Executive Director of the International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), added an update on the need for an institutional strategy on capacity building suggested the next step is moving from the Structured Dialogue to "Structured Action."

Recommendations/Conclusions

- **Field Missions:** The Assistant High Commissioner (AHC-Operations) Janet Lim highlighted the need to take the Structured Dialogue to the field with a focus on delivering better together. ICVA Executive Director Nan Buzard offered ICVA's support in targeted joint field missions. NGO participants urged that the selection of operations to visit be carried out on the basis of trust and respect in an effort to highlight where partnership is and is not working.
- **Problem Solving Mechanism:** An NGO pointed out that many problems in partnership were related to personalities. The AHC acknowledged that not all colleagues approach partnership in the same way, and warned that culture change does not happen overnight. NGOs welcomed additional clarity on how NGOs could access different parts of UNHCR Headquarters if they do not have a strong presence in Geneva. The AHC expressed her willingness to listen to NGOs' problems, but urged NGOs to be frank and honest with the UNHCR concerned staff at the field level before escalating issues to HQs. Nan Buzard of ICVA pointed out that some NGO staff fear retaliation for raising particular issues, and encouraged further monitoring at the field level.
- **Capacity Building:** An NGO reported that the Africa NGO Task Force has already made an impact on southern NGOs' capacities through hosting two workshops. The Task Force could benefit from additional funding. NGOs encouraged more INGO-NNGO mentorships and south-south NGO exchanges. One NGO recommended giving additional attention to refugee- and community-based organizations.
- **Mixed Populations:** The AHC recognized that the Transformative Agenda had highlighted areas for improvement in UNHCR's management of partnerships in refugee operations. One NGO noted the difficulties operating in areas of mixed populations, and suggested further discussions to clarify issues surrounding NGO involvement in financing and appeals processes for refugees.
- **Consultations:** UNHCR and ICVA welcomed ideas to improve and strengthening the UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultations in Geneva and to explore further opportunities to strengthen dialogue at regional and field level.

6. National asylum systems: building and maintaining protection systems for refugees

Background of the session

States are primarily responsible for the protection of refugees, including by: (a) ensuring access to territory and protection from *refoulement*, (b) providing humane and dignified reception arrangements, including protection against arbitrary detention, and fair and efficient status

determination procedures, (c) guaranteeing the enjoyment of rights, and (d) facilitating durable solutions. A range of actors are relevant to determine the quality of the protection in a state, including the legislature/parliament, the executive, the judiciary, the legal community, the media and press, civil society, the public, academia, and the international community as a whole, including UNHCR.

To effectively build, strengthen and sustain state asylum/protection systems it is important to understand the gaps, problems and challenges in the system. How progress is leveraged in this area varies depending on a range of factors, including the political, economic, socio-cultural, legal, and regional contexts, as well as broader migration trends. The level of development of the system ranges from: (1) a system with no functioning state asylum system, to (2) transitional systems where the state has assumed some responsibilities, and finally (3) developed systems where the state is in full control.

The following three questions were analysed: (1) what are the essential building blocks for a national asylum system that enables refugees to enjoy their rights? (2) How can key stakeholders best take responsibility for building and maintaining a national asylum system? and (3) how can civil society and UNHCR better advocate for and cooperate in this regard?

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- No (or very few) states have “no” national asylum system
- All systems are “in transition”
- Developments are not always progressive
- The national should not obscure the local
- National asylum systems must be complemented by local asylum systems (particularly when the provision of many state services has devolved)
- In addition to developing national asylum systems, programs must be rescaled and re focused to take into account the local
- Participants promoted:
- Networking
- Trust and understanding building
- A holistic approach to advocacy (including law reform and litigation, UN advocacy, comprehensive field and comparative legal research, and various public awareness campaigns)
- Strong partnership among NGOs, UNHCR and national institutions
- Continuously working with the legislature, the executive and the judiciary
- Fighting against increasing xenophobia and racism.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- The fundamental elements of building quality national asylum systems include:
- Ensure access to territory and follow non-refoulement
- Refrain from arbitrary detention
- Ensure access to fair and effective RSD processes
- Developing durable solutions
- Regarding cooperation between civil society and UNHCR:
- Need to recognize strengths and weaknesses of each partner
- Need to allow that there will not always be agreement between partners
- Need to support each other in securing resources
- Need to avoid duplication of services
- No (or very few) states have “no” national asylum system; all systems are “in transition”

- Of crucial importance to ensure create a functioning national asylum system:
- A vibrant civil society is needed
- Mutual trust of stakeholders needs to be built as well as mutual understanding as a basis to develop strategies together
- Judicial engagement is important
- Partners have to work directly with relevant stakeholders and parliamentarians
- Create ownership of the process among the local stakeholders is of utmost importance to ensure sustainability.

7. Strengthening the Implementing Partnership Framework

Background of the session

Throughout its history, UNHCR has worked in close partnership with NGOs to protect and assist refugees, including through programmes facilitated by UNHCR and implemented by NGO partners. In 2012, over a third of the $2.3 billion spent by UNHCR on protection and assistance was channelled through more than 760 NGOs across the globe. Of these, 600 were national or local NGOs and 160 were international.

Partnership dynamics among UNHCR and NGOs have always been influenced by the manner in which UNHCR and NGO field offices engage with one another in implementing projects. A new framework for engagement could present significant new opportunities as well as challenges for UNHCR and its NGO partners in serving refugees together.

This session briefed and solicited feedback from NGOs on components of the UNHCR-NGO implementing partnership framework which have been further developed since the 2012 NGO Consultations: the new partnership portal developed by UNHCR to identify qualified and interested NGOs for project partnerships, the draft agreement for implementing partnerships, changes in the transfer of funds from UNHCR to NGOs, and new approaches to joint (NGO-UNHCR) monitoring of programmes.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- Recognition by both UNHCR speakers, NGO speakers and NGOs (as demonstrated by survey results presented) that the manner in which UNHCR works with partners (from both an administrative perspective as well as fostering partnership relationships) is inconsistent across operations with NGOs viewing them very positively and highlighting good communication in some places, and very negatively (as contractual relationships) in others.
- It was felt that the introduction of the enhanced Framework for Implementation with Partners may assist in making UNHCR's partnership approach across operations more consistent and more uniformly positive.
- The new selection/retention policy and procedure have been tested and are currently in the final stages of being prepared for issuance.
- UNHCR requested that NGOs submit feedback on the proposed joint monitoring approach (including partner feedback form) and draft project agreement by 15 July 2013. Feedback received will be incorporated prior to legal review and UNHCR senior manager approval. The intention is to begin using the new project agreement and joint monitoring approach for the 2014 implementation year.
- NGOs voiced appreciation for the highly consultative approach undertaken to enhance the Framework for Implementation with Partners. They said it was important to continue with a partnership-oriented approach rather than a process-oriented approach.
- Partnership with national/local NGOs and community-based organizations is becoming increasingly important in providing protection and assistance to refugees and other persons

of concern. UNHCR's recognition of this and drive to partner with national/local NGOs is demonstrated by the steep growth in the volume of agreements and expenditures over the past 10 years of partnering with national/local NGOs for project implementation.

- There is a risk the new selection/retention processes for project implementation may be perceived as UNHCR looking negatively upon long standing project implementation with partners. However, this is not the case as the intention is to "cast the net wide" to look for partners that are the 'best-fit' for a particular project – whether the partner is an 'old partner' or a 'new partner'.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- UNHCR should review the Dadaab experience with regards to reducing the number of NGO implementing partners and issues related to transition
- UNHCR should ensure that newly introduced processes are 'light processes'
- UNHCR should continue to consult and keep partners informed on initiatives related to enhancing the Framework for Implementation with Partners
- UNHCR should pay adequate attention and properly plan/resource sufficient knowledge transfer and training for both UNHCR staff and NGOs for any new concept/process/requirement introduced
- UNHCR should ensure that NGOs feel safe in providing honest and frank feedback (in reference to partner feedback forms being introduced) by ensuring forms are also sent to UNHCR HQ and/or providing some form of anonymity.
- UNHCR should ensure proactive internal and external communications so to diffuse any misconceptions related to the new selection/retention for project implementation so to clarify the intention is to seek the best fit partner'- whether the partner is and existing or a new one.

8. Refugee resettlement: expanding its reach and effectiveness through broader NGO participation

Background of the session

UNHCR currently has the capacity to refer some 91,000 persons for resettlement out of the nearly 181,000 refugees estimated to be in need of resettlement in 2013. Systematic and transparent identification systems are essential in determining which individuals from amongst the total population in need of resettlement will be prioritized according to their specific needs and vulnerabilities. An effective and consistent identification system ensures fair access to resettlement consideration and prevents fraud in the process. It requires close collaboration between UNHCR Protection, Community Services, and Durable Solutions staff and NGO partners in the field.

At the 2012 NGO Consultations, UNHCR and NGOs collectively acknowledged that identification of cases for resettlement is one of the biggest challenges in the system. The resettlement efforts are often dependent upon referrals from other UNHCR units or partners, which help in the identification and prioritization of the refugees most in need of resettlement
This session focused primarily on how international and local NGOs can partner effectively with UNHCR to ensure that the refugees in greatest need of resettlement have access to this life-saving intervention.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- UNHCR reported that there are limited places for resettlement in comparison to the many in need. Out of 10 million refugees, 700,000 have been identified as in need of resettlement. Only 80,000 places are available, meaning that only a little more than 10 per cent of refugees can actually be resettled in a given year.

- Presentations were made by NGOs working on refugee protection in three refugee situations: South Africa, Egypt, and Pakistan. These are largely urban populations; however, in Pakistan the situation also includes camp and rural populations. While resettlement was not the major focus of any of the organisations, identification and referral of those in need of resettlement has become an important part of their work. In each instance, resettlement activities have also opened the door to other avenues of cooperation and protection interventions.
- The speakers noted common challenges, including:
  1) the length of time required to complete the resettlement process;
  2) the lack of information and communication about cases in the resettlement process;
  3) managing expectations of refugees;
  4) ensuring the accuracy and availability of information about resettlement;
  5) preventing fraudulent claims;
- To address these challenges in an effective and collaborative way requires proper planning and the establishment of clear communication channels between all stakeholders. All the speakers mentioned that strong connections and established referral systems between the UNHCR office and other stakeholders have been essential for ensuring successful identification and submission of resettlement cases.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- Continued partnerships, clear communication channels, and established identification and referral systems between UNHCR and NGOs for cases with identified resettlement needs are essential components of the refugee protection regime and can widen opportunities for NGOs to provide solutions and strengthen interventions for some of the most vulnerable persons.

