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Phase II

REFERENCE GUIDE

Normative decisions
of key governing bodies of funds,
programmes and specialized agencies
of the United Nations System in
humanitarian assistance

Office for the
Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs

OCHA

Policy Development
and Studies Branch

Phase II

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1. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

In 2008 the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), with the Swiss Government's financial support, commissioned a review of the legislative and normative developments since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/182 in 1991. The study undertook a comprehensive review of relevant decisions pertaining to humanitarian assistance taken by the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council.

In June 2009 the study was first presented to Member States delegates in New York and subsequently to a wider audience at an Economic and Social Council side event. The study generated significant interest among Member States and United Nations entities. At the side event, it was suggested that OCHA consider broadening the scope of the study to include a review of intergovernmental decisions guiding the work of operational United Nations humanitarian agencies, funds and programmes. This study is undertaken following this request.

The current study focuses primarily on six key entities, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system that have mandates pertaining to humanitarian assistance, listed as the original members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). They are the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).¹ These agencies, funds and programmes are also among the top recipients of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). They are also the main six United Nations entities requesting funds through the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP).

On the periphery, the study also reviews decisions of relevant intergovernmental bodies of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT). With the above-mentioned organizations, they comprise the current nine full United Nations members of the IASC.

To appreciate the decisions concerning these United Nations entities, it is important to consider their overall structure and relation to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as follows:

- FAO and WHO are specialized agencies, with their own respective intergovernmental bodies setting policies relating to their work and approving programmes and budgets. They have independent authority to take decisions without referring

¹ *Concise Terms of Reference and Action Procedures, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, February 1998.*

to the GA. FAO and WHO's overall relationships with the United Nations are governed by agreements between them and the United Nations respectively.

- UNHCR, UNICEF and UNDP were established by the Economic and Social Council at the General Assembly's request. In turn, the General Assembly provides policy decisions, guidelines and direct management oversight.
- OHCHR, UN-HABITAT and UNFPA were created by the General Assembly.
- WFP was established jointly by the General Assembly and FAO. It reports each year to the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council.

The engagement of the individual governing bodies in articulating humanitarian assistance policies varies widely between each organization. However, the management oversight function — including strategic planning, budget review and approval — is common to all. It is in the context of these functions that respective governing bodies are engaged consistently in addressing each organization's work in humanitarian assistance, particularly in translating general mandates into specific corporate objectives and programme activities.

Over the years, all nine agencies, funds and programmes have considered and adopted decisions relating to various humanitarian issues. Some were in the form of substantive decisions in line with those of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Other decisions were taken by endorsing or taking note of policy papers prepared by the respective entities' secretariats, either at their own initiative or at the request of their governing bodies.

This reference guide captures policy decisions relevant to humanitarian assistance that have evolved over the years. It only focuses on and refers to founding documents, decisions by the respective governing bodies and official documents prepared by their respective secretariats for consideration of their executive bodies. This guide also covers key decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council related to the agencies, funds and programmes.

While every effort has been made to use and adhere to the exact language of the intergovernmental bodies in preparing this guide, there are instances where editing was needed to ensure consistency in format and presentation. In all cases, the guide was prepared with due respect to the original intent and spirit of the relevant intergovernmental decisions that inform it.



2. MODE D'EMPLOI

Chapter 2: MODE D'EMPLOI

This guide will help OCHA staff, particularly those working in the field, to ensure their work is better informed by legislative and normative intergovernmental decisions.

The guide is divided into two main parts:

I. Part one: Mandates of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in humanitarian assistance

Part one presents the original mandates pertaining to humanitarian assistance of each agency, fund and programme. It provides a succinct overview of relevant subsequent intergovernmental decisions relating to each entity. This part also shows the evolution of mandates pertaining to relevant humanitarian sectors (in bold). It is divided into three sections for each agency, fund or programme:

1. Background information and key decisions by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
2. Decisions by the governing body of each agency, fund or programme.
3. Brief overview of governance structure.

II. Part two: Legislative decisions pertaining to thematic issues addressed by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Part two is a compilation of the intergovernmental bodies' decisions on the 15 thematic issues identified in the 2009 study. Within each thematic issue, the decision by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council regarding the nine United Nations entities and the decisions of their respective intergovernmental bodies are listed as follows:

- Thematic Issue:
 - Overarching principles, policies and guidelines.
 - Dispositions addressed to Member States.
 - Dispositions addressed to the United Nations and the humanitarian system in general.
 - Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular.

It is important to use this guide as a complement to the preceding reference guide covering the normative developments in humanitarian assistance through decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Security Council decisions.²

² The first reference guide can be accessed at <http://ochaonline.un.org/publications>.

III. Deciphering United Nations document symbols

This short section provides guidance on the use of symbols used in part two of this reference guide. For further reference, see “United Nations Document Series Symbols 1946-1996”.³

Documents are divided according to the five principal United Nations organs:

- A/- for General Assembly
- E/- for Economic and Security Council
- S/- for the Security Council
- E/- for the Economic and Social Council
- ST/- for the Secretariat

Special basic series symbols have been established for certain United Nations bodies:

- DP/- for United Nations Development Programme
- WFC/- for World Food Council
- WFP/- for World Food Programme
- WHA for World Health Assembly

Documents of the subsidiary organs bear a symbol consisting of the basic series symbol of the parent body plus one or more element, such as the number of a particular commission or an acronym of a subsidiary organ:

- -/CN.4/- for Commission on Human Rights
- -/ICEF/- for United Nations Children’s Fund
- -/EB/- for Executive Board

Other elements can be added to the initial set of symbols to denote the nature of the document:

- -/RES/- for mimeographed texts of adopted resolutions
- -/WP/- for working papers

Symbols are usually followed by a number indicating the session number and document number. For the General Assembly, since 1976, this means that the symbols are followed by the session number and then by the document number of that particular session, starting the sequence with 1. Prior to 1976, the GA used roman numerals, indicating the


³ *ST/LIB/SER.B/5/Rev.5.*

session number, and documents were sequenced continuously. The General Assembly's first session was in 1945. A new session starts each year in September.

For the Economic and Social Council, the practice of incorporating the year into the document symbols started in 1978, again followed by the document number. Some United Nations entities and subsidiary organizations have their own numbering system.

For ease of reference, this guide may indicate the organization ahead of the United Nations symbol, such as:

- UNHCR – A/RES/-
- OHCHR – E/CN.4/-



3. MANDATES OF UNITED NATIONS FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Chapter 3: MANDATES OF UNITED NATIONS FUNDS, PROGRAMMES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

1. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the United Nations Development Programme

In 1964, the Economic and Social Council recommended the General Assembly to combine the Special Fund and the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance into a United Nations development programme.⁴ The General Assembly agreed a year later, being convinced that “the United Nations assistance programmes are designed to support and supplement the national efforts of developing countries in solving the most important problems of their economic development”. The General Assembly decided to combine the funds into the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).⁵

In December 1970, in a resolution titled “the capacity of the United Nations development system”,⁶ the General Assembly approved provisions relating to programming and their implementation, as well as the overall organization and management of UNDP.

Responding to the Secretary-General’s United Nations reform proposals, in 1997 the General Assembly transferred to UNDP the responsibilities of the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) regarding operational activities for **natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness**.⁷

In 2000, the General Assembly adopted the landmark United Nations Millennium Declaration. Subsequently eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were developed. UNDP became the main body responsible for coordinating development work, especially global and national efforts to reach the goals, with particular emphasis on halving extreme poverty by 2015.⁸ The MDGs provide a clear framework for disaster prevention and mitigation in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

In 2007, as part of the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the General Assembly noted UNDP’s role in

⁴ *Economic and Social Council resolution 1020 (XXXVII): Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme, 11 August 1964.*

⁵ *General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX): Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme, 22 November 1965.*

⁶ *General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV): The capacity of the United Nations development system, 11 December 1970.*

⁷ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/52/12: Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform, 12 November 1997.*

⁸ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/55/2: United Nations Millennium Declaration, 8 September 2000.*

supporting **early recovery** from relief to development. It requested UNDP to further “build its support capacity” in this regard.⁹

II. Relevant UNDP normative decisions defining its mandate

In 1997, the UNDP Executive Board “recognized the important work of the United Nations Development Programme in **emergency assistance, including prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction.**”¹⁰ Four years later, it also “reaffirmed the core mandate of UNDP in promoting sustainable human development”. The Board also recognized “that crisis prevention and disaster mitigation should be integral parts of sustainable human development strategies” and “that the United Nations Development Programme has some relevant operational experience in crisis and post-conflict situations.”¹¹

In this same decision of 2001, the Executive Board requested “the United Nations Development Programme in its capacity as the manager of the resident coordinator system, to strengthen its coordinating role and its cooperation, in keeping with its core mandate, with other United Nations entities.”¹² As a result, UNDP created the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery.

In 2007, the Executive Board further emphasized the need for UNDP to develop its activities related to assistance to conflict-affected countries within the framework of the country programmes. It stressed “the urgent need to integrate development considerations in peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries.” It further urged “dialogue and cooperation with the Bretton Woods Institutions, regional development banks and relevant regional organizations to strengthen UNDP efforts in assisting conflict-affected countries.”¹³

The same year, the Executive Board reaffirmed “that support to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, should be the basis of the UNDP strategic plan”. The Board stressed “that UNDP should focus on delivering effectively in the development-related areas, in particular with a view to eradicating poverty through development, equitable and sustained economic growth and capacity-building.”¹⁴

⁹ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/208: Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, 19 December 2007.*

¹⁰ *UNDP Executive Board Decision DP/1997/19: Assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 23 May 1997.*

¹¹ *UNDP Executive Board Decision DP/2001/1: Role of UNDP in crisis and post-conflict situations, 5 February 2001.*

¹² *ibid.*

¹³ *UNDP Executive Board Decision DP/2007/4: Evaluation of UNDP assistance to conflict-affected countries, 26 January 2007.*

¹⁴ *UNDP Executive Board Decision DP/2007/32: UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, 5 October 2007.*

In the same resolution, the Executive Board reaffirmed that “the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner.”¹⁵

Following the 2005 humanitarian reform, UNDP became lead of the Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery. The UNDP Strategic Plan (2008-2011) noted that “UNDP works with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the rest of the United Nations system to assist national authorities in initiating immediate **early recovery and transition** activities and to move from a short- or medium-term post-crisis recovery strategy into a longer-term national development framework.”¹⁶ The document also noted that “the UNDP role in early recovery, and its service provision to the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes have expanded.”

In 2008, the document “UNDP strategic vision on assistance to crisis-affected countries” was presented to the Executive Board. The document stressed that “UNDP also leads the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery to promote recovery planning during humanitarian response, and facilitates the development of national and local **early-recovery capacities at the country level**, in accordance with individual country need and at the request of governments.”¹⁷ In February 2008, UNDP adopted a formal “Policy on Early Recovery”.¹⁸

III. UNDP governance structures

When founding UNDP in 1965, the General Assembly decided that “a single inter-governmental committee of thirty-seven members, to be known as the Governing Council [...] should be established.”¹⁹ The General Assembly tasked the Council to approve projects and programmes, allocate funds, and provide general policy guidance and directions to UNDP and to the United Nations regular programmes of technical assistance. The Governing Council reported annually to the Economic and Social Council.²⁰

In 1993, the General Assembly transformed the Governing Council into an Executive Board for providing intergovernmental support to, and supervision of, UNDP and UNFPA under the overall policy guidance of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social

¹⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*; UNDP Executive Board Decisions DP/2008/15: Revised UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, 26 June 2008.

¹⁷ UNDP document DP/2007/20 Rev.1, UNDP strategic vision on assistance to crisis-affected countries, 22 May 2008.

¹⁸ UNDP document, UNDP Policy on Early Recovery, 22 August 2008.

¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 2029 (XX): Consolidation of the Special Fund and the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance in a United Nations Development Programme, 22 November 1965.

²⁰ *ibid.*

Council, and the responsibilities set out in the United Nations Charter. The functions of the Executive Board, under the Economic and Social Council's authority, are to:

- Receive information from and give guidance to the head of each fund or programme.
- Ensure activities and operational strategies of each fund or programme are consistent with the overall policy guidance set forth by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
- Monitor the performance of the fund or programme.
- Approve programmes, including country programmes, and frameworks.
- Decide on administrative and financial plans and budgets.
- Recommend new initiatives to the Economic and Social Council and through it to the General Assembly.²¹

Executive Board membership, among other factors, is based on equitable geographic distribution. It includes the following representatives from 36 states, serving on a three-year rotating basis: eight from Africa, seven from Asia-Pacific, four from Eastern Europe, five from Latin America and the Caribbean, and twelve from Western Europe and other states.

The Executive Board submits its annual reports to the Economic and Social Council. It currently holds two regular sessions and one annual session each year. Since 1994, Executive Board decisions have been adopted by consensus.

The UNDP Administrator is appointed by the Secretary-General and confirmed by the General Assembly for a term of four years.

²¹ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/48/162: Further measures for the restructuring and the revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 20 December 1993.*

2. UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the United Nations Children's Fund

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was established in 1946 by the General Assembly as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for child health purposes generally, but particularly for children and adolescents in countries devastated by the Second World War.²² In 1950, UNICEF's mandate was expanded to meet "emergency and long-range needs of children and their continuing needs particularly in under-developed countries."²³

On 6 October 1953, the General Assembly decided to continue the fund on a permanent basis. This was in consideration of UNICEF's international role in child protection and in creating "favourable conditions for the development of the long-range economic and social programmes of the United Nations". The General Assembly also changed the fund's name to United Nations Children's Fund, while retaining the former acronym.²⁴

In 1989, the General Assembly adopted the 54 Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC),²⁵ currently ratified by 194 countries. In May 2000, the General Assembly adopted two Optional Protocols to the CRC, expanding the framework to the prevention of the involvement of children in armed conflict, and to ensure the protection of children from sale, prostitution and pornography.²⁶

The Convention is based on four core principles: non-discrimination; devotion to the best interests of the child; the right to life, survival and development; and respect for the views of the child. The Convention lists children's universal basic human rights as follows:

- The right to survival.
- The right to develop to the fullest.
- The right to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation.
- The right to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.

²² General Assembly resolution 57 (I): Establishment of an International Children's Emergency Fund, 11 December 1946.

²³ General Assembly resolution 417 (V): Continuing needs of children: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, 1 December 1950.

²⁴ General Assembly resolution 802 (VIII): United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), 6 October 1953.

²⁵ General Assembly resolution A/RES/44/25: Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989.

²⁶ General Assembly resolution A/RES/54/263: Optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, 25 May 2000.

The Convention protects children’s rights by setting standards in health care, education, and legal, civil and social services. By agreeing to undertake the obligations outlined in the Convention, national governments commit themselves to protect and ensure children’s rights. They have also agreed to hold themselves accountable before the international community. States that are party to the Convention are obliged to develop and undertake all actions and policies in light of the child’s best interests.

In 2000, the General Assembly adopted the Millennium Declaration, setting forth collective priorities for peace and security, poverty reduction, the environment and human rights.²⁷ UNICEF has adopted the MDGs as part of its mandate.

II. Relevant UNICEF normative decisions defining its mandate

In accordance with the mission statement adopted by the Executive Board in 1996, UNICEF is guided by the CRC. It strives to establish those rights as enduring ethical principles and international standards of behaviour towards children. UNICEF ensures a “first call for children”, and mobilizes political will and material resources to build capacities, particularly in developing countries, to deliver services to children and their families.

The mission statement also affirms that UNICEF responds to emergencies to **protect the rights of children** and is committed to provide, in coordination with UN partners and humanitarian agencies, special protection for the most disadvantaged children: “victims of war, disaster, extreme poverty, all forms of violence and exploitation and those with disabilities.”²⁸

As requested by its Executive Board in 1996, UNICEF submitted a report on its strategic priorities and operational concerns for children and women in emergencies. The report was approved in 1997.²⁹ It outlined the principle goals of UNICEF’s emergency-related cooperation with international and national partners as to:

- Prevent the exposure of children to risks by addressing the root causes of conflict.
- Ensure survival of the most vulnerable children and women, including those displaced within their own countries, and their protection against malnutrition and disease during the dangerous and chaotic early days of acute emergencies through access to essential life-saving and life-sustaining services.

²⁷ General Assembly resolution A/RES/55/2: United Nations Millennium Declaration, 8 September 2000.

²⁸ UNICEF Executive Board decision 1996/1: Descriptif de la mission de l’UNICEF (original in French only, translation by authors), 22 January 1996.

²⁹ UNICEF Executive Board decision 1997/7: Les enfants et les femmes dans les situations d’urgence : priorités stratégiques et objectifs opérationnels de l’UNICEF (original in French only), 11 November 1996.

- Assure **protection** against intentional violence, exploitation, abuse, rape and recruitment into armed forces.
- Support the **rehabilitation and recovery** of people and communities through development actions to restore psychosocial health, maternal and child health care, schools, water supplies and sanitation systems.
- Promote long-lasting solutions through the creation and strengthening of self-help capacities at family and community level, particularly through support for the participation of women in the development and management of such solutions.³⁰

Following the Executive Board’s 1997 decision and under the CRC obligations, UNICEF presented another report to the Executive Board at its annual session of 2000. It elaborated on UNICEF’s approach to ensure an effective response to the needs of children and women affected by unstable situations, through mutually reinforcing actions in **humanitarian policy, global advocacy and humanitarian response**.

In particular, the report addressed humanitarian response through a set of “Core Corporate Commitments” (CCCs), in which capacities to forecast and respond to crisis and/or unstable situations are mainstreamed into the programming and operational approach of UNICEF at country, regional and global level.³¹

In 2004, a document updating UNICEF’s humanitarian priorities was submitted to the Executive Board. It highlighted that the number and the complexity of emergencies have increased, presenting an added threat to children and women’s rights. It also presented an ever more important role for UNICEF in emergency situations.³²

In 2006, the Executive Board welcomed UNICEF’s water, sanitation and hygiene strategy for 2006-2015.³³ The strategy states that “the overall objective of UNICEF in the area of **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** is to contribute to the realization of children’s rights to survival and development through promotion of the sector and support to national programmes that increase equitable and sustainable access to, and use of, safe water and basic sanitation services, and promote improved hygiene.”³⁴

³⁰ UNICEF document E/ICEF/1997/7, *Children and Women in Emergencies: Strategic Priorities and Operational Concerns for UNICEF*, 11 November 1996.

³¹ UNICEF document E/ICEF/2000/12: *UNICEF Core Corporate Commitments in emergencies*, 17 March 2000.

³² UNICEF document E/ICEF/2004/14: *The updated humanitarian priorities of UNICEF*, 1 July 2004.

³³ UNICEF Executive Board decision 2006/4: *Support strategy for the MTSP on water, sanitation and hygiene*, 19 January 2006.

