

Annual Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

29 June – 1 July 2009
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Monday 29 June 2009

Palais des Nations Geneva

11h00 – 13h00 **Plenary Session** (interpretation Arabic-English-French-Spanish)

Room XIX **Welcome and Opening Address**

Erika Feller, Assistant High Commissioner Protection
Lloyd Dakin, Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR
Catherine Walker, Head, Secretariat and Inter-Agency Service, UNHCR
Bernard Doyle, Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR
Ed Schenkenberg, Coordinator, International Council of Voluntary Agencies

13h00 – 15h00 **Lunch**

15h00 – 16h25 **Regional Sessions**

Room XXII **Asia and the Pacific Bureau** (interpretation English-Russian)

With the number of refugees and asylum-seekers on the increase in many countries across Asia, the Bureau would like to focus this year's discussion with NGO partners on the particular challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers in urban areas and what needs to be done to increase the services available to them and their livelihood opportunities. Given limited durable solutions opportunities in many cases, the Bureau would like to look broadly at interim solutions.

Moderator: Colin Gonsalves, Socio Legal Information Centre

Speaker(s): Janet Lim, Director
Pascale Moreau, Deputy Director
Terry Morel, Deputy Director

Room XXIII **Americas Bureau** (interpretation English-Spanish)

The Director of the Americas Bureau will give a brief presentation on regional developments since the last NGO Consultations in June, and regional priorities for 2010-2011. The Director will also highlight the situation of urban refugees in the region and present UNHCR's strategy in the Americas to address the specific challenges which are inherent in urban settings.

Moderator: Rodrigo Joaquin Tupper Altamirano, Vicaria de Pastoral Social y de los Trabajadores

Speaker(s): Merida Morales-O'Donnell, Director
Eva Demant, Deputy Director

16h35 – 18h00 **Regional Sessions**

Room XXII **Europe Bureau** (interpretation English-Russian)

The session on Europe will review UNHCR's priorities and explore ways of reinforcing partnership with NGOs in this region. With respect to Western and Central Europe, the main concerns continue to relate to access to territory and asylum procedures, the quality of asylum procedures and

decision-making, standards of protection, the promotion of resettlement and of integration of refugees. Encouraging positive attitudes towards mixed flows of migrants, including refugees and asylum-seekers, and combating racism and xenophobia remain high on the agenda. UNHCR supports efforts to develop a Common European Asylum System in the EU and to establish a European Asylum Support Office. Both should help to achieve convergence of practices around higher standards, not around the lowest common denominator. With respect to Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the session will address the need to strengthen protection capacity and continue to make progress in achieving durable solutions for internally displaced persons and refugees, particularly those living in protracted refugee situations.

Moderator: Chris Nash, European Council on Refugees and Exiles
Speaker(s): Pirkko Kourula, Director
Udo Janz, Deputy Director
Angela Li Rosi, Senior Policy Adviser
Maja Ilic, Executive Assistant

Room XXIII *MENA Bureau* (interpretation Arabic-English-French)

The vast majority of refugees in the MENA region are in urban areas, where ensuring their protection remains a challenge for UNHCR and its partners. Against this background, the focus of the MENA regional session will be on the protection of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR in an urban context. The discussion will be geared towards identifying ways and means to maintain and further develop the protection space in the region.

Moderator: Zina Khoury, Jordan River Foundation
Speaker(s): Radhouane Nouicer, Director
Ursula Aboubacar, Deputy Director
Karim Abdul Ghoul, Senior Policy Adviser
Andrew Harper, Head, Iraq Support Unit
Reem Alsalem, Senior Desk Officer
Mohamed Osman, Senior Desk Officer
Annalisa Montecalvo, Executive Assistant

18h30 *Reception – UNHCR Cafeteria, UNHCR main building (94, rue de Montbrillant)*

Tuesday 30 June 2009

Palais des Nations Geneva

10h00 – 11h25 **Regional Session**

Room XIX *Africa Bureau* (interpretation English-French)

The discussion will start with a brief presentation on main developments and challenges in Africa since the last NGOs Annual Consultations. It will be followed by a question and answer session on any issues the NGO community would like to raise with the Africa Bureau.

