Annex 1

DRAFT CONCLUSION ON THE PROTECTION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO ASYLUM-SEEKERS, REFUGEES, STATELESS AND DISPLACED PERSONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR WITH DISABILITIES

Title bis. [DRAFT CONCLUSION ON THE PROTECTION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND OTHER PERSONS OF CONCERN WITH DISABILITIES]

Title ter. [DRAFT CONCLUSION ON THE PROTECTION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES]

Title quarter. [DRAFT CONCLUSION ON THE PROTECTION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS OF CONCERN/beneficiaries WITH DISABILITIES WITHIN THE MANDATE OF UNHCR]

Title quinquies. [DRAFT CONCLUSION ON THE PROTECTION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES WITHIN THE MANDATE OF UNHCR]

The Executive Committee,

PP1 Taking note of its Conclusions No. 47 (XXXVIII), No. 74 (XLV), No. 105 (LVII), No. 107 (LVIII), No. 108 (LIX) and No. 109 (LX) and the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol on 3 May 2008, which applies equally to all persons with disabilities within the mandate of UNHCR,

PP2 [Calling for Acknowledging] the need for an inclusive categorization consideration of refugees with disabilities within the mandate of UNHCR, which covers including those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual and sensory impairments, which, in interaction with various barriers, including attitudinal and
environmental barriers,) may hinder their full and active effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,

PP2 alt **Acknowledging** that persons of concern with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual and sensory impairments, which, in interaction with various barriers, [including attitudinal and environmental barriers,) may hinder their full and active effective participation in society on an equal basis with others,

PP3 **Recognizing** that [persons with disabilities within UNHCR’s mandate / refugees with disabilities / persons of concern with disabilities] have equal rights and freedoms as others as well as unique capacities and resources; acknowledging the existing and potential contributions made by persons of concern with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities; and reaffirming that persons of concern with disabilities are equal partners in their protection, and that provision of assistance must be based on consultation and inclusion, build on existing skills, resources and abilities, and respond to a diversity of experiences and perspectives, reaffirming the commitment to UNHCR’s Age, Gender and Diversity mainstreaming strategy as a vital tool to identify their views and needs;

PP3 bis **Reaffirming** the commitment to [mainstreaming age, gender and diversity strategies / UNHCR’s Age, Gender and Diversity mainstreaming strategy] as a vital tool to identify and respond to their views and needs; and welcoming UNHCR’s involvement in the inter-agency support group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to support the promotion and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol,

PP4 **Recognizing** that persons of concern with disabilities may be overlooked, especially in the early phases of humanitarian emergencies, and are often exposed to discrimination, exploitation and violence, particularly women and girls with disabilities,

PP5 **Acknowledging** that services and facilities, including assistance programmes and protection, may be inaccessible to persons of concern with disabilities,
Reaffirming the primary duty of States to take all necessary measures to protect and assist persons of concern with disabilities in these situations, in rural as well as urban environments, and UNHCR’s role to assist States in fulfilling these obligations,

Recognizing that persons of concern with disabilities may be excluded from support and services when repatriating, often have fewer opportunities to integrate locally, and may not be a priority for resettlement,

Calls upon States, UNHCR and all partners to accord priority attention to the protection needs of persons of concern with disabilities and to raise awareness, including by providing training on disability issues to all stakeholders;

Recommends that States, UNHCR and relevant partners ensure a swift and systematic identification and registration of persons of concern with disabilities, including those who cannot communicate their own needs and who do not have any family support;

Calls upon States to include persons of concern with disabilities in national policies and programmes; to ensure their access to services available to nationals with disabilities, including the issuance of necessary documentation; and in particular, to ensure the inclusion of girls and women of concern with disabilities in programmes for the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence;

Calls upon States, UNHCR and all partners to actively and systematically ensure the participation of persons of concern with disabilities in the decision making, design and implementation of programmes affecting their lives; and to communicate information, procedures, decisions and policies in appropriate formats that are accessible and can be understood by persons of concern with disabilities;

Calls upon States, UNHCR and relevant partners to adopt and implement appropriate and reasonable standards, including minimum accessibility standards at the start of an emergency, to ensure that infrastructure, protection, health, education, livelihoods and skills programmes and other facilities and services are fully accessible to persons of concern with disabilities on an equal basis with others;
OP6   *Recommends* that States and UNHCR ensure that status determination and other procedures are accessible and designed to enable persons of concern with disabilities to fully and fairly represent their claims with the necessary support;

OP7   *Recommends* that States and UNHCR ensure full and equal access of persons of concern with disabilities to all durable solutions, including by providing appropriate support and by removing discriminatory requirements that may hinder their access to any of these solutions.