9. Immigration Detention – Finding Alternatives

Background of the session

Immigration detention measures continue to affect thousands of men, women and children within the mandate of UNHCR. At times, their detention conditions falls below international standards, may lack adequate due process safeguards, and be for prolonged periods. In 2012, UNHCR released new *Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers and Alternatives to Detention* (2012), which were launched at the 63rd session of the Executive Committee. They set out the international legal standards applicable to the detention of asylum seekers and other persons seeking international protection. International human rights and refugee law and standards require that detention of asylum seekers should be used only as a last resort, in exceptional cases and after all options other than detention have been shown to be inadequate in the individual case. In other words, where a government intends to detain an asylum seeker person for immigration related reasons, it needs to first consider alternatives to detention.
An increasing number of governments have implemented or are exploring Alternatives to Immigration Detention (ATD) and recent research highlights their benefits, including that they reduce the financial and human costs of detention.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- **The use of immigration detention is on the rise**: The use of immigration detention by States has grown over the past 20 years both as a migration management and a political tool. As a result, it is estimated that millions of migrants are detained around the world each year, although the number of detainees at any one time is unknown.
- **Detention is not an effective deterrent:** There is no empirical evidence to show that detention policies deter irregular migration or discourage persons from seeking asylum.

Several studies have shown that most refugees, asylum seekers and migrants have limited understanding of migration policies in their destination countries, are often reliant upon others to choose their destination, and are primarily motivated by other concerns, such as reaching protection and safety, reuniting with family or friends, historical links between the origin and destination countries, and common language.

- **Detention harms health and well-being:** Research shows that detention is associated with poor mental and physical health including high levels of depression, anxiety and PTSD, and that mental health deteriorates the longer someone is detained. The impact on children is particularly disturbing given the consequences for their cognitive and emotional development may be life-long. The physical and mental consequences of detention extend well beyond the periods of confinement, and can also impact on the ability to integrate into the host communities
- **Detention interferes with human rights:** The use of detention for purposes of deterrence or political gain is always inconsistent with international human rights law. Even though detention may be justified on the basis of national security, health or safety, it must be shown to be necessary in the individual case, proportionate to the risk or threat posed by the individual, limited to the shortest reasonable time period, reviewable by an independent authority, and the least restrictive form applied.
- **ATDs are increasingly becoming normalized:** Legislation, policies and practices that allow for the non-detention of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants are increasingly being normalized in domestic and regional contexts.
- **ATDs are effective:** Research shows that refugees and asylum seekers arrive with a "cooperative disposition" and exhibit very high rates of compliance when they are treated fairly and with dignity. Community supervision programmes have been shown to maintain high compliance rates with a range of populations.
- **ATDs are more cost-effective than traditional detention models:** Although more research needs to be conducted in this area, significant cost benefits have been shown to be associated with ATDs in many national contexts. Avoiding unnecessary cases of detention, or reducing the length of time someone is detained, is a key strategy in reducing the costs associated with detention.
- **ATDs respect the human rights of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants:** Appropriate management in the community is more likely to uphold human rights and support well-being, thereby contributing to people being able to contribute fully to society if residency is secured or being better able to face difficult futures, such as return.
- **UNHCR is continuing to devote attention and resources to these issues:** In addition to the release of guidelines and research, they are in the process of developing a Detention Monitoring manual in collaboration with the IDC and the Association for the Prevention of Torturing (APT); will release a Global Detention Strategy in 2013-14; and will continue their research-based approach and commitment to engaging in government dialogue around these issues.
- **Good practice solutions are needed:** Both governments and civil society are in need of good ATD practices, especially in difficult, under-resourced, and mixed-migration contexts. IDC has developed a forthcoming CAP+ model to address some of these challenges, but more work is needed on identifying and developing best ATD practices.
- **There is need for further strengthening of the evidence base for ATDs:** While much important research has been done on the issue of immigration detention and alternatives, including the challenges/success factors in ATD implementation.
- **Children as a starting point for policy and ATD development:** Immigration detention is particularly harmful for children who may suffer life-long physical and psychological harm from even the shortest periods of detention. We must work together to end the immigration detention of children and to develop and implement child-sensitive alternatives to detention for children.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- UNHCR's Detention Guidelines (Oct 2012) are an important source of the standards of immigration-related detention and need to be widely disseminated. Their implementation at the national level ought also to be closely monitored.
- ATDs are most effective when individuals are:
  - treated with dignity, humanity and respect;
  - provided with clear information;
  - given access to legal advice;
  - provided with material support;
  - benefit from individualized case management; and
  - have adequate documentation.
- The IDC's Community Assessment and Placement (CAP) model provides an example of best practice with regard to ATD development and implementation.
- Further research on alternatives to detention and the documentation of good practices are needed.

10. Advocating Together for Protection

Background to the Session

This session built on the 2012 High Commissioner's Structured Dialogue on NGO-IFRC-UNHCR Partnership, which recognized that protection of refugees, IDPs and stateless people requires strengthened coordination and partnership in today's increasingly complex humanitarian landscape.

A Guidance Note on Partnership in Advocacy for Protection was drafted by the Structured Dialogue Advocacy Task Team. It is based on good practice in the field and spells out what is already taking place in many locations, rather than imposing a new process. It is structured around the principles of partnership – including equality, transparency, responsibility and complementarity – and what they mean for advocacy. It provides a series of considerations and guiding questions to help partners in their complementary advocacy.

The Session

Following an introductory panel discussion, three breakout groups discussed how UNHCR, IFRC and NGOs can better advocate for protection at the global, regional and field levels. The groups then reported back to plenary, which included discussion and an opportunity to make recommendations.

Introductory Session

- UNHCR, IFRC, and NGO partners have different mandates, capacities, limitations, and roles in the humanitarian system in relation to persons of concern. Advocacy works best when partners understand these differences and leverage their respective advantages in a complementary manner.
- There are examples of excellent collaboration and good practices where UNHCR and NGOs have accomplished much more in partnership than either could have separately. Specific examples include advocacy on SGBV, IDPs, child protection, statelessness, resettlement, detention, disabilities, LGBTI, and the HC's Dialogue on Faith and Protection.
- A one-size-fits-all approach is not possible. Rather, as the diversity of tactics, actors, and issues are explored, partners are able to build on what is working well and address what is not. They see the importance of relationships and informal brainstorming, and the value of open and honest communication and information exchange.

- Partnering in advocacy for protection is an ongoing effort that requires partnership at all levels, including the strategic policy level. Advocacy in partnership means that mutually reinforcing on-going relations are established in which advocacy has a dedicated space.
- While the Dialogue has considered partnership among UNHCR, IFRC, and NGOs, the panel highlighted the significance of local ownership, including the role of affected populations in advocacy efforts.
- The panel noted the myriad and complexity of protection issues deserving advocacy, emphasizing both the opportunities ahead and the highly challenging and complex nature of providing protection in today's world. Recognizing this context, participants were encouraged to bring fresh energy and ideas into the breakout groups.

Field

- At the field level best practices of complementary advocacy that have led to stronger protection include:
  - Making long-term commitments and investments in partnership through regular engagement, coordination, information sharing and feedback; Analyzing the context and protection concerns collaboratively; Recognizing complementarities and limitations in partnership and respecting different roles;
  - Mobilizing key civil society actors, promoting local ownership of advocacy messages, and conducting capacity building where civil society is less developed;
  - Advancing advocacy through existing coordination mechanisms, such as protection clusters, sectors, etc.

- Challenges include:
  - Creating a catalogue of options adapted to the location, and escalating advocacy efforts as appropriate;
  - Recognizing that operational entities may be more selective about speaking out;
  - Striking a balance between information sharing and protecting confidentiality;
  - Gaining acceptance by local authorities and persons of concern, and gaining credibility by staying out of politics and remaining impartial;
  - Ensuring complementarity between efforts underway at the local, capital, regional and global levels.

Regional

- Advocating together at the regional level can:
  - Create pressure, increase influence, and amplify domestic voices (finding power in numbers)
  - Allow states to compare what they are doing nationally with what other states are doing in the region
  - Utilize existing regional networks
  - Bring governments and civil society representatives together to discuss issues in a way that may not be possible at the national level
  - Help mobilize resources.

- Recommendations include:
  - Start engaging at the regional level early
  - Share good practices across networks and regions
  - Find the right people to get the messages across
  - Discuss regional advocacy further at the 2014 UNHCR-NGO Annual Consultation in Geneva and consider supplementing this with regional-level consultations.

Global

- There are good examples of alliance building toward protection-related goals at the global level. These alliances have benefited from strategic investments that have been carefully encouraged over time.
- Global advocacy works best when there are shared goals, a basis in evidence, a positive focus on solutions, and the right people around the table, good timing, strong information sharing and momentum.
- Recommendations include:
  - Using global advocacy to strategically support national-level and regional-level advocacy
  - Utilizing existing networks, including engaging actors who are sometimes overlooked, like national NGOs, faith networks, and issue-specific 'allies'
  - Increasing collaboration with academics, including for research and for the evidential base of complementary advocacy efforts.

Conclusions

- Many good practices emerged during the session, reinforcing the value of complementary advocacy and demonstrating how partnership in advocacy can put the power of numbers to good use to influence state practice.
- Partnership, especially partnership in advocacy, is not something that can be prescribed. It builds on good relationships and regularly exchanging information.
- It is important to maintain linkages and complementarity between global-, regional- and field-level advocacy.
- Greater investment in alliance building is needed, particularly to address issues such as statelessness.
- NGOs recognized they should be more active in some areas, working within their own organizations as well as local, regional and international consortia.
- UNHCR acknowledged there are issues that go to the heart of partnership where UNHCR can and must do better. The key message UNHCR took away from the session is that there are means to better communicate to ensure that partnership is taken seriously. The guidance note will facilitate this.

