

**Permanent Mission of India**  
**Geneva**

**UNHCR Standing Committee Meeting**  
**(13-15 March 2012)**

**Intervention by India**

Mr. Chairman,

We wish to thank the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for the comprehensive reports and excellent documentation in the Standing Committee which provides an overview of the major challenges confronting UNHCR today and the steps being taken by UNHCR, in cooperation with Member-States to overcome them. We remain committed to cooperating with UNHCR in strengthening its capacities for protection including rapid response in emergency situations, in cooperation with the country concerned, with the application of an exit strategy.

2. We also remain committed to cooperating with UNHCR in supporting its ongoing process of structural and management reforms for strengthening its financial stability and greater harmonization in accordance with established UN practices. We have noted the impact of the Arab Spring on refugees with their ramifications and laud the efforts of UNHCR for smooth conduct of its protection and assistance programmes from Headquarters and through its regional offices. The priorities of UNHCR including discharge of its mandate of international protection and strengthening of emergency preparedness draw sustenance from UNHCR's core mandate, that is international protection of refugees. We recognize the complex features of the refugee environment and support UNHCR's policy of repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The relationship between UNHCR and Member-States must be reinforced, especially to acknowledge the in-kind contribution and services of States hosting refugees.

3. We have noted the situation analysis prepared by UNHCR for Asia and reiterate the need for separating the migration dynamics from those related to international protection, that tend to be clubbed under the term "mixed migration". It would be necessary to develop the capacities to differentiate between potential economic migrants and the vulnerable individuals in need of protection.

4. In the case of Asia, we would urge a better analysis and understanding of the underlying reasons for durable solutions, as we have long held that adequate attention has not been paid to the widespread and abject poverty and deprivation in which the refugee movements, largely in the developing countries have and continue to take place.

5. In this context, it is imperative that determination of refugee status by the UNHCR should conform strictly to its mandate and to keep in mind that the international law does not permit those guilty of terrorist and criminal acts to abuse the national asylum system and the international protection regime. With the changing nature of the conflict and the emergence of the role of non-State actors, the international community must address the issue of accountability of those non-State actors and the limited leverage that the international humanitarian framework and machinery have over them.

6. While taking note of High Commissioner's concern on the situation of internally displaced people (IDPs), for a better coordination and collaboration as well as efficient and effective use of scarce resources, we would like to underline that it is the refugees that have first charge on the UNHCR's mandate. Involvement with IDPs should only be upon the explicit request of the State concerned.

7. We note with appreciation the considerable progress in the establishment of the Independent Audit and Oversight Committee (IOAC) including the recommendation by the Chair of Appointment of 5 members, vide your communication of 6 March 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

8. India, as in the past, is committed to work in concert with the international community, to address the challenges in the international protection agenda. We admire the tireless efforts of the UNHCR staff in their noble mission and would like to express our gratitude to you and other members of the Bureau for their leadership and convey our best wishes for the success of the meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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