

Statement of India

Fifty-fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee – 18-19 September 2012

Mr. Chairperson,

India expresses appreciation for your dynamic contribution as Chair of Executive Committee of UNHCR. India takes the opportunity to renew its commitment on protection of refugees and cooperation with UNHCR in the discharge of its core mandate and responsibilities.

2. The year 2012 has been notable for large number of humanitarian emergencies in the Middle East, West and North Africa that have been and are being commendably handled by UNHCR.

3. Government of India continues to refine its legal and administrative mechanisms for providing greater hospitality to refugees including earning a livelihood in India during their stay. At the same time, there is need for UNHCR and the international community to pay more attention to the broader context of conditions of poverty and deprivation, in which refugee movements, largely in the developing countries, have and continue to take place.

4. India expresses appreciation to UNHCR for the comprehensive documentation provided electronically for today's meeting and its increasing efforts to ensure paperless meetings in future. We also look forward to the oral update from the newly-established Independent Audit Oversight Committee that met on 4-6 June 2012. We urge the Committee to also take into account the requisite recommendations of the JIU Report on UNHCR, while discharging their responsibilities.

5. We continue to note the references to mixed-migration in the institutional reports of UNHCR in the context of international protection and urge that it would be a retrograde step if issues relating to migration and asylum were allowed to intersect as the apprehensions of one are likely to be transposed on the other.

6. We note the recent attempts towards changing the humanitarian law, including the international protection framework, for example, through the implementation of the Transformative Agenda. We would urge that such attempts need to recall the paramount role of States in international protection and that international law does not permit those guilty of terrorist and criminal acts to abuse the asylum systems or the international protection framework and the need to strengthen State institutions and operating through them instead of by-passing them.

7. With regard to the UNHCR's Programmes and Funding for 2012, with reference to its document EC/SC/63/CRP.20 of 28 August 2012, details and clarity on UNHCR's Programmes entitled "Strengthening Donor Relations and Resource Mobilization" would be appreciated for greater understanding of the specific projects. Furthermore, detailed breakup of expenditure on private sector fund raising activities that is more than 50% of the expenditure on UNHCR's global programmes including international protection, may be provided for a greater understanding of this activity. It is noted that UNHCR's expenditure has been the highest on "Private Sector Fund-raising Activities" (US\$ 17 million out of a total expenditure of US\$ 34.5 million). Details related to the "Joint IDP Profiling Service Capacity-Building Project" would be appreciated, as State's sovereignty and decisions on IDPs are paramount. UNHCR's involvement can only be upon the explicit request of the State or

unless the State is manifestly unwilling or unable to discharge its responsibilities towards its people.

8. With regard to the document on UNHCR's response to the Board of Auditors' Report, India appreciates the action taken by UNHCR on the recommendations made by the Board of Auditors including the 25 outstanding recommendations from 2010 and previous years. We urge UNHCR to focus greater attention and arrange remedial action on the recommendations (a) on financial management related to monitoring and control of projects with UNHCR's implementing partners and (b) on procurement. We would request specific details be provided by the UNHCR on the implementation of IPSAS.

9. India reiterates its commitment towards a constructive and cooperative engagement with UNHCR.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

18 September 2012