Next Steps

- The guidance note and key-takeaways from this session will be shared with UNHCR, IFRC and NGO staff. UNHCR's communication will be accompanied by a message from the High Commissioner articulating UNHCR's commitment.
- The issue of advocacy will be included during upcoming Structured Dialogue joint field missions.
- The December 11-12, 2013 High Commissioner's Dialogue on IDPs will be an opportunity to advocate together for this often overlooked population.
- The theme of "Advocating Together for Protection" will recur in future UNHCR-NGO Consultations to take stock of what is happening and on particular streams of work.

E. SIDE SESSIONS

1. Cash-based interventions in UNHCR interventions

Background of the session

In-kind distributions are still the predominant form of assistance in humanitarian emergencies and in transitional settings. In recent years, however, there has been a growing awareness that in-kind distributions such as seeds, tools, food, non-food items, etc. may not always be the most appropriate response. Cash-based interventions can play an important role in assisting people to meet their various needs in emergency settings, and evaluations of cash-based interventions conducted during the last decade have been largely positive. UNHCR and its partners have been using cash and vouchers in displacement and return contexts since the early 1980s. This session explored the role, actual and potential, that cash and vouchers have in protecting people in displacement settings.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) can be useful in a variety of operational contexts (in emergencies and protracted displacement situations, to support repatriation or to meet essential needs in the asylum country), sectors (health, education, food, shelter, NFIs, livelihoods) and modalities (stand-alone or combined with in-kind assistance).
- The use of CTP has been increasing in UNHCR operations since the 1980s – in particular since 1998. Currently, one in three operations uses cash- or voucher-based assistance. A growing number of humanitarian agencies and donors have incorporated CTP into their assistance policy (WFP, UNHCR, Oxfam, ECHO, PRM, etc.).
- CTP does not always constitute the most effective approach. A context-specific analysis is a precondition to determining whether minimum criteria for success are met (favourable protection environment, functioning markets, geographic accessibility, community acceptability, a functional payment system, and a reliable method for identifying beneficiaries).
- Cash-based interventions can offer several protection and programmatic advantages: dignity and empowerment, choice of preferred resources for the household, avoidance of risky coping mechanisms, cost efficiency, and support to local production and markets.
- These interventions can also involve risks (theft/diversion, fraud, perception of inequity by host community or government, decreased follow-up ability by social workers, women's disempowerment) which have to be carefully assessed. If overall anticipated benefits outweigh disadvantages and CTP is deemed appropriate for a given operation, mitigation measures for these risks should be explicitly included in programme design (e.g. using innovative technology such as smart cards). Robust programming factoring in these considerations is also likely to reduce possible concerns by donors (e.g. terrorism).
- Monitoring of the results and impact of cash-based programmes - where NGOs have a key role to play – will be crucial. A fair and reliable method for selecting beneficiaries, based on their specific protection needs, is critical to the credibility and effectiveness of cash-based interventions. At present, agencies intervening in the same operation seem to lack coherence and coordination in the criteria they apply.
- More evidence is needed regarding the impact of CTP on the protection and well-being of refugees. WFP and UNHCR will soon release a joint study analysing the gender and protection aspects of CTP (which largely resemble those related to in-kind programmes). A recent study by NGOs including Save the Children and the Women's Refugee Commission also noted positive CTP outcomes on education in Pakistan, where grants accorded to refugee families were conditional to children's school attendance.
- In non-camp settings where displaced and host communities are heavily mixed (e.g. Lebanon), including local residents among the beneficiaries of cash-based assistance

programmes has proven to be critical to favour peaceful coexistence and preserve the overall asylum space.

- In camp settings where freedom of movement is limited, a good practice has been to discuss with local traders to reach an agreement on market-attuned price levels for commodities purchased by refugees.
- To what extent do (cultural) views of programme designers unduly restrict refugees' freedom of choice? According to Caritas Lebanon, prohibiting the purchase of certain goods - such as tobacco or alcohol - does not constitute a blanket proscription; rather, it helps ensure that CTP serves its goal of meeting families' basic needs. Freedom of choice may also be limited by an agency's mandate (e.g. WFP and the provision of food items), from which significant departure may produce negative audit results. A multi-agency complementary vouchers system could help overcome these limitations.
- UNHCR is currently developing operational guidance and organising training sessions for its field offices and partners; strengthening its partnerships (with development agencies, UN organisations and the private sector); and planning to scale up its CTP projects in the field.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- Coordinate methodology of vulnerability assessments and beneficiary selection for cash-based assistance programmes among agencies and NGOs involved.
- Build capacity by disseminating operational guidance on CTP and implementing training in the field.
- Strengthen preliminary feasibility analyses and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

2. Faith and protection: follow-up to the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

Background of the session

A special session on Faith and Protection at the June 2011 Annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations explored the challenges faced by national faith-based organizations (FBOs), their unique strengths and protection potential, and how INGOs, UNHCR and national FBOs can maximize their collective field-level protection efforts. Building upon that special session, UNHCR devoted its 2012 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges to the theme of Faith and Protection. The High Commissioner closed the 2012 Dialogue with a series of actionable suggestions for follow-up. To build on the momentum around this topic, participants of the 2012 Dialogue also proposed a side event at the 2013 Annual Consultations. The side event provided an opportunity to take note of progress made in follow-up, solicit input into thinking on good practices, and invite broader NGO engagement and commitment to the follow-up initiatives.

Major points arising from speakers and discussions (trends & challenges)

- Volker Türk, Director of International Protection, affirmed that the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Faith and Protection was a "journey of mutual discovery" for UNHCR and a group of faith leaders and FBOs from across the world. In a polarized world where religion is often a dividing force, the Dialogue on the theme of Faith and Protection reflected UNHCR's commitment not only for 'advocating together for protection' but also for engaging on faith issues and recognizing the role of FBOs, local faith communities, and religious leaders in promoting welcoming communities and protecting refugees, asylum-seekers, the internally displaced, stateless persons and other 'persons of concern' to UNHCR.

- At the conclusion of the High Commissioner's Dialogue, a coalition of FBOs embraced the recommendations to welcome refugees and other forcibly displaced persons into their communities. Together, they drafted a document entitled Welcoming the Stranger: Affirmations for Faith Leaders ('Affirmation of Welcome') that drew upon principles and values of welcome shared by major faith groups including Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- Two faith leaders representing the Christian and Jewish faiths spoke about the place of religion in the life of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons, as well as their role in promoting inter-religious understanding and dialogue. Both fully endorsed the Affirmation of Welcome, adding that religion should be part of the solution, has the power to shift public opinion and lay aside differences to focus on common ground. The document is meant to be a practical tool for religious leaders to encourage positive behaviour through common language to welcome the displaced and to teach those at large about the 'commandment' to treat the stranger as one would wish to be treated.
- NGO representatives explained their advocacy in relation to the Affirmation of Welcome and indicated that this document is directed at receiving communities across the world who often sacrifice much more than the international humanitarian community when they welcome the stranger. It raises issues of resource competition and limited livelihood opportunities that can be further exacerbated upon the arrival of displaced persons. For this reason, the Affirmation of Welcome was written in the first person and translated into seven languages to appeal to the personal faith of all persons and recognize the 'oneness of humanity'.
- The side event closed by highlighting the recent UNHCR-NGO initiative to better understand the contributions to protection outcomes across the world of FBOs, local faith communities and faith leaders. With over 50 good practices compiled, notable examples include: physical protection; national legislative changes; combating xenophobia and discrimination; supporting resettlement and integration; prevention of and response to SGBV and forced recruitment; deterrence of violence through presence and accompaniment; reconciliation and peace-building; legal counselling and asylum case management; and mediating ethnic and land-related tensions. The initiative demonstrated the value of thoughtful collaboration between UNHCR and faith-actors, and included innovative and strategic partnership to address specific protection issues. As UNHCR and partners continue to implement recommendations from the 2012 High Commissioner's Dialogue, the good practice examples will be used to support efforts to improve the 'faith literacy' of UNHCR staff and the broader international humanitarian community and consider operational implications of the dialogue.

Recommendations/Conclusions

- Carry out the global and country-level roll-out and endorsement of the Affirmation of Welcome, including through the Religions for Peace World Assembly, in coordination with a wide array of faith-based organizations, governments and international organizations.
- Improve the 'faith literacy' of the international humanitarian community, including through guidance for UNHCR and partner staff on how to meaningfully engage with faith actors who fall outside of the traditional humanitarian system.
- Consider the operational implications of the faith and protection dialogue, especially how UNHCR and partners can better understand and reinforce the role of faith actors in advocating for and achieving protection; for example, through faith-sensitive community-level 'protection preparedness,' developing faith-sensitive protection tools and approaches, and fostering grassroots and protection mobilization activities that appropriately utilize faith actors and networks.
- Take account of the dialogue in UNHCR and partner work on community-based protection; hold a community-based protection session at the 2014 NGO Consultations, and ensure that the session explores the faith component of community-based protection.

F. CLOSING SESSION: PLENARY SESSION AND CLOSING ADDRESS

Main issues from the plenary session

Karina Sarmiento, the Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs, presented the main recommendations of regional and thematic sessions of the consultations. She stressed the need for mutual respect, transparency and trust among NGOs and UNHCR, recognizing their different and complementary roles and mandates.

Hassane Boukili, rapporteur of the Executive Committee (Morocco), explained the conclusions of EXCOM, with a particular focus on the EXCOM Conclusion currently being negotiated on civil registration. He mentioned the importance of the participation of civil society in EXCOM discussion.

Daniel Endres, the Director of UNHCR's Division of the External Relations Unit noted that 2014 will be an important year, with various important celebrations and benchmarks, such as the 60th Anniversary of the Statelessness Convention and the 30th Anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration. He also mentioned the 2015 World Humanitarian Summit as an opportunity to advance shared objectives.

Nan Buzard, ICVA Director, thanked conference organizers and participants for their efforts and underscored the need to follow up these discussions at the regional- and field-levels.

Closing Remarks from the High Commissioner

The High Commissioner highlighted the importance of joint advocacy efforts in solving the challenges to protection that we are facing today.

He pointed out that while humanitarian crises worsen, there is a continuous decline in available resources. Similarly, there are enormous constraints to humanitarian space and in accessing population of concern. More and more humanitarian actors are targets of violence.

