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UNHCR's 10-Point Plan in Central America, Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Asia – a three-year project¹

UNHCR's *10-Point Plan of Action on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration* (10-Point Plan) has met with great interest by States as well as other stakeholders. The Plan was issued by the Office in 2006² to assist States to develop comprehensive and protection sensitive migration strategies. During the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges which took place in December 2007³, participants acknowledged the direct relevance of the areas covered in the 10-Point Plan for the better management of refugee protection and international migration. Participants also pointed out that the Plan needs to be further elaborated and some of its terminology further clarified. In addition, there was agreement that the 10-Point Plan is an instrument for action which is to be implemented on a regional basis.

UNHCR has initiated a number of follow-up activities to the High Commissioner's Dialogue. One of these is a project on the 10-Point Plan entitled "UNHCR's 10-Point Plan in Central America, Western Africa, Eastern Africa, and Southern Asia" designed by the Office's Division of International Protection Services. The project will be realized from 2008 to 2010 thanks to generous funding UNHCR has received from the European Commission. It consists of two interrelated components: The development of implementation strategies for the 10-Point Plan in four different regions through regional stakeholder conferences; and the further development and elaboration of the 10-Point Plan as a tool through expert roundtables and a Handbook with practical examples.

1. Stakeholder conferences - development of regional implementation strategies

UNHCR will convene four regional conferences on refugee protection and international migration in cooperation with regional governments and partners. Each conference will last two - three days and will be aimed at senior level government officials, international organizations and civil society representatives. Building on, and furthering the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, the regional conferences aim at sensitizing key stakeholders to the protection challenges arising out of situations of mixed migration. They will also serve to familiarize them with UNHCR's 10-Point Plan as a possible framework for the development of a "protection sensitive" migration strategy.

¹ The initially two-year project was extended to a third year.

² The document is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/4742a30b4.pdf>.

³ Further information on the Dialogue is available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/473db6522.html>.

On the basis of an analysis of the particular migration situation in the region, and its challenges and opportunities for persons of concern to UNHCR, the conferences would also serve to build regional consensus on key elements of an implementation strategy.

Four regions have been identified and timeframes for the conferences have been established in consultation with the respective bureaux and (regional) offices in the field. The first two of these conferences took place in 2008 and targeted at the mixed migration situation in the Gulf of Aden⁴ and West Africa⁵ respectively.

The other two regional conferences are envisaged in:

- Central America (Costa Rica) - November 2009
- Asia – May 2010

2. Further development and elaboration of the 10-Point Plan

2.1. Handbook: “Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration: The 10-Point Plan in Action”

The EC funded project will enable UNHCR to complete and issue a Handbook on the 10-Point Plan. The Handbook is a compilation of practical examples from different regions and other tools (questionnaires, check-lists, list of references etc.) to provide further guidance on the Plan and facilitate its implementation. A preliminary version of the Handbook will be presented at the Standing Committee in June 2009. The Handbook will be reviewed and finalized based on the comments and feed-back received in 2010. It will be published in English and translations into French, Spanish and Arabic will follow.

2.2 Expert Roundtables

UNHCR will convene four 2-3 days expert roundtables on the action points of the 10-Point Plan. Around 30 experts from governments, international agencies, academia and civil society will be invited. The participants will be chosen on the basis of their in-depth knowledge of, and practical experience in the topic for discussion. Representation of different regional practices will be ensured. The roundtables will provide a forum for an in-depth discussion on the different action points of the 10-Point Plan and offer the opportunity to gather additional practical examples. The outcome of the roundtables will also be accounted for in the Handbook.

The first of these roundtables which took place in Geneva on 20-21 November 2008, addressed the issue of refugee and human rights protection in the context of border and entry management.⁶

The three other roundtables will address the following topics:

⁴ The Conference took place in Sana’a, Yemen, on 19-20 May 2008. Conference report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/48722c992.html>.

⁵ The Conference took place in Dakar, West Africa, on 13-14 November 2008. Conference report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/498823d72.html>.

⁶ Roundtable report and documentation are available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/495df1a52.html>.

- Roundtable II: “Different People – Different Needs” - Tunis, 6-8 July 2009
- Roundtable III: “Return and alternative migration options” – 2009.
- Roundtable IV: “Cooperation among key partners and secondary movers (solidarity and burden sharing aspects) – 2009/10

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