³⁴ UNICEF document E/ICEF/2006/6: *UNICEF water, sanitation and hygiene strategies for 2006-2015*, 15 November 2005.

The Executive Board also welcomed UNICEF's joint health and nutrition strategy for 2006-2015.³⁵ The strategy outlines UNICEF's "contribution to national efforts to accelerate **health and nutrition** action and achieve the MDGs by 2015." UNICEF's activities in support of this strategy are accelerated in countries and regions with high maternal and child mortality rates, with a particular focus on emergency situations.³⁶

In the same year, UNICEF received endorsement from the Executive Board for its transition strategy "as the support strategy for the medium-term strategic plan for its programmes in situations of transition from relief to development".³⁷ The strategy stated that "the role and responsibility of UNICEF in **post-crisis transition** situations is founded on the Millennium Declaration, the Millennium Development Goals, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child". The strategy highlighted that "the demonstrated experience and capacity of UNICEF coupled with its country presence before, during and after crisis, make the organization particularly well suited to continue addressing the needs of women and children in post-crisis transition."³⁸

In 2007, the Executive Board welcomed UNICEF's **education** strategy,³⁹ aimed to help countries achieve the MDGs, help restore normalcy in emergency situations, rebuild young lives and reconstruct systems in post-crisis countries. The broad objectives of the strategy are as follows:

- Help countries achieve the goal of universal primary education by 2015 by making their education systems inclusive and focused on quality.
- Help countries achieve the target of eliminating gender disparity at all educational levels by 2015.
- Address other disparities in education and promote gender equality in society through education.
- Help countries restore normalcy to children and adolescents affected by conflict and natural disasters (emergencies) as part of the process of rebuilding communities, institutions, systems and individual lives in all emergencies and post-crisis situations.⁴⁰

³⁵ UNICEF Executive Board decision 2006/3: Support strategy for the MTSP on health and nutrition, 19 January 2006.

³⁶ UNICEF document E/ICEF/2006/8: UNICEF joint health and nutrition strategy for 2006-2015, 15 November 2005.

³⁷ UNICEF Executive Board decision 2006/6: UNICEF post-crisis transition strategy in support of the medium-term strategic plan, 9 June 2006.

³⁸ UNICEF document E/ICEF/2006/17/Corr.1: UNICEF post-crisis transition strategy in support of the medium-term strategic plan, 10 April 2006.

³⁹ UNICEF Executive Board decision 2007/8: The UNICEF education strategy in support of the medium-term strategic plan, 7 June 2007.

⁴⁰ UNICEF document E/ICEF/2007/10: UNICEF Education Strategy, 4 May 2007.

In 2010, UNICEF presented the Executive Board with an oral report on its work in humanitarian situations. The report highlighted the changing environment for humanitarian assistance and UNICEF’s evolving role as a result of the **humanitarian reform**.

The report also outlined UNICEF’s global lead for the clusters on nutrition, **water and sanitation**; its co-lead roles with Save the Children on **education** and with UNFPA on **gender-based violence**; and as a **child protection** focal point within the Protection Cluster. The Executive Board subsequently requested UNICEF “to continue to report on the results of its contributions to humanitarian relief and assistance, joint programming where it exists and upstream contributions to national capacities and policies.”⁴¹

UNICEF is currently revising the CCCs, taking into account the evolution of the humanitarian environment and UNICEF’s experience in providing assistance in that context. In the revised CCCs, UNICEF commits explicitly to **preparedness** in disaster response and to assist vulnerable populations through **disaster risk reduction**. It is also committed to **early recovery** programming approaches to strengthen the link between humanitarian action and development.

III. UNICEF governance structure

The General Assembly established the current structure of the Executive Board in 1994. It comprises 36 states elected to three-year terms by the Economic and Social Council.⁴² The regional allocations include eight African states, seven Asian states, four Eastern European states, five Latin American and Caribbean states and 12 Western European and other states (including Japan). The Executive Board meets three times each year in a first regular session (January/February), an annual session (May/June) and a second regular session (September).

According to principles set by the Economic and Social Council, the Executive Board provides intergovernmental support to UNICEF’s Executive Director. It also provides oversight for activities, ensuring UNICEF responds to the needs and priorities of recipient countries.⁴³ The Executive Board has the following functions:

- Implement policies formulated by the General Assembly and guidance received from the Economic and Social Council.
- Receive information from and give guidance to the UNICEF Executive Director on the organization’s work.

⁴¹ UNICEF Executive Board decision 2010/6: *Annual report of the Executive Director: progress and achievements in 2009 and report on the in-depth review of the medium-term strategic plan, 2006-2013 of 4 June 2010.*

⁴² *General Assembly resolution A/RES/48/162: Further measures for the restructuring and the revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 20 December 1993.*

⁴³ *General Assembly resolution 57 (I): Establishment of an International Children’s Emergency Fund, 11 December 1946.*

- Ensure that UNICEF's activities and operational strategies are consistent with the overall policy guidance set forth by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.
- Monitor UNICEF's performance and approve its programmes and budgets, including country programmes and other projects, as appropriate.

The Executive Director of UNICEF is appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Executive Board. The Executive Director reports annually to the Executive Board and through it to the Economic and Social Council, which in turn reports to the General Assembly. The Economic and Social Council has an established practice to take note of the annual reports submitted by UNICEF.

3. UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

In December 1949, the General Assembly decided to establish a High Commissioner's Office for Refugees as of 1 January 1951. It tasked the High Commissioner to provide for the **protection of refugees and displaced persons** by promoting the execution of measures to improve the situation of refugees and to reduce the number of those needing protection. The General Assembly further stated that the High Commissioner should assist governments and private organizations in their efforts to promote voluntary repatriation of refugees or their assimilation within new national communities.⁴⁴

The General Assembly adopted the Statute of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1950. In accordance with this, the High Commissioner's refugee-related work is purely humanitarian, social and non-political. In the same resolution, the General Assembly also called on governments to cooperate with the High Commissioner in his/her functions.⁴⁵

Developing the normative framework relevant for UNHCR's mandate, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees was adopted on 28 July 1951, the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons was adopted on 28 September 1954, and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness was adopted on 19 August 1961.

On 4 October 1967, an additional Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, noted by the General Assembly in December 1966, entered into force.⁴⁶ In subsequent annual resolutions on UNHCR, the General Assembly has consistently recalled the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime and the guiding documents for UNHCR.

In 1972, the Economic and Social Council included "persons displaced within the country" when requesting UNHCR to assist Sudanese refugees and returnees.⁴⁷ Later that year, the General Assembly maintained UNHCR's protection efforts for Sudanese to include "**refugees and other displaced persons**."⁴⁸

The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly considered UNHCR's expertise in international protection and humanitarian assistance particularly relevant for

⁴⁴ *General Assembly resolution 319 (IV): Refugees and stateless persons, 3 December 1949.*

⁴⁵ *General Assembly resolution 428 (V): Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 14 December 1950.*

⁴⁶ *General Assembly resolution 2198 (XXI): Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, 16 December 1966.*

⁴⁷ *Economic and Social Council resolution 1705 (LIII), of 27 July 1972.*

⁴⁸ *General Assembly resolution 2958 (XXVII) (1972), of 12 December 1972 (emphasis added).*

the situation of internally displaced Sudanese. Subsequently, the General Assembly has called on UNHCR to provide assistance to IDPs on many occasions. The Security Council has also made references to the links between security and the international protection of refugees and IDPs.⁴⁹

In 1998, the General Assembly noted the relevance of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. It reaffirmed its support to UNHCR in providing **humanitarian assistance and protection to IDPs** “on the basis of specific requests from the Secretary-General or the competent organs of the United Nations and with the consent of the State concerned, taking into account the complementarities of the mandates and expertise of other relevant organizations, and emphasizes that activities on behalf of internally displaced persons must not undermine the institution of asylum.”⁵⁰

In 2000, the General Assembly “acknowledged the desirability of comprehensive approaches by the international community, notably at the regional level, to the problems of refugees and displaced persons”. In this regard, the General Assembly noted that “**capacity-building** in countries of origin and countries of asylum can play an important role in addressing the root causes of refugee flows, strengthening **emergency preparedness and response**, promoting and building peace, and developing regional standards for the protection of refugees.”⁵¹

In December 2009, the General Assembly encouraged UNHCR “to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels”. The General Assembly also recalled UNHCR’s role “as the **cluster lead for protection, camp coordination and management, and emergency shelter in complex emergencies**.”⁵²

II. Relevant UNHCR normative decisions defining its mandate

UNHCR’s mandate has been reiterated and elaborated in many of its Executive Committee conclusions. In particular, its role in refugee protection was reiterated in several conclusions, highlighting over the years the **protection needs of special groups**, e.g. women, children and people with disabilities.

⁴⁹ See for example, Security Council resolution 1244, of 10 June 1999, para. 11(K) (“Assuring the safe and unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in Kosovo”).

⁵⁰ General Assembly resolution A/RES/53/125: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 12 February 1999.

⁵¹ General Assembly resolution A/RES/55/74: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 4 December 2000.

⁵² General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/127: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 18 December 1999.

In 1981, the Executive Committee highlighted “the fundamental importance of international protection as the primary task entrusted to the High Commissioner under the Statute of his Office.”⁵³ At the same time, the Executive Committee has also consistently re-emphasized that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of states, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable UNHCR to fulfill its mandated functions.⁵⁴

Regarding returnees, the Executive Committee took note in 2003 of UNHCR’s readiness “to support States, upon their request, in their endeavours to return persons found not to be in need of international protection, in particular where obstacles to return are encountered and provided that the involvement of the Office is not inconsistent with its humanitarian mandate to provide international protection to refugees.”⁵⁵

In 2005, the Committee explicitly supported an expanded role for UNHCR in situations of internal displacement when it welcomed “the proposals made by the Secretary-General and United Nations General Assembly to strengthen the United Nations humanitarian system.”⁵⁶ In 2008, the Executive Committee reaffirmed this expansion of UNHCR’s role to IDPs on the basis of the “criteria specified by the General Assembly.”⁵⁷

As part of the 2005 humanitarian reform, the Executive Committee encouraged UNHCR “to continue to explore the feasibility of taking on coordination responsibilities for clusters related to **internally displaced persons’ protection, camp management and shelter in conflict situations** [...] in support of United Nations humanitarian coordinators, with a view towards ensuring a more effective, predictable, and timely response to humanitarian crises.”⁵⁸

Following this conclusion and in implementing the humanitarian reform, UNHCR chairs the Protection Cluster and co-chairs the Emergency Shelter Cluster with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It is also co-chairing the Camp Coordination/Management Cluster with the International Organization for Migration.

III. UNHCR governance structures

Following a request by the General Assembly,⁵⁹ the Economic and Social Council established the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner’s Programme to replace the

⁵³ UNHCR ExCom conclusion No. 21 (XXXIII): *General Conclusions on International Protection, 1981.*

⁵⁴ UNHCR ExCom conclusion No. 90 (LII): *General Conclusion on International Protection, 2001.*

⁵⁵ UNHCR ExCom conclusion No. 96 (LIV): *Conclusion on the Return of Persons Found not to be in Need of International Protection, 2003.*

⁵⁶ UNHCR ExCom conclusion No. 102 (LVI): *General Conclusion on International Protection, 2005.*

⁵⁷ UNHCR ExCom conclusion No. 108 (LIX): *General Conclusion on international Protection, 2008.*

⁵⁸ UNHCR ExCom conclusion No. 102 (LVI): *General Conclusion on International Protection, 2005.*

⁵⁹ *General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII): International assistance to refugees within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 26 November 1957.*

Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund in 1958.⁶⁰ The Executive Committee's main functions, as laid down by the General Assembly, are to:

- Advise the High Commissioner, at his/her request, in the exercise of his/her functions under the statute of his/her office.
- Advise the High Commissioner as to whether it is appropriate for international assistance to be provided through his/her office to help solve specific refugee problems remaining unsolved after 31 December 1958, or arising after that date.
- Authorize the High Commissioner to make appeals for funds to enable him/her to solve refugee problems.
- Approve projects for assistance to refugees.
- Give directives to the High Commissioner on the use of the emergency fund.⁶¹

After reaffirming the terms of reference laid down by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council decided further that the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme should:

- Determine the general policies under which the High Commissioner shall plan, develop and administer the programmes and projects required to help solve the problems referred to in the General Assembly resolution.
- Review at least annually the use of funds made available to the High Commissioner and the programmes and projects being proposed or carried out by the office.
- Have authority to make changes and give final approval on the use of funds and the above-mentioned programmes and projects.

The Executive Committee functions as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. Its annual report is submitted as an addendum to the annual report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for consideration by the General Assembly Third Committee.

As of 2010, the membership of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme comprises 79 Member States or members of any of the specialized agencies. They are elected by the Economic and Social Council on the widest possible geographical basis and with a demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, solving the refugee problem.⁶²

⁶⁰ *Economic and Social Council resolution 672 (XXV): Establishment of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 30 April 1958.*

⁶¹ *ibid.*

⁶² *General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII): International Assistance to refugees within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 26 November 1957 and General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/128: Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 18 December 2009.*

The Executive Committee holds one annual session in October to review and approve the agency's programmes and budget, and adopt conclusions — notably on international protection — and decisions on administrative, financial and procedural issues.

At its forty-sixth session in October 1995, the Executive Committee established a Standing Committee to function as a subsidiary organ of the Executive Committee. The Standing Committee meets three times a year. At its periodic meetings, it:

- Examines thematic issues included by the plenary in its programme of work.
- Reviews UNHCR's activities and programmes in the different regions (as well as its global programmes).
- Adopts decisions and conclusions, as it deems appropriate, on issues included by the plenary in its programme of work.
- Discusses other issues within the Executive Committee's authority that it deems of concern.

The General Assembly elects the High Commissioner for a five-year term on the nomination of the Secretary-General. He/she can be re-elected. As stated in article 3 of UNHCR's statute, the High Commissioner "shall follow policy directives given him by the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council."⁶³

Until 2003, the High Commissioner reported annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Since 2004, the High Commissioner has reported directly to the General Assembly's Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee on the work of his office.⁶⁴ Additionally, the office has provided the Economic and Social Council, at its annual substantive session, with an oral report update on the coordination aspects of the work of the office.⁶⁵

⁶³ *General Assembly resolution 428 (V): Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 14 December 1950.*

⁶⁴ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/58/153: Implementing actions proposed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to strengthen the capacity of his Office to carry out its mandate, 22 December 2003.*

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

4. WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the World Food Programme

In 1961, the General Assembly and the FAO Conference approved the establishment “of an experimental World Food Programme, to be undertaken jointly by the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.”⁶⁶ Therefore, the World Food Programme (WFP) has a legal status of “dual parentage” involving reporting obligations to the United Nations and FAO.

The General Assembly also stipulated that WFP should be administered for meeting emergency food needs and emergencies inherent in chronic malnutrition, assisting in pre-school and school feeding, and implementing pilot projects with the multilateral use of food as an aid to economic and social development. Four years later, the General Assembly and the FAO Conference extended the mandate “for as long as multilateral food aid is found feasible and desirable.”⁶⁷

The latest revision of the General Regulations of WFP was approved by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference in 1999.⁶⁸ It stipulates the purpose of WFP as follows:

- To use **food aid** to support economic and social development.
- To meet **refugee and other emergency and protracted relief food needs**.
- To promote world **food security**.⁶⁹

The regulations also state that to achieve these purposes, WFP should implement food aid programmes, projects and activities to:

- Aid economic and social development, concentrating its efforts and resources on the neediest people and countries.
- Assist in the continuum from **emergency relief to development** by giving priority to supporting **disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation, and post-disaster rehabilitation** activities.

⁶⁶ General Assembly resolution 1714 (XVI): World Food Programme, 19 December 1961 and FAO Conference resolution 1/61, 24 November 1961.

⁶⁷ General Assembly resolution 2095 (XX), Continuation of the World Food Programme, 20 December 1965 and FAO Conference resolution 4/65, 6 December 1965.

⁶⁸ General Assembly resolution A/RES/53/223: Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme, 7 April 1999 and FAO Conference resolutions 6/1999.

⁶⁹ WFP publication: General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board, November 2009 edition.

- Assist in meeting refugee and other emergency and protracted relief food needs, using this assistance to the extent possible to serve relief and development purposes.
- Provide services to bilateral donors, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations for operations consistent with WFP's purposes and which complement its operations.⁷⁰

II. Relevant WFP normative decisions defining its mandate

In December 1994, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) adopted a WFP mission statement. The statement explained that the policies governing the use of WFP food aid must be oriented towards the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty. It further stipulated that WFP would continue to:

- Use food aid to support economic and social development.
- Meet refugee and other emergency food needs, and the associated **logistics** support.
- Promote world food security in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations and FAO.⁷¹

To achieve the above, the CFA established the following four programme categories (last modified by the Executive Board in 2004):

- Development Programme Category for food aid programmes and projects to support economic and social development. This category includes **rehabilitation and disaster preparedness** projects, and technical assistance to help developing countries establish or improve their own food assistance programmes.
- Emergency Relief Programme Category for **food assistance to meet emergency needs**.
- Protracted Relief Programme Category for **food assistance to meet protracted relief needs**.

⁷⁰ WFP publication: *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, November 2009 edition.

⁷¹ CFA decision CFA/38/P/5: *WFP Mission Statement*, December 1994.

- Special Operations Programme Category for interventions undertaken to:
 - rehabilitate and enhance transport and **logistics infrastructure** to permit timely and efficient delivery of food assistance, especially to meet emergency and protracted relief needs.
 - **enhance coordination** within the United Nations system and with other partners through the provision of **designated common services**.⁷²

Over the years, the Executive Board has reviewed a number of policy papers relating to aspects of WFP’s humanitarian assistance activities. They range from humanitarian principles to the definition of emergencies and disaster mitigation, and from crisis to recovery and exit strategies. In some instances, the Board noted or endorsed these papers and requested their incorporation into a Consolidated Framework of WFP Policies.⁷³

In 1998, the Executive Board endorsed WFP’s policy paper “From crisis to recovery”. The Board confirmed that “WFP with its dual mandate was well placed to make the link from **relief to development**, as the Programme has gained valuable experience in this area.”⁷⁴

In 2004, the Executive Board, after reviewing a WFP paper on **nutrition** in emergencies,⁷⁵ decided that greater efforts would be made to ensure that nutritionally adequate foods are provided in a timely manner in support of nutritional objectives. WFP would systematically analyse nutrition problems in emergencies and define the most appropriate responses based on up-to-date knowledge and best practice.⁷⁶

In 2005, the Executive Board endorsed a definition of “emergency” as “urgent situations in which there is clear evidence that an event or series of events has occurred which causes human suffering or imminently threatens human lives or livelihoods and which the government concerned has not the means to remedy; and it is a demonstrably abnormal event or series of events which produces dislocation in the life of a community on an exceptional scale.”⁷⁷

Also in 2005, the Executive Board decided that WFP’s emergency interventions will continue to be based on assessed needs.⁷⁸

⁷² WFP Executive Board decision WFP/2004/EB.A/9: *Definition of special operations—amendment to General Rule II.2(d), programme categories of WFP*, 25 May 2004.