He referred to issues that require more collaborative effort including the multiplication of conflicts with a huge impact which the international community has been unable to prevent or bring to timely resolution (e.g. the present situation in Syria).

New challenges pose a significant impact on the ability of the humanitarian community to respond. They are exacerbated by global mega trends (i.e. population growth, urbanization, food insecurity) more frequent and dramatic natural disasters (i.e.: floods, storms, drought), and slow-onset environmental degradation that is leaving more and more people unable to live sustainably in their place of origin.

NGOs welcomed the High Commissioner's announcement that the focus of the 2013 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection would be the protection of IDPs.

The High Commissioner closed by stressing that no one can do it alone. Partnership is more important than ever and protection needs to be at the centre of it.

Annexes

I. Programme of the Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

II. Agenda of Side meetings at the Annual Consultations with NGOs

III. Evaluation of the 2013 Annual Consultations with NGOs

IV. List of participants by organization

PROGRAMME OF THE ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS

Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations
11 – 13 JUNE 2013
International Conference Center Geneva

Tuesday 11 June 2013

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

Room 2 **OPENING ADDRESS AND PLENARY DISCUSSION**

Alexander ALEINIKOFF, *Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees*
Daniel ENDRES, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*
Nan BUZARD, *Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*
Kemlin FURLEY, *Head, Inter-Agency-Unit, UNHCR*

13h00 – 14h30 LUNCH *(free) – DÉJEUNER (libre)*

13h15 – 14h15 **SIDE EVENT** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*
Room 3

Cash-based interventions in UNHCR operations

In-kind distributions are still the predominant form of assistance in humanitarian emergencies and in transitional settings. In recent years, however, there has growing awareness that in-kind distributions such as seeds, tools, food, non-food items, etc. may not always be the most appropriate response. Cash-based interventions can play an important role in assisting people to meet their various needs in emergency settings, and evaluations conducted during the last decade have been largely positive. UNHCR and its partners have been using cash and vouchers in displacement and return contexts since the early 1980's. This session explores the role, actual and potential, that cash and vouchers have in protecting people in displacement settings.

Moderator: Paul SPIEGEL, *Deputy Director, Division of Programme Support & Management, UNHCR*
Speakers: Haley BOWCOCK, *Cash Learning Partnership, OXFAM GB*
Hanna MATTINEN, *Senior Food Security and Liaison Officer, UNHCR*
Najla Marie-Louise TABET CHAHDA, *Caritas Lebanon*

14h30 – 16h15 REGIONAL **SESSION**

Room 2 **Bureau for MENA** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish)*

The number of refugees in the Middle East and North Africa region has considerably increased over the last year, mainly due to the Syrian refugee crisis as well as the conflict in Mali. Far from being stable, the region continues to experience dramatic developments which have resulted in more refugee outflows, more internal displacement, and sadly, more loss of life.

Last year marked a turning point in the crisis in Syria. By end of April 2013, over 1.4 million Syrian refugees had already been registered or received registration appointments, mainly in the neighboring countries and beyond. Equally so, the crisis had its catastrophic impact inside Syria with more than 4 million persons internally displaced and over 6 million persons affected. In some cases, Syrians had to be displaced more than once as a result of the ongoing violence spread across Syria.

On the other side of the region, the conflict in Mali forced many people to flee into neighboring countries including Mauritania. By the end of April, over 74,000 Malian refugees, among them women and children, were hosted and assisted in Mbera camp in southern Mauritania.

The region continues to attract mixed migration movements. In 2012 alone, 107,500 new arrivals from the Horn of Africa, mainly Ethiopians, landed on Yemen's shores– a record number and a 4% increase compared with last year. Similar mixed population movements continued across the North African countries, both as destination and transit.

Yemen remained a host to more than 237,000 refugees, and maintains its open-door policy towards those individuals fleeing from the Horn of Africa. Moreover, 350,000 Yemenis are internally displaced, mainly in the north of the country.

With some exceptions, refugees in the MENA region reside largely in urban settings not camps. This requires the adoption of different assistance strategies and methods on part of the humanitarian community.

The above topics will be discussed in the MENA session, with a focus on the current humanitarian emergencies, mainly the Syrian, Somali and Malian refugee crises as well as mixed migration flows across the region, and the largely urban nature of the refugee situations in the region.

Moderator: Shaima AL ZAROONI, *International Humanitarian City*

Speakers: Yacoub EL-HILLO, *Director, Bureau for MENA, UNHCR*
Khalid AL DUBAI, *Interaction in Development Foundation*
Mohamed Vall ISSA, *Association pour la lutte contre la pauvreté et le sous-développement*

14h30 – 16h15 THEMATIC **SESSIONS**

Room 3

Advocating together to resolve statelessness *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Collaborative advocacy efforts between UNHCR, civil society, academic institutions and stateless persons themselves are vital to resolving statelessness. While there has been significant progress towards realization of commitments made by Governments in areas such as reform of nationality laws, creation of determination procedures and accession to the two UN Conventions, more effective strategies are needed to resolve protracted situations of statelessness, such as those affecting the Rohingya in Myanmar and former Soviet citizens in Europe and Central Asia. There is also a need to develop strong, working partnerships and to increase the number of NGOs working on statelessness worldwide. To this end, the upcoming commemorations of the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons (1954 Convention) provide an excellent opportunity through which to strengthen existing and develop new advocacy partnerships and networks.

This session will focus on improving advocacy and collaboration in three key areas, with speakers from civil society and UNHCR for each:

1) *Advocating for implementation of commitments by States to address statelessness*
   This presentation will look at successful examples and challenges faced by civil society and UNHCR in ensuring implementation of formal State commitments to address statelessness.
2) *Advocating to resolve protracted situations of statelessness*
   This presentation will examine how civil society actors and UNHCR can strengthen their individual and collective efforts to resolve protracted situations of statelessness around the world.
3) *Advocating for action on statelessness in 2014 in the context of the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*
   This presentation will look to future action by and collaboration between civil society and UNHCR to reinforce awareness and new networks and to promote action to address statelessness.

Moderator: Laura VAN WAAS, *Statelessness Programme, Tilburg University*

Advocating for implementation of commitments by States to address statelessness:

Speakers: Gabor GYULAI, *Hungarian Helsinki Committee*
Janice MARSHALL, *Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Advocating to resolve protracted situations of statelessness:

Speakers: Amal DE CHICKERA, *Equal Rights Trust*
Nicholas OAKESHOTT, *Regional Protection Officer (Statelessness), UNHCR Bangkok*

Advocating for action on statelessness in 2014 in the context of the 60th anniversary of the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons:

Speakers: Zahra ALBARAZI, *Women's Refugee Commission*
Mark MANLY, *Senior Legal Coordinator (Statelessness), Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Room 4 **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in emergencies: our collective responsibility to move from rhetoric to reality, from policy to implementation** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

It is imperative in humanitarian response to deliver assistance in ways that strengthen protection and mitigate risk. Humanitarian organizations know that conflict and displacement increases vulnerability to gender-based violence (GBV), especially for women and girls. We also know that humanitarian response will be more effective and risks will be reduced if protection considerations are integrated into all programming and if specialized gender-based violence (GBV) programs are in place at the beginning of an emergency. The humanitarian community has developed guidelines for addressing GBV across program areas, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings. We have pledged to hold one another accountable for meeting basic protection standards in our work. Yet in too many places, we continue to fall short. And those most at risk pay the price.

This session will focus on the concrete, practical steps that must be taken across program areas to address gender-based violence and meet our collective responsibilities to affected populations. Through the panel presentations and audience discussion, we will share agencies' successes and challenges in integrating GBV prevention and response efforts into their work across sectors in emergencies. Information will also be shared on the revision now underway of the multi-sectoral IASC GBV Guidelines. The revised Guidelines will provide updated, user-friendly guidance and tools for all actors in humanitarian settings, and the outcomes from this session will be fed into the revision process.

Moderator: Julien SCHOPP, *InterAction*

Speakers: Gina BRAMUCCI, *International Rescue Committee*
Willington SSEKADDE, *Raising Voices*
Kim Thuy SEELINGER, *Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley*
Volker TÜRK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

16h15 – 16h45 COFFEE BREAK (free) – *PAUSE CAFÉ (libre)*

16h45 – 18h30 REGIONAL **SESSION**

Room 2 **Bureau for MENA *(continued)*** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Spanish)*
The session continues.

16h45 – 18h30 **THEMATIC SESSIONS**

Room 3 **Advocating together to resolve statelessness *(continued)***
(*interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*
The session continues.

Room 4 **Achieving durable solutions for IDPs in changing operational context** (*interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

The process towards durable solutions for internally displaced people almost always continues well beyond the humanitarian emergency phase. Sustained engagement with a wide array of actors, including with governments, and the civil society, and development actors is required.

At the UN level, the piloting of the UN Secretary-General's Framework on Durable Solutions calls on all UN agencies to engage in the process of finding durable solutions for IDPs. Various governments have recently taken steps to include IDP protection and durable solutions in development and social protection programs. Many civil society organizations, national and international, implement programs in support of the search for durable solutions.

This session seeks to promote dialogue on the steps UNHCR and NGOs can take to jointly engage in the search for durable solutions, especially in fast-changing operational contexts and diminishing resources.

Panel presentations will address:

- UNHCR's vision for IDP protection and solutions
- The role of advocacy: lessons from the past
- Opportunities for engagement and advocacy for NGOs to promote durable solutions

The following main themes will frame the discussion:

- The search for durable solutions in the context of limited resources
- Building national capacity and the role of government in promoting durable solutions
- Building and strengthening partnership and coordination at the global and field levels

Moderator: Volker TÜRK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Speakers: Clare SPURRELL, *Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Norwegian Refugee Council*

19h00 - 20h30 *RECEPTION – UNHCR Caféteria, UNHCR main building (94, rue de Montbrillant)*

Wednesday 12 June 2013

There will be two side meetings taking place between 08h00 to 09h00:
Room 5: Kidnapping (of refugees) for ransom
Room 6: Harnessing the potential of displaced youth
More details can be found on the Agenda of Side Meetings

09h00 – 10h45 REGIONAL SESSIONS

Room 2 Bureau for AFRICA *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

i) The first part of the session will be dedicated to UNHCR's urban refugee policy and on how advocating together in an urban setting can bring tangible protection results. The Director for International Protection will give an update on the implementation of the policy in Africa.

In Kenya, the implementation of the Urban refugee policy was effectively suspended, in December, when the Government announced a directive discontinuing the registration of refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas and ordering them to relocate to the refugee camps in Dadaab and Kakuma. Kituo Cha Sheria (Legal Advice Centre) was one of the NGOs that filed a petition on the legality of this Directive. The High Court issued an injunction halting all action to implement the directive, pending a court hearing on the matter. The Director of Kituo Cha Sheria will provide a presentation on the legal and advocacy activities in this regard.

ii) During the second part of the session, the Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa will provide an update on the implementation of the comprehensive solutions strategy for Rwandan refugees. The Director will brief the participants on the outcomes of the Ministerial meeting recently held in Pretoria, South Africa, involving the countries of asylum and of origin, as well as on the next steps with regard to the strategy's recommendation to invoke cessation of refugee status for those who fled Rwanda before 31 December 1998, by 30 June 2013.

iii) During the final part of the session, participants will be briefed on UNHCR's programmes in Africa for 2014 and 2015. While funding for UNHCR programmes in Africa has increased, so have the needs, with multiple emergencies on the continent, commanding the bulk of the funding available. The Deputy Director of the Division of Programme Support and Management will present the Office's 2014-15 Global Strategic Priorities that have guided the prioritization of programme activities for the next two years.

In all three parts of the session, presentations will be followed by debate on the subject.

Moderators: Halima ADAN, *Save Somali Women and Children*
George OKOTH-OBBO, *Director, Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*

Speakers: Liz AHUA, *Deputy Director (West and Central Africa and the Great Lakes), Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*
Solomon Wasia MASITSA, *Kituo Cha Sheria (Legal Advice Center)*
Raouf MAZOU, *Deputy Director (East and Horn of Africa), Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*
Henrik NORDENTOFT, *Deputy Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*
Volker TÜRK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Noriko YOSHIDA, *Deputy Director (Southern Africa), Bureau for Africa, UNHCR*

Room 3 Bureau for ASIA and the PACIFIC *(interpretation in English-Russian)*

The Asia / Pacific Regional session will engage NGO participants in an open exchange with the Bureau colleagues on current programmes and operations in Asia and the Pacific with a specific focus on urban refugees. Of the 3.6 million refugees in Asia, fewer than 1.3 million live in refugee camps. The overwhelming majority is located in urban environments. While urban settings may sometimes offer certain advantages compared to camp settings, such as greater freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities, they also bring significant risks for vulnerable populations. The absence of legal and institutional frameworks for refugee protection in many countries in Asia poses great challenges. Disparities in asylum practices often lead to secondary movements as refugees and asylum seekers

search for countries where they have a better chance of having their needs met. In some countries, the granting of residence permits and socio-economic rights have allowed good progress in the situation of urban refugees, but presents other challenges in terms of access, assistance, and funding. The discussions will focus on how NGOs and UNHCR can be innovative in their collaboration in order to find adequate responses to contemporary challenges in urban environments.

After the introductory discussion, the session will break-out in three groups around three large sub-themes (and will reconvene in plenary for conclusion):

- Protection in urban contexts: including irregular /secondary movements, temporary stay arrangements, advocacy and constructive collaboration
- Livelihood and self-reliance: in the context of shrinking humanitarian funding, how to increase awareness about need for self-sufficiency, needs assessments for targeted interventions, and partnership
- Promoting durable solutions: including in mixed migrations, protracted refugee situations, SSAR, reintegration challenges, and joint advocacy

Moderator: Mehdi KHAJENOURI, *MAHAK Charity-Care Organization*

Speakers: Daisy DELL, *Director, Bureau for Asia, UNHCR*
Father Jose MATHEW, *BOSCO*

Room 4 — Bureau for AMERICAS *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Advocating for protection of persons with specific needs: LGBTI, unaccompanied children, indigenous people and Afro-descendants in the Americas

All individuals forced to flee because of persecution, conflict or violence leave behind their homes, families and communities and find themselves in a situation of acute vulnerability. Fear, lack of protection, disorientation and feeling of defenselessness are common characteristics of forcibly displaced populations.

However, asylum-seekers, refugees and displaced persons also have distinct and specific needs depending on their gender, experience during flight or their belonging to minority groups. Those needs require special attention, to ensure access to protection and to safeguard individual rights.

How are these distinct protection needs addressed? Are joint advocacy efforts bringing the desired results in this respect? Can we improve our strategies and outcomes?

This session will explore how the rights of displaced LGBTI, unaccompanied children, indigenous and Afro-descendants are defended in the Americas through advocacy with national and local authorities. The aim is to explore gaps and challenges and share best solutions to the plight of persons of concern with specific needs in the region.

Interactive dialogue

Moderator: Luisa CREMONESE, *Senior Cooordinator (Gender Equality and Women), Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Speakers: Steeve LAGUERRE, *Fondation SEROvie*
Pablo MINDA, *Universidad Luis Vargas Torres de Esmeraldas*
Alejandro NUNEZ MEDINA, *Fundación Casa Alianza*

Each presenter will focus on one of the groups with specific needs indicated above and share his/her perspectives from the operational context he/she works in. The audience will have 45 minutes to ask questions or bring forward personal experiences in advocating for the protection of persons with specific needs.

Advocacy strategy break-out groups

Moderator: Jason KNAPP, *Church World Service*

Participants will divide in three break-up groups and focus on a particular group with special needs. They will discuss three different group-based (not individual case) scenarios on:

A) LGBTI in Haiti;
B) Unaccompanied children at the US-Mexico Border;
C) Colombian indigenous people and Afro-descendants refugees in Ecuador.

Groups will have 45 minutes to brainstorm and suggest an advocacy strategy. In turn, at the plenary, each group's rapporteur will present their respective strategy for discussion and inputs from the audience. To conclude, a synthesis of the discussion and outcome of the practical exercises will be presented along with concluding remarks on advocacy for the protection of vulnerable groups.

Concluding remarks
Marta JUAREZ, *Director, Bureau for Americas, UNHCR*

10h45 – 11h15 COFFEE BREAK – *PAUSE CAFE*

11h15 – 13h00 REGIONAL SESSIONS

Room 2 **Bureau for AFRICA *(continued)*** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*
The session continues.

Room 3 **Bureau for ASIA and the PACIFIC *(continued)*** *(interpretation in English-Russian)*
The session continues.

Room 4 **Bureau for AMERICAS *(continued)*** *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*
The session continues.

There will be one side meeting taking place between 13h15 to 14h15:
Room 4: Advocating together to protect stateless Rohingya
More details can be found on the Agenda of Side Meetings

13h00 – 14h30 LUNCH BREAK *(free)* – *PAUSE DÉJEUNER (libre)*

13h15 – 14h15 SIDE EVENT *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Room 3

Faith and protection: follow-up to the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges

A special session on Faith and Protection at the June 2011 Annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations explored the challenges faced by national FBOs, their unique strengths and protection potential, and how INGOs, UNHCR and national FBOs can maximize their collective field-level protection efforts. Building upon that special session, UNHCR devoted its 2012 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges to the theme of Faith and Protection. The High Commissioner closed the 2012 Dialogue with a series of actionable suggestions for follow-up. To build on the momentum around this topic, participants of the 2012 Dialogue also proposed a side event at the 2013 Annual Consultations. The side event will provide an opportunity to take note of progress made in follow-up, solicit inputs into thinking on good practices, and invite broader NGO engagement and commitment to the follow-up initiatives. Given the short time available for the side event, a longer, informal dinner-time conversation will be organized on 12 June 2013 for those particularly interested in this topic, providing an opportunity for deeper engagement and fresh ideas and recommendations.

Outline:
I. Anchoring the issue in history: The 2011 Annual NGO Consultations
II. Key Takeaways from the HC's Dialogue on Faith and Protection
III. Update on the Code of Conduct ("Affirmations for Faith Leaders")
IV. Update on Compilation of Good Practices
IV. Open Discussion

Moderators: James THOMSON, *Act for Peace*
Helen STAWSKI, *Archbishop of Canterbury*
Speakers: Volker TÜRK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Bishop Dr. Munib A. YOUNAN, *Lutheran World Federation*
Rachel LEVITAN, *HIAS*
Atallah FITZGIBBON, *Islamic Relief Worldwide*
Nava HAFETZ, *Rabbis for Human Rights*

14h30 – 16h15 THEMATIC SESSIONS

Room 2 Advocacy and action for the protection of children

(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

Children represent half of the populations of concern to UNHCR and their protection is a priority for UNHCR. The UNHCR Framework for the Protection of Children, launched last year, outlines the direction for the protection of children as it pertains to the mandate of the Organization. Effective partnership between UNHCR and NGOs is crucial for the implementation of the Framework.

The session is an opportunity to share experience in effective advocacy and action for the protection of children. Two contexts will be considered. Firstly, we will consider advocacy and action for children in emergencies. The concept of "a children's emergency" has emerged over the past few years - indicating that children are often those most affected and with the most acute protection needs. Secondly, we will consider children in mixed migration flows. An increasing number of children are moving across borders, moving on their own or 'assisted' by smugglers. The reasons for the movements vary – some of them are seeking better opportunities but a number of them have international protection needs.

These two scenarios pose new and unprecedented challenges to governments, UN Organizations, and NGOs as we try collectively to address the protection risks facing children and adolescents. The session is an opportunity to take stock of current practices and to make recommendations for the way forward for the protection of children, specifically in emergency situations and in mixed migration. The session will also be an opportunity to provide an update on the implementation of the UNHCR Protection Framework for Children.