Moderator: Scholastica Nasinyama, InterAid Uganda
Speaker(s): Mengesha Kebede, Officer-In-Charge of the Africa Bureau
Steven Corliss, Deputy Director
Marie-Christine Bocoum, Deputy Director

11h35 – 13h00 **Thematic Sessions** (interpretation English-French)

Room XIX *Internal Displacement Situations: Getting the numbers and facts right*

Appropriately targeted programmes must be based on commonly-agreed numbers of beneficiaries, their situation and needs. In many situations, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) tend to be

‘invisible’ by choice or because of their displacement situation. In these cases it is challenging for governments and agencies to reconcile numbers and facts. The aim of the session is to identify the challenges of working together – amongst agencies on the one hand, and with governments on the other - to agree on numbers and on the situation and needs of IDP populations. This common analysis is essential both to mobilize capacities to provide protection and assistance to IDPs, and to ensure that the programmes developed take special vulnerabilities into account.

Moderator: Jean-François Durieux, Deputy Director, Division of Operational Services, UNHCR
Speaker(s): Marzia Montemurro, IDMC, Norwegian Refugee Council
Steven Muncy, Community and Family Services International
Kathrine Starup, Danish Refugee Council
Kimberly Roberson, Chief, Field Information and Coordination Section, UNHCR

Room XXII *The Global Needs Assessment: Why it is important and what it means for partners*

Responding to the needs of people of concern to UNHCR has always been a challenge for various reasons including a lack of resources and the difficulties in capturing, projecting and presenting needs.

The Global Needs Assessment or GNA, is a new way for UNHCR to comprehensively express the needs of populations of concern worldwide and better present the plans, activities and level of resources required to meet those needs. It also allows UNHCR to clearly show what the very negative human consequences are of needs not being met.

This year, after a pilot GNA in eight countries in 2008, UNHCR rolled-out the GNA worldwide alongside its results-based management software tool *Focus*.

The traditional involvement of governments, implementing and operational partners is more important than ever with the GNA’s increased focus on more comprehensive planning.

This session is designed to discuss and exchange views with partners on the GNA and also show the enabling *Focus* software tool.

Moderator: Mamadou Ndiaye, Office africain pour le développement et la coopération
Speaker(s): Ninette Kelley, Office for Organizational Development and Management, UNHCR
Martha Nunez, Fundación Ambiente y Sociedad

Room XXIII *Disabilities in Displacement*

To share experience and information, identify gaps and priorities and make recommendations to improve collaboration among all stakeholders in view of addressing the protection risks, needs and issues faced by persons with disabilities in situations of displacement.

According to WHO 7%-10% of the world population consists of persons with disabilities. As of end 2008, there were an estimated 36,5 million persons who had been displaced by armed conflict. A conservative guess therefore would mean that at least 2,5 million of them are disabled, although it is likely that the number is far higher. While initial progress has been made toward increasing staff knowledge and awareness and enhancing response for persons with disabilities, for sustainable and systematic impact, this process requires immediate as well as long-term action. In particular, the need for inclusive humanitarian action and community development as well as attitudes and behaviour changes is called for. Although the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol are not universally ratified, they set out general principles that can guide the development of responses and other measures (e.g. non-discrimination, inclusion, participation and accessibility), as well as other important standards (e.g. “reasonable accommodation” and “universal design”) for persons with disabilities when they have been displaced.

Moderator: Philippe Guiton, World Vision International
Speaker(s): Jean-Pierre Delomier, Handicap International
George Okoth-Obbo, Director, Division of International Protection Services, UNHCR
Stefan Trömmel, International Disabled Alliance

13h00 – 15h00 Lunch

15h00 – 16h25 Thematic Sessions (interpretation English-French)

Room XIX *Displacement in Urban Settings*

With UNHCR nearing completion of a new policy on persons of concern in urban settings and the High Commissioner's Dialogue focussing on this subject at the end of the year, this double-session will focus on elaborating good practice and rights-based recommendations in four subject areas: in session 1, *access to services* and *outreach and identification of the most vulnerable*; in session 2, *livelihoods* and *mobility opportunities and strategies*. Given the complexity of issues, limits of time, and the commitment to identify distinct practices and recommendations, the sessions will focus specifically on the situation of refugees and asylum seekers in urban settings. After an introduction to briefly sketch the subject of urban refugees and the trajectory of recent UNHCR policy work, including NGO engagement, presenters will frame the four subjects for discussion by offering their practical experience, an example of good practice, and two recommendations.