⁷³ WFP document WFP/EB.2/2009/4-D: *Consolidated Framework of WFP Policies – An Updated Version* (November 2009), 30 October 2009.

⁷⁴ WFP Executive Board decision WFP/1998/EB.A/3: *From crisis to recovery*, 19 May 1998.

⁷⁵ WFP document WFP/EB.A/2004/5-A/3: *Nutrition in emergencies: WFP experiences and challenges*, 6 April 2004.

⁷⁶ WFP Executive Board decision WFP/2004/EB.A/6: *Nutrition and emergencies: WFP experiences and challenges*, 27 May 2004.

⁷⁷ WFP Executive Board decision WFP/2005/EB.1/2: *Definition of Emergencies*, 2 February 2005.

⁷⁸ *ibid.*

In 2006, the Executive Board reaffirmed its commitment to **gender** equality and women's empowerment. The Board recognized the importance of an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and approved the WFP policy paper "WFP Gender Policy".⁷⁹ It committed to actions, programme priorities and institutional support measures referred to in the policy.⁸⁰

Four years later, the Executive Board reaffirmed WFP's commitment to preventing hunger through **disaster preparedness and other risk reduction** measures by strengthening **capacities of governments** to prepare for, assess and respond to hunger arising from disasters, and by assisting communities to build resilience to shocks within WFP's specific mandate.⁸¹

Following a request from the Executive Board, WFP submitted a policy paper titled "WFP's role in **the** humanitarian assistance system" in 2010, of which the Board took note. The report elaborates on WFP's evolving role in humanitarian assistance, including its leading role in the **Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster** and its engagement in other clusters.⁸²

III. WFP governance structures

When the General Assembly and the FAO Conference established WFP on an experimental basis in 1961, a United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee was formed to provide guidance on WFP's policy, administration and operations. In 1975, the Committee was reconstituted as the CFA.⁸³ In addition to discharging the functions of the Intergovernmental Committee, the CFA was tasked with helping to evolve and coordinate short- and long-term food-aid policies.

On 1 January 1996, following the adoption of parallel resolutions by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference, WFP's governing body was reconstituted into the WFP Executive Board.⁸⁴ It comprises 36 Member States of the United Nations and FAO, of which 18 members are elected by the Economic and Social Council and 18 by the Council of FAO. These members serve three-year terms and are eligible for re-election. The Executive

⁷⁹ WFP document WFP/EB.1/2009/5-A/Rev.1: WFP Gender Policy, 10 February 2009.

⁸⁰ WFP Executive Board decision WFP/2009/EB.1/3: WFP Gender Policy, 11 February 2009.

⁸¹ WFP Executive Board decision WFP/2009/EB.1/4: WFP Policy on Disaster Risk Reduction, 11 February 2009.

⁸² WFP Executive Board WFP/2010/EB.1/4: WFP's Role in the Humanitarian Assistance System, 8 February 2010.

⁸³ General Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX): Reconstitution of the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme as a Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, 28 November 1975.

⁸⁴ General Assembly resolution A/RES/50/8: Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme, 7 December 1995 and FAO Conference resolution 9/95, 31 October 1995.

Board meets three times a year at WFP headquarters in Rome. It reports annually to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO.

In accordance with the General Regulations and under the general authority of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO, the Executive Board is responsible for providing intergovernmental support and specific policy direction to and supervision of WFP activities. This is in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the General Assembly, the FAO Conference, the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO. The Board also ensures WFP is responsive to recipient countries' needs and priorities.⁸⁵

A key function of the Executive Board is to help evolve and coordinate short- and long-term food-aid policies, particularly to:

- Ensure implementation of the policies formulated by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference, and the coordination measures and guidance received from the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO.
- Provide a forum for intergovernmental consultation on national and international food-aid programmes and policies.
- Periodically review general trends in food-aid requirements and food-aid availabilities, and the implementation of recommendations made on food-aid policies.
- Formulate proposals for improvements in more effective coordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food-aid policies and programmes, including emergency food aid.
- Recommend new policy initiatives to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO and, through them, to the General Assembly and the FAO Conference respectively and as necessary.⁸⁶

The WFP Executive Director is appointed jointly by the Secretary-General and the FAO Director-General for a five-year term. The Executive Director is responsible for and reports to the Executive Board on the administration of WFP, and on the implementation of its projects, programmes and other activities.

⁸⁵ WFP publication: *General Regulations, General Rules, Financial Regulations and Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board*, November 2009 edition.

⁸⁶ *ibid.*

5. FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization

In May 1943, at President Roosevelt's invitation, 44 countries met in Virginia, United States of America, and recommended establishing an international organization to be known as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It was agreed that a United Nations interim commission would be set up to prepare a constitution for this permanent organization that would deal with food and agriculture, as well as forestry and fishery.

Over 20 states indicated their acceptance of the Constitution. FAO officially came into being as a United Nations specialized agency on 16 October 1945 with the signing of its Constitution. The first session of the FAO Conference took place from 16 October to 19 November 1945.

The Constitution stipulated that FAO would:

- Raise people's level of **nutrition** and living standards.
- Secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all **food and agricultural** products; bettering the condition of rural populations.
- Contribute towards an expanding world economy and ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger.⁸⁷

To achieve the above, the Constitution defined FAO's functions to include the following:

- Scientific, technological, social and economic research relating to **nutrition, food and agriculture**.
- Improve **education** and administration relating to nutrition, food and agriculture, and the spread of public knowledge of nutritional and agricultural science and practice.
- Conserve natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production.
- Improve the processing, marketing and distribution of food and agricultural products.
- Adopt international policies with respect to agricultural commodity arrangements.⁸⁸

⁸⁷ *Constitution of FAO, 16 October 1945.*

⁸⁸ *ibid.*

The Constitution also stipulated that FAO should focus its activities primarily in four main areas:

- Provide technical advice and assistance.
- Collect, analyse and disseminate information on food, nutrition, agriculture, fisheries and forestry.
- Offer independent advice to governments on agricultural policy.
- Provide a neutral forum where governments, international organizations and NGOs could meet to discuss food and agricultural issues.⁸⁹

At the Economic and Social Council's recommendation, the General Assembly and the FAO Conference approved a relationship agreement between the United Nations and FAO in 1946.⁹⁰

Following the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration in September 2000,⁹¹ FAO works with its members to achieve the MDGs, particularly Goal 1 relating to the eradication of poverty and hunger.

II. Relevant FAO normative decisions defining its mandate

At its thirty-fifth special session in 2008, the FAO Conference adopted the "Immediate Plan of Action for FAO's Renewal"⁹² — also referred to as the IPA. In the same session, it also approved a vision and global goals for FAO, as well as its strategic objectives to attain these goals.

According to the IPA, FAO's vision is a world free of hunger and malnutrition, where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. To achieve this vision and the MDGs, FAO promotes the continuing contribution of food and sustainable agriculture to accomplish three global goals:

- Reduce the absolute number of people suffering from hunger, progressively ensuring a world in which all people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

⁸⁹ *ibid.*

⁹⁰ *General Assembly resolution 50(I): Agreements with Specialized Agencies, 14 December 1946.*

⁹¹ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/55/2: United Nations Millennium Declaration, 8 September 2000.*

⁹² *FAO Conference resolution 1/2008: Adoption of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal (2009-11), 19 November 2008.*

- Eliminate poverty and drive forward economic and social progress for all with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods.
- Achieve sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.⁹³

Among the strategic objectives identified by the FAO Conference is the improved “**preparedness** for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies.”⁹⁴

On the basis of the IPA, a new FAO Strategic Framework 2010-2019 was prepared by the FAO Secretariat and endorsed by the Conference in 2009. It elaborates on FAO’s commitment in promoting a comprehensive approach based on the three pillars of disaster risk management:

- **Preparedness.**
- **Prevention and mitigation.**
- **Response and transition.**⁹⁵

FAO defines “transition” as a process of linking immediate needs to medium- and long-term development objectives, starting in the immediate aftermath of a shock.⁹⁶

As a result of the humanitarian reform, FAO is the lead agency of the **Global Agriculture Cluster**.

III. FAO governance structures

In accordance with its Constitution, FAO is governed by the Conference of **Member Nations, or FAO Conference**. The FAO Conference meets every two years and comprises 191 Member States and one Member Organization (the European Community). The Constitution outlines the functions of the Conference as follows:

- To determine the policy and approve the budget of FAO and exercise the other powers conferred upon it by this Constitution.
- To adopt General Rules and Financial Regulations for FAO.
- To make recommendations to any international organization regarding any matter pertaining to FAO’s purpose.

⁹³ FAO document: *Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) for FAO Renewal (2009-11)*, 2008.

⁹⁴ *ibid.*

⁹⁵ *Report of the Conference of FAO, 36th Session (C2009/REP)*, para 116.

⁹⁶ FAO document: *FAO Strategic Framework 2010-2019 (C/2009/3)*.

- To review any decision taken by the Council or by any commission or committee of the Conference or Council, or by any subsidiary body of such commissions or committees.⁹⁷

The Constitution also established a Council as the executive organ of the Conference. The Council exercises functions dealing with the world food and agricultural situation and related matters; current and prospective activities of FAO, including the programme of work and budget, administrative matters, financial management of the organization; and constitutional questions.

The Council has 49 members elected by the Conference for three-year terms. It meets at least four times between regular Conference sessions.

Conference members elect the Director-General to head the agency. The rules and responsibilities of the Director-General are also listed in the FAO Constitution.

⁹⁷ *Constitution of FAO, 16 October 1945.*

6. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the World Health Organization

In 1946, an international health conference was convened from 19 to 22 July in New York “to consider the scope of, and the appropriate machinery for, international action in the field of public health.” This conference agreed to establish the World Health Organization (WHO) as a specialized agency and approved its Constitution.

The Constitution stipulates WHO’s objective as “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of **health**.”⁹⁸ To achieve this objective, the Constitution defined the functions of WHO to include the following:

- Act as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work.
- Establish and maintain effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups and other organizations as deemed appropriate.
- Assist governments, upon request, in strengthening health services.
- Furnish appropriate technical assistance and, in emergencies, necessary aid upon governments’ request or acceptance.
- Provide, or assist in providing, upon the request of the United Nations, health services and facilities to special groups, such as the peoples of trust territories.
- Promote, in co-operation with other specialized agencies where necessary, the improvement of nutrition, housing, sanitation, recreation, economic or working conditions and other aspects of environmental hygiene.
- Provide information, counsel and assistance in the field of health.
- Develop, establish and promote international standards with respect to food, biological, pharmaceutical and similar products.

In 1946, the Economic and Social Council recommended that United Nations Member States accept the WHO Constitution, and that the Secretary-General take the necessary steps to effect the transfer of the functions and activities of the League of Nations Health Organization (which had been assumed by the United Nations by the Interim Commission of WHO).⁹⁹

⁹⁸ *ibid.*

⁹⁹ *Economic and Social Council resolution 20 (III): World Health Organization, 17 September 1946.*

In 1946, the General Assembly took note of this Economic and Social Council resolution and recommended that all Member States accept the Constitution of WHO as soon as possible.¹⁰⁰ It was subsequently ratified and came into force on 7 April 1948, establishing WHO as a specialized agency.

In terms of cooperation with the United Nations, the General Assembly and the World Health Assembly (WHA) approved a relationship agreement between the two organizations in 1948.¹⁰¹

II. Relevant WHO normative decisions defining its mandate

Further to the mandate for action in emergencies, as stipulated in the WHO Constitution, WHO elaborated on its mandate in humanitarian assistance in two key resolutions.

In 2005, WHA acknowledged that most relief assistance is and would continue to be provided from within affected communities and through local authorities. This assistance was supported by international cooperation. The Director-General was requested to enhance WHO's capacity to provide support, within the coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system and other institutions, for formulating, testing and implementing **health-related emergency preparedness** plans, responding to the **critical health needs of people in crisis** conditions, and planning and implementing **sustainable post-crisis recovery**. The Director-General was also requested to strengthen existing logistics services within WHO's mandate, in close coordination with other humanitarian agencies, so that the necessary operational capacity may be available for Member States to receive prompt and timely assistance when faced with public health crises.¹⁰²

In 2006, WHA expressed concern that emergency preparedness in many countries was weak. It therefore requested the Director-General to provide the necessary technical guidance and support to Member States for building **health sector emergency preparedness** and response programmes at national and local levels, including a focus on strengthening community preparedness and resilience. The Director-General was also requested to ensure that WHO could respond effectively to emergencies and crises and, in doing so, continue to work closely with other organizations of the United Nations system, under the coordination of OCHA and other relevant international organizations and mechanisms.

The Director-General was further requested to implement measures to enhance WHO participation in the overall humanitarian response through existing mechanisms such as CERF, the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), or the United

¹⁰⁰ General Assembly resolution 61 (I): Establishment of the World Health Organization, 14 December 1946.

¹⁰¹ General Assembly resolution 124 (III): Agreements with Specialized Agencies, 15 November 1947 and WHA resolution WHA1.102, 10 July 1948.

¹⁰² WHA resolution WHA58.1: Health action in relation to crises and disasters, with particular emphasis on the earthquakes and tsunamis of 26 December 2004, 20 May 2005.

Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team. The Director-General was also requested to establish and maintain, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other partners, a tracking service to monitor and assess mortality rates in humanitarian emergencies.¹⁰³

In further resolutions, WHA endorsed the Medium-Term Strategic Plan 2008-2013, including 13 strategic objectives. The fifth objective is “to reduce the health consequences of emergencies, disasters, crises and conflicts, and minimize their social and economic impact.”¹⁰⁴

As part of the humanitarian reform, WHO became the **Global Health Cluster Lead** in efforts to improve the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of **health action in crisis in preparedness, response and recovery**.

III. WHO governance structures

In accordance with the Constitution, WHA is the supreme decision-making body for WHO. It has the following key functions:

- Determine the organization’s policies.
- Appoint the Director-General.
- Review and approve reports and activities of the Executive Board and of the Director-General. Instruct the Board regarding matters upon which action, study, investigation or report may be considered desirable.
- Supervise the organization’s financial policies and review and approve the budget.
- Instruct the Board and the Director-General to inform members and international organizations (governmental or non-governmental) of any health-related matter that WHA may consider appropriate.
- Consider health-related recommendations made by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council or Trusteeship Council of the United Nations, and report on the steps taken by the Organization to give effect to such recommendations.¹⁰⁵

WHA generally meets in Geneva in May each year. Delegations from 193 WHO Member States attend the meeting.

¹⁰³ WHA resolution WHA59.22: *Emergency preparedness and response*, 27 May 2006.

¹⁰⁴ WHA resolution WHA60.11: *Medium-term strategic plan 2008–2013*, 21 May 2007.

¹⁰⁵ *Constitution of WHO*, 22 July 1946.

The Constitution also established an Executive Board with the following functions:

- Give effect to the decisions and policies of WHA.
- Act as the executive organ of WHA.
- Perform any other functions entrusted to it by WHA.
- Take emergency measures within the functions and financial resources of the Organization to deal with events requiring immediate action. In particular, it may authorize the Director-General to take the necessary steps to combat epidemics, participate in organizing health relief to victims of a calamity, and undertake studies and research, the urgency of which had been drawn to the Board's attention by any member or the Director-General.¹⁰⁶

The Executive Board comprises 34 individuals technically qualified in health. They are elected for three-year terms. There are two meetings per year. The main Board meeting is held in January, at which the agenda for the forthcoming WHA is agreed and where resolutions for forwarding to the WHO are adopted. The second meeting is in May, immediately after the WHA, for more administrative matters.

The Director-General is the chief technical and administrative officer of WHO. According to article 31 of the Constitution, he or she "shall be appointed by the Health Assembly on the nomination of the Executive Board"¹⁰⁷ for a five-year term.

¹⁰⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ *ibid.*

7. UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the United Nations Population Fund

In 1966, the General Assembly authorized the United Nations to provide technical assistance in population matters. In response to this, the Secretary-General established a trust fund in 1967 subsequently named the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA). Its administration was entrusted to UNDP.¹⁰⁸

In 1972, in recognition of the growth of the fund's resources and scope of operations, the General Assembly placed the fund under its own authority and designated the Governing Council of UNDP as its intergovernmental governing body.¹⁰⁹ In 1987, the General Assembly renamed the fund as the United Nations Population Fund, while retaining the former acronym.¹¹⁰

In May 1973, the Economic and Social Council defined the UNFPA mandate to include the following:

- Build the knowledge and the capacity to respond to needs in population and family planning.
- Promote awareness of population problems and possible strategies to deal with these problems.
- Assist population issues in the forms and means best suited to individual countries' needs.
- Assume a leading role in the United Nations system in promoting population programmes and coordinate projects supported by UNFPA.¹¹¹

In 1974, the first World Population Conference adopted a World Population Plan of Action. It stressed the relationship between population factors and overall economic and social development. The General Assembly affirmed that the plan was "an instrument of the international community for the promotion of economic development".¹¹² It urged that assistance in the population field should be expanded, particularly by UNFPA, for the plan's proper implementation.

¹⁰⁸ *General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI): Population growth and economic development, 17 December 1966.*

¹⁰⁹ *General Assembly resolution 3019 (XXVII): United Nations Fund for Population Activities, 18 December 1972.*

¹¹⁰ *General Assembly decision 42/430: United Nations Fund for Population Activities: Change of Name, 11 December 1987.*

¹¹¹ *Economic and Social Council resolution 1763 (LIV): United Nations Fund for Population Activities, 18 May 1973.*

¹¹² *General Assembly resolution 3344 (XXIX): World Population Conference, 17 December 1974.*

At the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, 179 countries agreed that population and development were inextricably linked, and that empowering women and meeting people’s needs for **education and health**, including **reproductive health**, were necessary for individual advancement and balanced development. The conference adopted a 20-year Programme of Action, which focused on individuals’ needs and rights rather than on achieving demographic targets.

Advancing **gender equality**, eliminating violence against women and ensuring women’s ability to control their own fertility were acknowledged as cornerstones of population and development policies. The ICPD’s concrete goals centred on providing **universal education**; reducing infant, child and maternal mortality; and ensuring universal access by 2015 to **reproductive health care**, including family planning, assisted childbirth and prevention of sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS.

II. Relevant UNFPA normative decisions defining its mandate

In 1996, the Executive Board endorsed the UNFPA mission statement. It included the following areas of work:

“to help ensure universal access to reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health, to all couples and individuals on or before the year 2015; to support population and development strategies that enable capacity-building in population programming; to promote awareness of population and development issues and to advocate the mobilization of the resources and political will necessary to accomplish its areas of work.”¹¹³

In 1999, the Executive Board noted with appreciation UNFPA’s support for reproductive health in emergency situations.¹¹⁴ Two subsequent decisions in 2000 and 2005 further endorsed UNFPA’s role in **emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery**. The decisions encouraged the fund to work in such sectors within its thematic mandate, in policy advocacy, technical leadership and field collaboration with relevant partners.¹¹⁵ In particular, in 2000 the Executive Board encouraged UNFPA, within its mandate, to provide appropriate and timely support in emergencies. It appealed to UNFPA to ensure close cooperation in the framework of the existing international coordination mechanisms and to incorporate reproductive health issues in a timely manner in health responses to emergencies.¹¹⁶

¹¹³ UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision DP/FPA/1996/28: *Mission Statement of the United Nations Populations Fund*, 8 May 1996.

¹¹⁴ UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision DP/FPA/1999/6: *UNFPA Support for reproductive health in emergency situations*.

¹¹⁵ UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision DP/FPA/2000/13: *Ensuring reproductive health in emergency situations*, 16 June 2000; and UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision DP/FPA/2005/40: *UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery*, 9 September 2005.

¹¹⁶ UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision DP/FPA/2000/13: *Ensuring reproductive health in emergency situations*, 16 June 2000.

In 2006, the Executive Board endorsed a UNFPA strategy for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery programmes at national, regional and international levels as the basis for strengthening UNFPA activities.¹¹⁷ The strategy was designed to increase the commitment and capacity of the international humanitarian system to ensure that reproductive health, gender and data issues are addressed in all phases of relief and transition. At the global level, UNFPA “will secure and deploy experts to incorporate **gender and reproductive health** considerations into United Nations processes, including joint needs assessments and consolidated humanitarian action plans, post-conflict needs assessments and transition frameworks. It will also help to integrate emergency preparedness and conflict analyses into common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. In addition, UNFPA will provide technical expertise in **gender mainstreaming** to support United Nations humanitarian coordinators during crises and will second technical experts to OCHA.”¹¹⁸

III. UNFPA governance structure

In 1973, the General Assembly decided that the Governing Council of UNDP also serve as the governing body of UNFPA. It invited the Governing Council to “concern itself with the financial and administrative policies relating to the work programme, the fund raising methods and the annual budget of the fund.”¹¹⁹

In 1993, the General Assembly transformed the Governing Council of UNDP into the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board. It provides intergovernmental support to and supervision of UNFPA in accordance with overall policy guidance of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.¹²⁰

The Executive Board comprises 36 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for three-year terms. Since 1994, the Board has held three regular sessions and one annual session each year. In 2001, it agreed that it would only hold two regular sessions and one annual session.

The Executive Director of UNFPA is appointed by the Secretary-General and reports annually to the Economic and Social Council.

¹¹⁷ UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board decision DP/FPA/2006/35: UNFPA role in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery, 13 September 2006.

¹¹⁸ UNFPA document DP/FPA/2006/14: Integrating the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development into emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery programmes: a strategy to build commitment and capacity, 18 August 2006.

¹¹⁹ General Assembly resolution 3019 (XXVII): United Nations Fund for Population Activities, 18 December 1972.

¹²⁰ General Assembly resolution A/RES/48/162: Further measures for the restructuring and the revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, 20 December 1993.

8. OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The General Assembly established the post of High Commissioner for Human Rights in 1993. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was mandated to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all rights established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international human rights laws and treaties.

OHCHR's work is guided by the mandate provided by the General Assembly in 1993;¹²¹ the Charter of the United Nations; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹²² and subsequent human rights instruments; the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights; and the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

The OHCHR mandate includes:¹²³

- Promoting and protecting all human rights for all.
- Making recommendations to competent bodies of the United Nations system for improving promotion and protection of all human rights.
- Promoting and protecting the right to development.
- Providing technical assistance for human rights.
- Playing an active role in removing obstacles to the realization of human rights and preventing the continuation of human rights violations.
- Engaging in dialogue with government with a view to securing respect for all human rights.
- Enhancing international cooperation.
- Coordinating **human rights promotion and protection activities** throughout the United Nations system (human rights mainstreaming).
- Rationalizing, adapting, strengthening and streamlining the United Nations human rights machinery.

¹²¹ General Assembly resolution A/RES/48/141: High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights, 20 December 1993.

¹²² General Assembly resolution 217 (III): International Bill of Human Rights, 10 December 1948.

¹²³ General Assembly resolution A/RES/48/141: High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights, 20 December 1993.

II. OHCHR's relationship with intergovernmental bodies

As provided by General Assembly resolution 48/141, the High Commissioner for Human Rights is the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the Secretary-General's direction and authority. The High Commissioner is appointed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation. He/she has a fixed-term of four years with a possibility of one renewal.¹²⁴

The General Assembly also confirmed that the High Commissioner's mandate and responsibilities be conducted within the framework of the overall competence, authority and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (now the Human Rights Council). On this basis, the High Commissioner reports annually to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on OHCHR activities. The High Commissioner also regularly reports to these intergovernmental bodies on the basis of resolutions and decisions they issue on thematic issues or country-specific situations. OHCHR also plays the role, *inter alia*, of secretariat for the Human Rights Council and for United Nations Human Rights Treaty bodies.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights was established in 1946 to weave the international legal fabric that protects fundamental rights and freedoms.¹²⁵ Composed of 53 states' members, its brief expanded over time to allow responses to the whole range of human rights problems and to set standards governing states' conduct.

It also acted as a forum where states, non-governmental groups and human rights defenders worldwide voiced their concerns. On 15 March 2006, the General Assembly established the Human Rights Council, composed of 47 states elected by the Economic and Social Council, to replace the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The aim was to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. The main purpose of the Human Rights Council is to address human rights violations and make relevant recommendations.¹²⁶

¹²⁴ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/48/141: High Commissioner for the promotion and protection of all human rights, 20 December 1993.*

¹²⁵ *Economic and Social Council resolution 5 (II): Commission on Human Rights and Subcommission on the Status of Women, 16 February 1946.*

¹²⁶ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/251: Human Rights Council, 15 March 2006.*

9. UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

I. Relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council relating to the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

In 1977, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNHCS) to serve as a focal point for human settlements in the United Nations system and to service the Commission on Human Settlements (CHS). Under an Executive Director's leadership, its responsibilities would be to:

- Ensure the harmonization at the inter-secretariat level of human settlements programmes planned and carried out by the United Nations system.
- Assist the Commission on Human Settlements in coordinating human settlements activities in the United Nations system, keep them under review and assess their effectiveness.
- Execute human settlements projects.
- Provide the focal point for a global exchange of information about human settlements.¹²⁷

In 1979, the General Assembly expressed its conviction that “human settlements programmes provide a direct mechanism for redressing imbalances in access to **shelter, utility services, health care, education and community amenities**, and hence can have a significant impact on the immediate, day-to-day needs of low-income and disadvantaged groups”.

The General Assembly urged “Member States, within the context of their national priorities, to devote a larger share of national resources to the strengthening of **human settlements** activities as vehicles of economic and social change.”¹²⁸

In 2001, the General Assembly elevated UNHCS to programme status, which became the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation. It was transformed into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to be known as UN-HABITAT.¹²⁹

In 2005, the General Assembly recalled the United Nations Millennium Declaration goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by

¹²⁷ General Assembly resolution A/RES/32/162: *Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements*, 19 December 1977.

¹²⁸ General Assembly resolution A/RES/34/116: *Strengthening of human settlements activities*, 14 December 1979.

¹²⁹ General Assembly resolution A/RES/56/206: *Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)*, 21 December 2001.

2020. The General Assembly requested the Secretary-General “to keep the resource needs of UN-Habitat under review so as to enhance its effectiveness in supporting national policies, strategies and plans in attaining the poverty eradication, **gender equality, water and sanitation and slum upgrading** targets of the Millennium Declaration.”¹³⁰

In 2005, 2006 and 2007, the General Assembly invited “the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to consider including UN-Habitat in its membership.”¹³¹ It did this while recognizing “the important role and contribution of UN-Habitat in supporting the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop **prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction** programmes for the **transition from relief to development.**”

In the same resolutions, UN-HABITAT was requested “through its involvement in the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and through contacts with relevant United Nations agencies and partners in the field, to promote the early involvement of human settlements experts in the assessment and development of prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes to support the efforts of developing countries affected by natural disasters and other complex humanitarian emergencies.”¹³²

II. Relevant UN-HABITAT normative decisions defining its mandate

In April 2005, the Governing Council requested “the Executive Director to mainstream prospects for **risk reduction** and limiting the after-effects of disasters and to elaborate the guiding principles [...] on post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction and, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, to develop a strategic policy for the role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in addressing the sustainable human settlements aspects of human-made and natural disaster management.”

¹³⁰ General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/203: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 22 December 2005.

¹³¹ General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/203: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 22 December 2005; General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/206: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 20 December 2006; and General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/198: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 19 December 2007.

¹³² General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/203: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 22 December 2005; General Assembly resolution A/RES/64/206: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 20 December 2006; and General Assembly resolution A/RES/62/198: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 19 December 2007.

In the same resolution, the Governing Council invited “Governments in a position to do so to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to support activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme promoting sustainable human settlements development in emergencies and post-disaster situations.”¹³³

In 2007, the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Governing Council endorsed the agency’s “Strategic Policy on Human Settlements and Crisis”, enabling the structured integration of support to the humanitarian community and governments facing or recovering from urban crisis.