Moderator: Vladimir HERNANDEZ, *Community and Family Services International*
Speakers: Michael KLOSSON, *Save the Children US*
Monika SANDVIK-NYLUND, *Senior Adviser (Children), Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Break-out groups discussions will be introduced by the following speakers:

1. Strengthening child protection systems in emergencies
Moderator: Preeta LAW, *Senior Coordinator, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Speakers: Ernest LORDA, *Jesuit Refugee Service*
Daisuke FUNAI, *International Rescue Committee*
Lucy BATCHELOR, *Save the Children Sweden/UNHCR Child Protection Officer*
Scholastica NASINYAMA, *INTERAID Uganda*

2. Enhancing the protection of children in mixed migration contexts
Moderator: Jane BLOOM, *International Catholic Migration Commission*
Speakers: Yasmin RAJAH, *Refugee Social Services*
Ludovic LATASTE, *International Catholic Migration Commission*
Alexis GARNETT, *Child Protection Officer, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Nathalie LUMMERT, *U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*

Room 3 Partnership in focus *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

At the end of 2011, the High Commissioner invited the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), InterAction and their members, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to participate in a 'Structured Dialogue' to review the quality of partnership with UNHCR with the broad objective of strengthening operational collaboration in the field through stronger mutual respect and trust, and a culture of transparency and shared responsibility. The Dialogue served as a platform to develop a series of recommendations on translating into action the five Principles of Partnership (PoP),

namely equality, transparency, results-oriented approach, responsibility and complementarity, to which UNHCR and partners are all committed. UNHCR, ICVA, InterAction and the IFRC committed to take these recommendations forward in the field as well as in various fora in 2013, including at the Annual UNHCR-NGO Consultations.

Participants will be given an overview of the process and outcomes of the Structured Dialogue and will discuss the follow-up to the Dialogue's recommendations, to be taken forward both at the HQ and field level.

This session provides an opportunity to exchange on cross-cutting partnership issues and to share suggestions on strengthening the fora for dialogue and consultation between UNHCR and NGOs at global, regional and field levels, including the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs.

The overall aim is to gather feedback from participants on taking forward these partnership recommendations, especially at the field level.

Moderator: Khassim DIAGNE, *Head, Secretariat and Inter-Agency Service, UNHCR*

Speakers: Janet LIM, *Assistant High Commissioner (Operations)*
Mitzi SCHROEDER, *Jesuit Refugee Service on behalf of InterAction*
Nan BUZARD, *International Council of Voluntary Agencies*

Room 4 National asylum systems: building and maintaining protection systems for refugees *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

States are primarily responsible for the protection of refugees, including by (a) ensuring access to territory and protection from refoulement, (b) humane and dignified reception arrangements, including protection against arbitrary detention, fair and efficient status determination procedures, (c) guaranteeing the enjoyment of rights, and (d) facilitating durable solutions. A range of actors are relevant to determine the quality of the protection in a state, including the legislature/parliament, the executive, the judiciary, the legal community, the media and press, civil society, the public, academia, and the international community as a whole, including UNHCR.

To effectively build, strengthen and sustain state asylum/protection systems it is important to understand the gaps, problems and challenges in respect of the system and the stakeholders involved. How progress is leveraged in this area varies depending on a range of factors, including the political, economic, socio-cultural, legal, and regional contexts, as well as broader migration trends. Crucial is the level of development of the system in issue ranging from (1) a system with no functioning state asylum system, to (2) transitional systems where the state has assumed some responsibilities and finally (3) developed systems where the state is in full control.

The panel will include representatives from each of the three systems. Using their experience from a specific country each panelist will draw some general remarks and conclusions. Focusing on what is needed and how civil society and UNHCR can cooperate in assisting states in building, strengthening and sustaining asylum/protection system the following three questions will be addressed:

- What are the essential building blocks for a national asylum system that enables refugees to enjoy their rights?
- How can key stakeholders best take responsibility for building and maintaining a national asylum system? And for which block or blocks?
- How can civil society and UNHCR better advocate for and cooperate in this regard?

Moderator: Karin KEIL, *Caritas Internationalis*

Speakers: Pill Kyu HWANG, *Gonggam Human Rights Law Foundation*
Martin JONES, *Egyptian Foundation for Refugee Rights*
Janice L. MARSHALL, *Deputy Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Reut MICHAELI, *Hotline for Migrant Workers*

16h15 – 16h45 COFFEE BREAK – *PAUSE CAFE*

16h45 – 18h30 THEMATIC SESSIONS

Room 2

Advocacy and action for the protection of children *(continued)*

(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

The session continues.

Room 3

Strengthening the Implementing Partnership Framework

(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)

Throughout its history, UNHCR has worked in close partnership with NGOs to protect and assist refugees. One major manifestation of these partnerships is programmes facilitated by UNHCR and implemented by NGO partners. In 2012, over a third of the $2.3 billion spent by UNHCR on protection and assistance was channeled through more than 760 NGOs across the globe. Of these, 600 were national or local NGOs and 160 were international.

As discussed at length during the 2012 NGO Consultations, UNHCR has been working in consultation with NGO partners, including field and network reference groups, to review and revise the whole framework of cooperation with implementing partners, including the types and formats of agreement between UNHCR and NGOs, the terminology used, the mechanisms for joint management of agreements, joint monitoring of projects and mutual establishment and review of partnership. The intention is to promote accountability and consistency in the establishment and maintenance of implementing partnerships with NGO partners.

This dialogue on how implementing partnerships are established and maintained is not merely technical. Partnership dynamics among UNHCR and NGOs have always been influenced by the manner in which UNHCR and NGO field offices engage with one another in implementing projects. A new framework for engagement could present significant new opportunities as well as challenges for UNHCR and its NGO partners in serving refugees together.

This session will brief and solicit feedback from NGOs on components of the UNHCR-NGO implementing partnership framework which has emerged since the 2012 NGO Consultations: the new partnership portal developed by UNHCR to identify qualified and interested NGOs for project partnerships, the draft agreement for implementing partnerships, changes in the transference of funds from UNHCR to NGOs, and new approaches to joint (NGO-UNHCR) monitoring of programmes.

The most recent draft of the Implementing Partnership Agreement, the draft procedures ("Work Step Two") for Establishing and Maintaining Partnership, the Implementing Partnership Management Guidance Note for Joint Monitoring, and "Annual Partner Feedback" questions will be shared in advance of the session. NGO Consultation participants are strongly encouraged to read the materials. Those who represent organizations currently in implementing partnerships with UNHCR are encouraged to come to the session with an idea of how they would answer the Annual Partner Feedback questions provided in advance.

Moderator: Mark HETFIELD, *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society*

Speakers: Steven CORLISS, *Director, Division of Programme Support and Management, UNHCR*
Steven MUNCY, *Community and Family Services International*
Fatima SHERIF-NOR, *Head, Implementing Partnership Management Service, UNHCR*
Zainab RAZZA JAFRI, *Society for Human Rights and Prisoners Aid (SHARP)*

16h45 – 18h30 REGIONAL SESSION

Room 4

Bureau for EUROPE *(interpretation in English-Russian)*

Refugee protection and international migration in Europe: challenges and responses

All countries in Europe are, albeit in different ways, affected by irregular mixed movements of refugees and migrants and all are struggling with the complex challenges arising in this context. Countries in the EU's eastern and southeastern neighborhood and EU Member States at the external border face a

particularly challenging task in controlling unauthorized entry and preventing security threats while at the same time taking account the protection needs of people within these movements.

Civil society plays a vital role in crafting effective and protection-sensitive responses to mixed movements at national, regional and international level and rising xenophobia in some counties, including through its advocacy efforts and direct provision of assistance to those in need. In many countries, civil society, UNHCR and governments are working together to address mixed movements in protection-sensitive ways following UNHCR's 10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration.

This session aims to bring together representatives of NGOs from all around Europe to share their experience, exchange relevant good practices and explore areas for enhanced cooperation among each other, with their governments and with UNHCR. The session will be structured around a couple of questions which the moderator will pose to each of the panelists. 20 years after UNHCR established presence in Eastern Europe and 18 years after the ParInAc Conference, the session will offer an opportunity to take stock of the challenges facing NGOs in Eastern Europe and review in what ways partnership and sustainability could be enhanced.

Moderators: Vincent COCHETEL, *Director, Bureau for Europe, UNHCR*
John BINGHAM, *International Catholic Migration Commission*

Speakers: Carlotta BELLINI, *Save the Children Italy*
Leila ZHDANOVA, *Civic Organisation 10th April*
Sonja TOSKOVIC, *Belgrade Centre for Human Rights*

Thursday 13 June 2013

There will be two side meetings taking place between 08h00 to 09h00:
Room 6: Access to refugee status determination in Latin America: challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation
Room 19: Professional standards for protection work carried out by humanitarian and human rights actors in armed conflict and other situations of violence
More details can be found on the Agenda of Side Meetings

09h00 – 10h45 THEMATIC SESSIONS

Room 3 Refugee resettlement: expanding its reach and effectiveness through broader NGO participation *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

UNHCR currently has the capacity to submit some 91,000 persons for resettlement out of the nearly 181,000 refugees estimated to be in need of resettlement in 2013. Systematic and transparent identification systems are essential to determining which individuals from amongst the total population in need of resettlement will be prioritized according to their specific needs and vulnerabilities during the year. An effective and consistent identification system ensures fair access to resettlement consideration and prevents fraud in the resettlement process. It requires close collaboration between UNHCR Protection, Community Services, and Durable Solutions staff and NGO partners in the field.

At the 2012 NGO Consultations, UNHCR and NGOs collectively acknowledged that identification of cases for resettlement is one of the biggest challenges in the resettlement system. UNHCR's resettlement efforts are often dependent upon referrals from other UNHCR units or partners, including NGOs and service providers, to help identify and prioritize the refugees most in need of resettlement. NGOs are often in a strong position to identify the most vulnerable refugees and refer them to UNHCR for resettlement consideration.

This session will focus primarily on how international and local NGOs can partner effectively with UNHCR to ensure that the refugees in greatest need of resettlement have access to this life-saving intervention. The session will highlight the programmes and best practices of three NGOs that, alongside providing assistance to refugees, actively seek to refer their most vulnerable clients to UNHCR for resettlement

consideration. Ultimately, the goal of the session is to demystify resettlement so that more NGOs globally feel empowered and capacitated to collaborate with UNHCR to identify refugees for resettlement.

A summary of this session will be shared with the participants in the 2013 Annual Tripartite Consultations on Resettlement (ATCR), strengthening the voice of NGOs in this important resettlement forum.

Moderators: Martin ANDERSON, *RefugePoint*
Johannes VAN DER KLAAUW, *Senior Resettlement Coordinator, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*

Speakers: Rubina ANWAR, *DANESH*
Shane BRISTOW, *St Andrew's Refugee Services*
Kaajal RAMJATHAN-KEOGH, *Lawyers for Human Rights*

Room 4 — Immigration detention – finding alternatives *(interpretation in English-French-Spanish)*

Detention continues to affect thousands of men, women and children within the mandate of UNHCR. At times, their detention falls below international standards, may lack adequate due process safeguards, and be for prolonged periods. In 2012, UNHCR released new Guidelines on the Applicable Criteria and Standards relating to the Detention of Asylum-Seekers and Alternatives to Detention (2012), which were launched at the 63rd session of the Executive Committee. They set out the international legal framework governing detention in this context. International human rights and refugee laws and standards require that detention of asylum-seekers 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. In other words, where a government intends to detain a person for immigration-related reasons, it needs to first consider and pursue alternatives to detention.

An increasing number of governments have implemented or are exploring alternatives to immigration detention (ATD) and recent research highlights their benefits, including that they reduce the financial and human costs of detention.

This session aims to highlight that there are various ways to address irregular migration – other than through detention – that take due account of government concerns around irregular migration and misuse of asylum systems, while respecting the particular circumstances and rights of asylum-seekers and others. The session will provide an overview of UNHCR's Detention Guidelines, share the latest research in this area, and provide a platform to discuss advocacy strategies around these issues, such as building partnerships and networks, information-gathering and sharing, research dissemination, good practices promotion, campaigning, litigation, training and capacity-building, and monitoring.

Individuals and groups are invited to share examples of advocacy around alternatives to detention, and how to identify and seize upon advocacy opportunities.

The session will be guided by the following three questions:

- What advocacy strategies have worked and why? What lessons can be learned (good practices as well as practices that did not work)?
- What tools have been developed and used to support this advocacy?
- How can partnerships be strengthened?

Moderator: Michelle BRANE, *Women's Refugee Commission*

Speakers: Cathryn COSTELLO, *University of Oxford*
Alice EDWARDS, *Senior Legal Coordinator and Chief, Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Reut MICHAELI, *Hotline for Migrant Workers*
Grant MITCHELL, *International Detention Coalition*

10h45 – 11h15 COFFEE BREAK – *PAUSE CAFE*

11h15 –12h00 **PLENARY SESSION** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)*

Room 2

Report back on the NGO Consultations

Karina SARMIENTO, *Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs*
Hassane BOUKILI, *Rapporteur of the Executive Committee (Morocco)*
Daniel ENDRES, *Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR*
Khassim DIAGNE, *Head, Secretariat and Inter-Agency Service, UNHCR*
Nan BUZARD, *Executive Director, International Council of Voluntary Agencies*
Kemlin FURLEY, *Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR*

12h00 – 14h00 **PLENARY SESSION** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)*

Room 2

CLOSING ADDRESS

António GUTERRES, High Commissioner for Refugees

There will be a side meeting taking place between 14h00 to 15h00:
Room 3: Screening the film: Refugees: sexual orientation and gender identity

14:00 – 15:00 LUNCH BREAK *(free)* – *PAUSE DÉJEUNER (libre)*

15h00 – 18h00 **Advocating together for protection** *(interpretation in Arabic-English-French-Russian-Spanish)*

Room 2

The 2012 High Commissioner's Structured Dialogue on NGO-IFRC-UNHCR Partnership recognized that protection of refugees, IDPs and stateless people requires strengthened coordination and partnership in today's increasingly complex humanitarian landscape.

This session will explore how international and national NGOs, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and UNHCR can work together more effectively by examining strategies, tools and best practices. The session will consider the application of the Principles of Partnership to advocacy, collaboration in developing advocacy strategies, and practical next steps partners can take together.

Following an introductory panel discussion, three break-out groups will have an in-depth discussion on how UNHCR, IFRC and NGOs can advocate better for protection at the global, regional and field level. The break-out groups will then report back to the plenary.

Rather than focusing on specific protection issues - as these would already have been covered during the previous sessions - the break-out groups will focus on how to strengthen partnerships to preserve and broaden protection space; how to work together strategically to increase influence over national policies related to asylum, IDP protection and nationality laws; how to advocate together on sensitive issues; discuss the differing roles and complementarities between UNHCR and partners; and how to enhance advocacy in emergency operations.

Information-sharing considerations and ongoing investments for strong partner relationships will be threaded throughout the session. Participants are invited to be prepared to be frank, yet constructive, to reflect in advance on examples of good practice, and to bring fresh ideas into the conversation.

Co-moderators: Volker TÜRK, *Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR*
Ingrid MACDONALD, *Norwegian Refugee Council*

Speakers: *NGO Representatives*

Agenda of Side Meetings

Wednesday 12 June 2013

8h00 – 9h00 ● Room 5 (3rd floor)

Kidnapping (of refugees) for ransom

(interpretation in English-Spanish)

Moderator: Karin KEIL, *Caritas Internationalis*
Speakers: Dolores PALENCIA ENCARGADA, *Migrant Shelter Decanal Guadalupano Diocesis de Veracruz*
Ran COHEN, *Physicians for Human Rights Israel*
Chris HORWOOD, *Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat*
Padre José Guadalupe VALDES, *Migrant Shelter Piedras Negras Mexico*

Kidnapping of refugees for ransom has become a more and more attractive source of income for human smugglers and traffickers. Migrants from South-America have been kidnapped and tortured for ransom on their way to the US for several years. The Catholic Church has been providing assistance to victims along the route and has built a wealth of information about the violations and possible ways to assist the victims. The ransom method has been taken over by human traffickers and smuggler in North Africa and some Arabian countries who kidnap refugees (and migrants) form Sub-Saharan countries to be held for ransom in Egypt and Yemen. During their ordeal the victims are routinely tortured, often while calls with the ransom demand are made to relatives in the countries of origin or in the country of destination. This alarming trend is particularly prominent in the Sinai desert where several camps are known to hold refugees prisoner and subject to frequent torture. Once payments are made these victims are released close to the Israeli border and some make it across facing new challenges, including prolonged detention. The multiple traumatization experienced as a refugee, as a kidnapping victim and as a torture survivor needs effective medical response and access to rehabilitative services, and not the current prolonged imprisonment or poor reception conditions.

The side-event aims to raise further awareness on the issue and to address the lack of coordinated international response. Refugee assisting experts form Israel, Yemen and Mexico will share their experiences on this phenomenon. The Catholic Church will in addition share past challenges and responses.

The panelists will give an overview on current situations, including types and trend of kidnapping, the impact on refugees and coping mechanisms, access to medical assistance along the migratory routes and in country asylum, as steps forward to a more coordinated response to address the issue.

8h00 – 9h00 ● Room 6 (3rd floor)

Harnessing the potential of displaced youth: Gaps in services and response

Moderator: Rachael REILLY, *Women's Refugee Commission*
Speakers: Katrine WOLD, *Norwegian Refugee Council*
Daisuke FUNAI, *International Rescue Committee*
Faduma GEDDI, *Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales*
MaryBeth MORAND, *UNHCR*

Introduction:
Young people aged 10 – 24 make up over 33% of the world's displaced populations: 8 million young people have been forced to flee armed conflict and human rights abuses. Despite making up such a large proportion of

refugee and displaced populations, displaced youth are too often ignored in humanitarian response programmes. There is very little ear-marked funding for youth programming and very few youth-focused programmes. Programmes that do exist are often short-lived, ad hoc and vary enormously from country to country.
Displaced young people face serious challenges: many of them are living in a state of "limbo" with limited access to post-primary education or skills training opportunities, few livelihood and wage-earning options and scant hopes for durable solutions. This state of limbo makes it very difficult for young people to envision a future, map out plans or take meaningful life decisions. Yet young people often show great resilience in difficult situations and demonstrate enormous energy, talent and ability to adapt. If these assets can be nurtured and capitalized young people can make an important contribution not only to their communities, but also to humanitarian operations.

Structure of Side Event:
In this side event, we will hear from international and local NGOs working with displaced youth, as well as from UNHCR. The presentations will be followed by what we hope will be a lively discussion on how best to respond to gaps in services and response for displaced youth, with examples from country operations. The event will be moderated by the Women's Refugee Commission.

Moderator: ***Rachael Reilly, Geneva Representative, Women's Refugee Commission***

Welcome and Introduction: ***Rachael Reilly, Women's Refugee Commission***
Making the case for youth: why do youth matter; how do we define youth; how do we programme for youth and what are the challenges?

Katrine Wold, Youth Adviser, Technical Support Section. International Programme Departement, NRC: A real-time perspective of NRC programmes to assist Syrian refugee youth in Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan, including a short video. This presentation will focus on strategies to meet the needs of youth at the onset of an emergency, including education, livelihoods and recreation programmes.

Daisuke Funai, Youth and Livelihoods Officer, Child and Youth Protection and Development technical unit, IRC: An overview of IRC livelihood programmes for displaced youth. The IRC will explain how it integrates youth programming into its overall emergency and humanitarian response. This presentation will look at the post-emergency phase drawing on examples from protracted refugee camps in Ethiopia and urban refugees in the slums of Nairobi.

Faduma Geddi, Centre for Refugee Research, University of New South Wales: A personal perspective from a young refugee woman. This presentation will highlight the priorities and gaps in programming identified by refugee youth themselves. What are the key protection risks and challenges identified by refugee youth? What opportunities are there for young people to be listened to, participate in and contribute to humanitarian programmes? How can we ensure better participation of youth in the planning, design and implementation of humanitarian programmes?

MaryBeth Morand, Policy Development and Evaluation Service, UNHCR: UNHCR will give an overview of the key findings of its recently published *Global Review of UNHCR's Engagement with Displaced Youth* and provide some concrete examples of identified good practices in youth programming.

Discussion:
During the discussion we hope to hear the perspectives and ideas of young people themselves, as well as share good practice examples of effective youth programming amongst the NGOs present. We hope to highlight some of the key challenges in youth programming, as well as identifying the long-term benefits for a community of investing in youth. We hope to conclude the event by gathering some key action points on how we can raise the profile of youth in humanitarian action and improve collaboration between the different actors.

13h15 – 14h15 ● Room 4

Advocating together to protect stateless Rohingya

Moderator: Amal DE CHICKERA, *Equal Rights Trust*
Speakers: Tun KHIN, *Burmese Rohingya Organization UK*
Melanie TEFF, *Refugees International*
Chris LEWA, *Arakan Project*

The Rohingya, a stateless minority from Myanmar has endured decades of persecution, discrimination and abuse. Most recently, following the June and October 2012 violence, large scale internal displacement and segregation took place within Rakhine state of Myanmar and thousands of Rohingya fled to Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia and beyond. One year after the violence began, the root causes and ongoing humanitarian and human rights concerns within Myanmar remain to be addressed, and the need for reconciliation between communities is being felt acutely. Furthermore, concerns related to the Rohingya's lack of citizenship and their treatment as refugees in third countries remain unanswered.

This meeting focuses on the different characteristics of the Rohingya situation and the role of UNHCR in relation to stateless persons, refugees and internally displaced persons. The objective of the meeting is to explore ways in which NGOs can be more effective in advocating together with UNHCR to protect and assist Rohingya who are internally displaced and refugees in the region, as well as address the root causes of their flight and find solutions to their lack of citizenship.

Thursday 13 June 2013

8h00 – 9h00 ● Room 6 (3rd floor)

Access to refugee status determination in Latin America: challenges and opportunities for regional cooperation

(interpretation in English-Spanish)

Moderator: Ana WHITE, *US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants*
Speakers: Karina SARMIENTO, *Asylum Access Ecuador*
Nancy PEREZ, *Sin Fronteras Mexico*

Are there lessons to be learned from Latin America on regional approaches to national systems? Currently we have seen greater attention on regional trends and the harmonization of asylum systems in different regions of the world. From the experiences and national legislations in several countries in Latin America this session will focus on the discussion of best practices and challenges that could benefit a regional and worldwide dialogue. The session will center on how international and regional commitments are incorporated in national systems, particularly on due process, access to information, appeals mechanism**s** and abbreviated RSD procedures. The session will also discuss the role of NGOs in the different national systems and how greater cooperation and dialogue could benefit from strengthened RSDs in a regional context.

8h00 – 9h00 ● Room 19 (3rd floor)

Professional standards for protection work carried out by humanitarian and human rights actors in armed conflict and other situations of violence

Graciela LOPEZ, *International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)*

The objective of the session is to promote the **Professional standards for protection work carried out by humanitarian and human rights actors in armed conflict and other situations of violence**, as per their 2013 edition (2nd edition). They reflect shared thinking among humanitarian and human rights agencies (UN, NGOs and Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement), and are the product of an ICRC-led consultation process yielding to common agreement. They constitute a set of minimum standards for humanitarian and human rights agencies, and we would maintain that the standard of protection that an agency provides should not fall below those set out in this document.

This second edition takes account of changes in the environment in which protection activities are implemented providing standards and guidelines that meet the associated challenges. The official launch of the second, revised edition took place in Geneva on 11 April.

More specifically, it reflects developments in the following three fields over the past few years:
- Data management and new technologies, taking into account the great potential that new technologies bring to protection work, but also the associated risks.

- Interaction and dialogue between human rights and humanitarian protection agencies on the one hand and UN peacekeeping missions and other internationally-mandated military and police forces on the other.
- The management of protection strategies – what we call results-based management.

14h00 – 15h00 ● Room 3

Screening the film *"Refugees: sexual orientation and gender identity"*

The film was produced by the US-based NGO the Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration (ORAM), with whom UNHCR is working closely on LGBTI refugee and asylum-seeker protection.

Annex III

EVALUATION OF THE 2013 ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH NGOS

This year the Annual Consultations with NGOs gathered around **411** participants representing over **220** organizations and **78** countries worldwide. Over **80** participants filled the general evaluation form.

[1= Very poor, 2= Poor, 3= Average, 4= Good, 5= Very good]

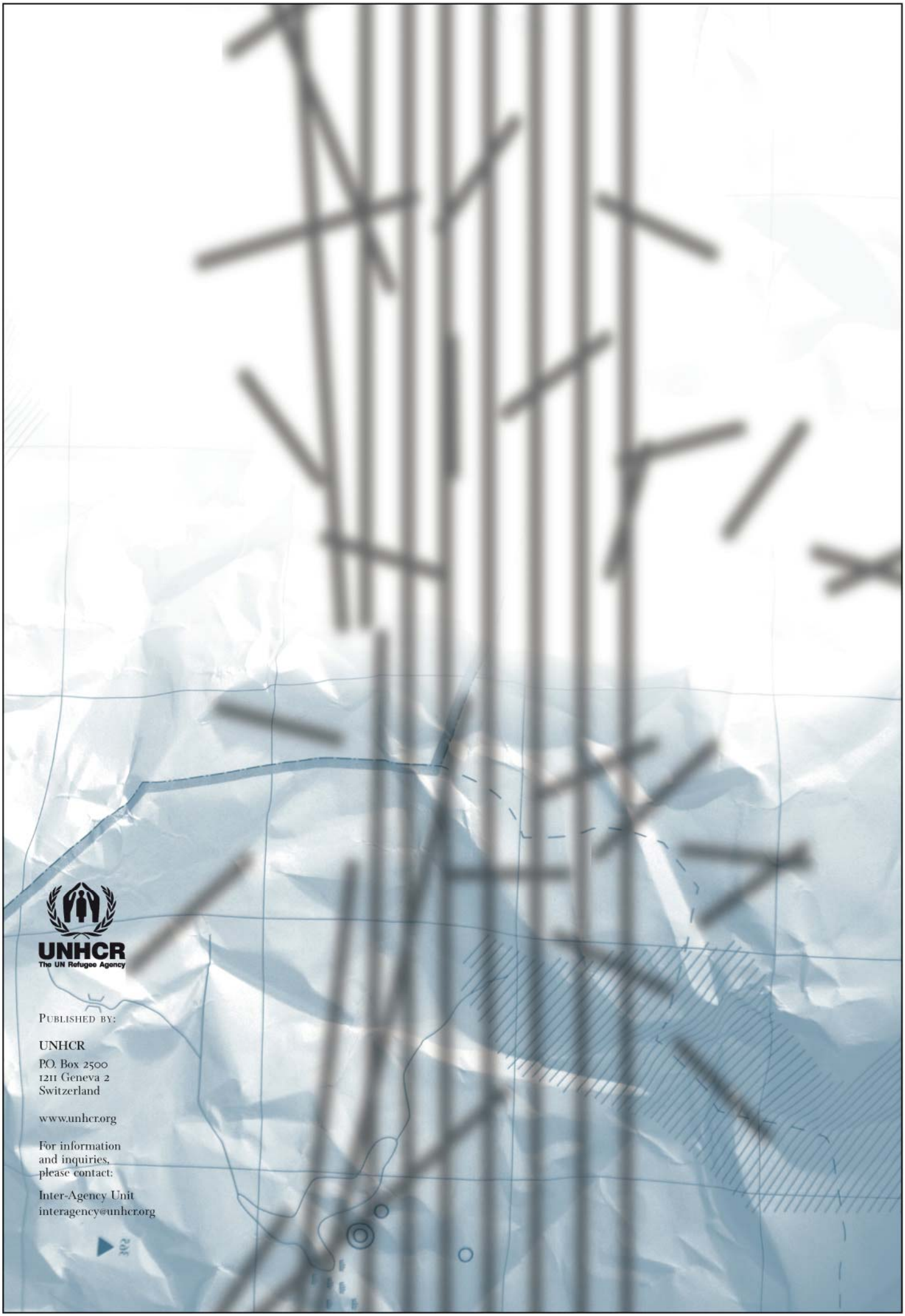
Evaluation	1	2	3	4	5	Average	4 or 5
Relevance of topics to area of work *Pertinence pour le domaine de compétence*		1	13	39	27	4.15	83%
Balance of the agenda between thematic and regional sessions *Equilibre de l'agenda entre les séances à thème et les séances régionales*		1	24	41	13	3.84	68%
Duration of the session *Durée de la séance*	1	2	28	34	15	3.75	61%
Opportunities to network *Occasions de créer des réseaux*		2	19	32	28	4.06	74%
Venue-meetings at the ICCG *Lieu-réunions au CICG*		1	6	32	42	4.42	91%
Overall quality of the Agenda *Qualité générale de l'agenda*			12	47	22	4.12	85%
Overall quality of the speakers/presenters *Qualité générale des interlocuteurs/présentateurs*			15	46	18	4.04	81%
Overall quality of the consultations *Qualité générale des consultations*			8	48	24	4.20	90%

75% of the participants attended more than 5 sessions during the consultations.
65% of the participants came for the first time.
88% are planning to come back to the next year's consultations.

NGO comments and suggestions on the Annual Consultations:

Please find below a table relating the most recurrent comments and suggestions expressed by participants in the general evaluation form.

What you liked most	What you liked least	General Suggestions & Topics for next year
• Opportunity to network, learn, share information and advocate with both NGOs and UNHCR senior staff • Opening and closing with DHC and HC • This year design of the agenda improved and better organized • Side events and side meetings • Well organized and excellent speakers • Excellent organization by UNHCR staff and openness to reply to questions • Sessions on SGBV, Child protection and Detention • Breakout groups helped to frame the discussions • Very good facilitators • Great presentations and discussion amongst participants • Session on "Advocating together for Protection"	• Very little time to engage in constructive debates (too many topics on the agenda) • Too many speakers on each panel, taking too much time for their interventions & leaving less time for dialogue • Time management • Opportunity to speak during the sessions was not fairly given • Not enough time for side meetings/ events • Regional sessions should be longer and more focused • Not enough local voices • No documentation in French • Limited presence of other UN agencies for issues which need inter-agency approaches • Getting drink and food is still a challenge on the part of CICG	• Speakers should respect the time allocated for their presentation • Less topics and more time for discussion • Mainstream Urban Refugees in Regional sessions • Keep the Advocating together for Protection Session on the agenda • Consultations at regional level • Half day for NNGOs and CBOs to discuss their issues more in-depth • Longer regional sessions, particularly Europe • More analysis of the political landscape • Stateless people as a cross cutting theme among the several sessions • Faith should be maintained • Topics suggested: Livelihoods, Community-based protection; IDPs; Detention and Resettlement; Sustainability and resource mobilization, partnership with CBOs; mixed migration flow; emergency preparedness; Review of the UN Refugee Convention in light of new challenge; Access to UNHCR offices; Strengthening capacity of local and NNGOs;



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