Moderator: John Bingham, International Catholic Migration Commission

Speaker(s): George Okoth-Obbo, Director, Division of International Protection Services
James Thomson, National Council of Churches in Australia

Presenter(s): Duncan Breen, Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa
Geraldine Chatelard, Consultant to International Catholic Migration Commission Jordan
Janet Ferreira, Caritas Ecuador
Gaella Roudy-Fraser, Senior Livelihoods Officer, UNHCR
Rufino Seva, COERR Bangkok Refugee Center

Room XXII *Protracted Refugee Situations*

The High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges in December 2008 provided a powerful forum for all stakeholders to discuss Protracted Refugee Situations. The consultations with NGOs offer the possibility to further those discussions, debating key aspects of the protracted refugee situations and in the process sharing experience, identifying policy and operational gaps and recommending concrete steps in addressing the most pressing needs of refugees in protracted situations.

Moderator: Manisha Thomas, International Council of Voluntary Agencies

Speaker(s): Arnauld Akodjenou, Director, Division of Operational Services, UNHCR
Emily Arnold-Fernandez, Asylum Access
Mary Purkey, Canadian Council for Refugees

Group discussions:

Facilitators: Eileen Pittaway, University New South Wales
Miodrag Shreshta, Group 484
Mary Joy Pigozzi, Academy for Educational Development
Karina Sarmiento, Asylum Access

Room XXIII *NGOs and Resettlement*

Effective partnerships in resettlement with all stakeholders, in particular with Governments, NGOs and International Organizations are key to successful protection delivery. This session will discuss opportunities for greater involvement of NGOs in resettlement activities, focusing on the roles of UNHCR's Implementing Partners in the countries of asylum in identifying refugees in need of resettlement and in providing support to vulnerable refugees. Further, the session will explore the mechanism to enhance information sharing on individual cases between NGOs in countries of asylum and Resettlement States and NGOs of receiving end, to ensure coherent and appropriate assistance are provided to refugees throughout the resettlement process.

Moderator: Alistair Griggs, Refugee Council UK

Speaker(s): Annette Bombeke, European Council on Refugees and Exiles
Vincent Cochetel, Deputy Director, Division of International Protection Services, UNHCR
Anne Mwangi-Wambugu, HIAS Kenya

16h35 – 18h00 Thematic Sessions (interpretation English-French)

Room XIX *Displacement in Urban Settings* (continued)
The session continues.

Room XXII *Protracted Refugee Situations* (continued)
Participants of the meeting will be divided in four working groups to identify key operational and policy gaps, highlight good practices and make recommendations.

Room XXIII *Security and Safety of Staff*
The aim of the session is to highlight some of the current concerns and practices from both the NGO and UN perspectives and to share information and experiences with a view to improving understanding and collaboration on both practical and coordination issues. Issues of particular interest are the importance of perception for the security of humanitarian activities and workers; the particular vulnerabilities of NGOs in the field; and the role of security in ensuring the viability and sustainability of aid programmes

Moderator: Maarten Merkelbach, Security Management Initiative, HPCR International

Speaker(s): Paul O'Brien, Concern Worldwide
Paul Stromberg, Chief, Field Safety Section, UNHCR

Wednesday 1 July 2009

Palais des Nations Geneva

10h00 – 11h00 Plenary Session (interpretation Arabic-English-French-Spanish)

Room XIX *Report back on the NGO Consultations*
Nicoleta Birladianu, Permanent Mission of Romania, Rapporteur for the ExCom Bureau
Elizabeth Campbell, Rapporteur to the Annual Consultations with NGOs
Lloyd Dakin, Director, Division of External Relations, UNHCR
Bernard Doyle, Head, Inter-Agency Unit, UNHCR
Manisha Thomas, Policy Officer, International Council of Voluntary Agencies

11h00 – 13h00 Plenary Session (interpretation Arabic-English-French-Spanish)

Room XIX *Closing Address by*
António Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees