

## DECISION ON THE FIVE GLOBAL PRIORITIES FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

*The Standing Committee,*

*Recalling* the recommendations of the United Nations Study on the Impact of Conflict on Children (the Machel Study) and UNHCR's commitment to follow up on its recommendations by announcing five global priorities relating to refugee children in 1997, and

*Reaffirming* the importance of strengthening the protection and care of refugee children and other children of concern to UNHCR in general based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and notably with regard to separation, sexual exploitation, abuse and violence, military recruitment, education, the specific concerns of adolescents, nutrition, health and participation in decisions affecting their lives,

1. *Takes note* of document EC/57/SC/CRP.16, which provides an update on UNHCR's efforts to address the five global priorities for refugee children;
2. *Acknowledges* UNHCR's progress in mainstreaming age, gender and diversity and the role it plays in strengthening the protection and participation of children; and *requests* UNHCR to ensure that this strategy remains an integral part of its programming and is further strengthened through the accountability framework;
3. *Notes* the important role that education plays in the protection of children, in adding to a sense of normality in everyday life and in providing skills and knowledge for the future; and *requests* UNHCR to pursue all efforts to budget adequate funds for quality basic education with gender parity, while providing a safe school environment in accordance with the Minimum Standards on Education in Emergencies;
4. *Notes* with appreciation the provisional release of the Guidelines for Formal Best Interests Determination and urges UNHCR and its partners to collaborate to ensure sufficient capacity to implement these guidelines in operations;
5. *Recognizes* that a systematic approach to the protection of refugee children is required; and *encourages* UNHCR to enhance its partnership with child protection agencies to build a common understanding of an effective child protection system and an implementation strategy to implement it in all operations.
6. *Encourages* UNHCR to participate and enhance cooperation with national governments, relevant United Nations agencies, in particular UNICEF, and civil society actors involved in child protection issues in support of the effective implementation of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism outlined in Security Council Resolution 1612. Also *encourages* UNHCR to promote the elements of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and 1674 and 1296 on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict that are relevant to its mandate.