

**Permanent Mission of India
Geneva**

**50th Meeting of the Standing Committee of UNHCR:
01-03 March 2011**

Statement by India

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the High Commissioner for his opening statement, and the comprehensive documentation for this meeting. We remain committed to cooperating with UNHCR in strengthening its capacities for protection of refugees, consistent with its commendable work over the last 60 years.

2. Given the circumstances that cause an individual to become a refugee and/or stateless person, increasing his vulnerability, we would emphasise the need to focus adequate attention on the widespread abject poverty and conditions of deprivation which cause most refugee movements in the developing countries. A comprehensive analysis and understanding of the underlying reasons would accelerate resolution of some of the challenges facing the refugees, including their return and reintegration into their home country. It is also well-recognized that in case of internal displacement, the challenges are well beyond the capacity of any single organisation to handle. The primary responsibility in looking after IDPs lies with the national authorities and UNHCR's involvement can only complement these efforts.

3. In the 2010 High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Gaps and Responses, a number of implementation gaps and normative gaps were identified. With regard to burden-sharing arrangements, we look forward to the development of a common framework of core principles.

4. While we recognise the phenomenon of mixed migration as an inevitable outcome of the current challenges related to globalisation, we urge the need to increase capacity-development in activities that require differentiating between vulnerable individuals in need of protection and other migrants that seek displacement voluntarily to improve their economic conditions.

5. We are concerned with the growing number of natural disasters that continue to occur with increasing frequency over the last few years. While noting UNHCR's readiness to implement a pilot arrangement following its discussions with Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its other partners in the inter-agency cluster-based mechanism, we are of the view that any expanded role for UNHCR must not be at the cost of effective implementation of its core programme, that of international protection of refugees. The assessment on whether or not the core programme is being effectively implemented needs to be undertaken by the States, not UNHCR.

6. We appreciate the ongoing efforts of UNHCR to align its financial rules and regulations with those of other UN agencies that have already implemented International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). In this context, we appreciate the efforts of UNHCR in proposing the draft Terms of Reference for the establishment of an Independent Audit and Oversight Committee and urge the committee's contours and mandate be similar to the UN Independent Audit Advisory Committee that reports to the General Assembly. This model best ensures the independence of the committee in terms of its composition and discharge of its functions.

7. Mr. Chairman, India remains committed to co-operating with UNHCR and the international community to address the international protection agenda for refugees. The challenge of ending displacement is inseparable in many ways from the challenge of establishing peace and promoting economic development. The essence of partnership is in having a shared objective, in recognising and accepting the humanitarian dimension of the challenges faced by all Member-States and resolving them through continued co-operation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