UN-HABITAT is the **lead agency for housing, land and property within the IASC Protection Cluster**. It also supports the efforts of IASC partners in the **Emergency Shelter** and **Early Recovery clusters**.

III. UN-HABITAT Governance Structure

In 1977, the General Assembly decided that the Economic and Social Council should transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning into a Commission on Human Settlements. Its main objectives are to:

- Assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve human settlements problems.
- Promote greater international cooperation in order to increase the availability of resources of developing countries and regions.
- Promote the integral concept of human settlements and a comprehensive approach to human settlement problems in all countries.
- Strengthen cooperation and co-participation in this domain among all countries and regions.¹³⁴

In the same resolution, the General Assembly also decided that, among its main functions, the Commission should develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding programmes of work in human settlements and provide overall direction to the Secretariat.¹³⁵

In 2001, the General Assembly decided “to transform, with effect from 1 January 2002, the Commission on Human Settlements into the Governing Council of the United

¹³³ UN-HABITAT Governing Council decision 20/17: *Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction*, 8 April 2005.

¹³⁴ General Assembly resolution A/RES/32/162: *Institutional arrangements for international co-operation in the field of human settlements*, 19 December 1977.

¹³⁵ *ibid.*

Nations Human Settlements Programme, to be known as UN-HABITAT, a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly.” In the same resolution, the General Assembly also decided that “the Governing Council shall be composed of 58 members, to be elected by the Economic and Social Council for four-year terms.” The General Assembly further decided that the Governing Council would be the intergovernmental decision-making body for UN-HABITAT, meet biennially and report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.¹³⁶

An Executive Director heads the UN-HABITAT Secretariat. The candidate is nominated by the Secretary-General after consultation with Member States, and is then elected by the General Assembly for a four-year term.

¹³⁶ *General Assembly resolution A/RES/56/206: Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 21 December 2001.*



4. NORMATIVE DECISIONS PERTAINING TO THEMATIC ISSUES ADDRESSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL



I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Principles and Framework for Humanitarian Assistance

REFERENCE

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

1. States and other parties to armed conflict are called upon to observe scrupulously **international humanitarian law (IHL)**.
2. The **deportation or forcible transfer of population** is a crime against humanity and the unlawful deportation or transfer of the civilian population, as well as ordering the displacement of the civilian population, are war crimes by the definition of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2003/51

Dispositions addressed to Member States

3. All States are called upon to reaffirm their commitment to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** as a fundamental step towards protection for everyone.
4. States and relevant parties are urged to respect and observe principles of **international human rights and humanitarian and refugee law** that are of particular relevance to safeguarding the **rights of the child** and adolescent refugees whose situation is particularly vulnerable to abuse.
5. States are called upon to adopt nationality legislation with a view to **reducing statelessness**, consistent with the fundamental principles of international law, in particular by preventing arbitrary deprivation of nationality and by eliminating provisions that permit the renunciation of a nationality without the prior possession or acquisition of another nationality, while at the same time recognizing the right of States to establish laws governing the acquisition, renunciation or loss of nationality.

UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

UNHCR - A/RES/50/152 (1995)

6. All States have the obligation to **accept the return of their nationals**. States are called upon to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection. The return of persons needs to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned.

7. Member States are urged to pay particular attention to **gender-based violence** as an increasing concern during crises, and to provide appropriate support to those affected.

Dispositions addressed to the United Nations and the humanitarian system in general

8. It is important for humanitarian organizations of the UN system to work within the UN framework, and with full **respect for state sovereignty** in a neutral and impartial way.

9. Efforts should be strengthened in the training and **dissemination of international human rights law and IHL** and for the joint promotion, by organizations and agencies concerned, of the implementation of these international standards.

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)
UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)
UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/61/137 (2006)
UNHCR - A/RES/60/129 (2005)
UNHCR - A/RES/59/170 (2004)
UNHCR - A/RES/58/151 (2003)
UNHCR - A/RES/57/187 (2002)
UNHCR - A/RES/56/137 (2001)
UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

WHA.58.1 (2005)

WFP/EB.A/2000/A-4 (“Emerging issues relevant to WFP”) taken note by WFP/2000/EB.A/3

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion No. 75 (XLV) (1994)

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

10. The fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of **UNDP** should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their **neutrality**, multilateralism and **impartiality**.
11. **Voluntary repatriation** is the ideal solution to refugee problems. Countries of origin, countries of asylum, **UNHCR** and the international community as a whole are called upon to do everything possible to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and with dignity.
12. The fundamental importance and the **purely humanitarian and non-political character** of the function of **UNHCR** of providing international protection to refugees and seeking **permanent solutions** to refugee problems is strongly reaffirmed.

**UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
1998/1**

**UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
1998/2**

UNHCR - A/RES/52/103 (1997)

UNHCR - A/RES/51/75 (1996)

UNHCR - A/RES/50/152 (1995)

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)

UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)

UNHCR - A/RES/61/137 (2006)

UNHCR - A/RES/60/129 (2005)

UNHCR - A/RES/59/170 (2004)

UNHCR - A/RES/58/151 (2003)

UNHCR - A/RES/57/187 (2002)

UNHCR - A/RES/56/137 (2001)

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)

UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)

UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

UNHCR - A/RES/52/103 (1997)

13. When providing food aid, non-food assistance and technical support in response to humanitarian needs, **WFP** adheres to the following ten **principles**:
- Core humanitarian values: Humanity, impartiality, neutrality and respect;
 - Foundations of effective humanitarian action: self-reliance, participation, capacity-building, and coordination;
 - Standard of accountability and professionalism: accountability, and professionalism.
14. The essential role of the International Committee of the Red Cross (**ICRC**) in disseminating IHL and providing protection and humanitarian assistance to those displaced by armed conflict is acknowledged. The need to promote and ensure respect for the principles and rules of IHL, and guided in this respect by the relevant provisions of the **Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977**, as applicable is reaffirmed.

WFP/EB.1/2004/5-C
(“Humanitarian principles”)
taken note by WFP/2004/
EB.A/8

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV) (1994)
WHA.55.13 (2002)

2. Protection of Civilians

REFERENCE

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

15. It is noted that the **protection challenges for IDPs and refugees may differ**, that the normative legal frameworks for their protection are different; that humanitarian access to IDPs can be more difficult; that internally displaced women and girls are more likely to be caught in armed conflict and may face specific protection risks as a result; and that the responses and solutions available to refugees and internally displaced women and girls may be different.
16. It is important to assure that all persons seeking international protection have **access to fair and efficient procedures for the determination of refugee status**, and to ensure that persons in need of international protection are identified and granted such protection.
17. All parties to armed conflicts are called upon to adhere fully to and implement the applicable rules of **IHL** protecting civilians and combatants who are hors de combat.
18. Adequate international **support should be extended to countries of asylum** to meet the basic needs of refugees and to assist in the search for durable solutions. Refugees should be provided with access to adequate accommodation; education; health services, including family planning; and other necessary social services.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion No. 105 (LVII) (2006)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion No. 75 (XLV) (1994)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion No. 74 (XLV) (1994)

WHA.55.13 (2002)

UNFPA - A/CONF.171/13 taken note by A/RES/49/128 (1994)

19. Concern is expressed at instances of persecution, generalized violence and violations of human rights, including **sexual and gender-based violence**. Such acts continue to cause and perpetuate displacement within and beyond national borders and increase the challenges faced by States in effecting durable solutions. All forms of threats, harassment and violence directed against refugees and other persons of concern are condemned.

Dispositions addressed to Member States

20. National authorities have the **primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance**, and to strengthen methods and means to better address the specific protection and assistance needs of **IDPs**. Governments are also called upon to develop national policies aimed at addressing the plight of IDPs.
21. States are called upon to **combat intolerance, racism and xenophobia**, and to foster empathy and understanding through public statements, appropriate legislation and social policies, especially with regard to the special situation of refugees and asylum-seekers.
22. All States should abide by their international obligations to **protect the physical security of refugees and asylum-seekers** and to make sure that violations of the rights to personal security of refugees and asylum-seekers cease immediately. States are also called upon to promote and protect the human rights of all refugees, and other persons of concern, paying special attention **to those with specific needs**, and to tailor their protection responses appropriately.

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 102 (LVI) (2005)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 99 (LV), (2004)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2005/46

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2003/51

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 104 (LVI) (2005)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 77 (XLVI) (1995)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 102 (LVI) (2005)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 79 (XLVII) (1996)

23. The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol are the foundation of the international refugee protection regime. Therefore effective application by States' parties is recognized. States not parties are encouraged to consider acceding to those instruments. The importance of full respect for the **principle of non-refoulement** is underlined.
24. Everyone is entitled to the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from prosecution. As asylum is an indispensable instrument for the international protection of refugees, all States are called upon to **refrain from taking measures that jeopardize the institute of asylum**, in particular by returning or expelling refugees or asylum-seekers contrary to international standards.
25. Member States are urged to strengthen actions to **protect children from and in armed conflict**.
26. All acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, are condemned. All States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations where appropriate, are called upon to take all necessary measures to ensure **respect for the principles of refugee protection**, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers.

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)
UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)
UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/61/137 (2006)
UNHCR - A/RES/60/129 (2005)
UNHCR - A/RES/59/170 (2004)
UNHCR - A/RES/58/151 (2003)
UNHCR - A/RES/57/187 (2002)
UNHCR - A/RES/56/137 (2001)
UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)
UNHCR - A/RES/52/103 (1997)

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)
UNHCR - A/RES/52/103 (1997)

WHA.55.13 (2002)

UNHCR - A/RES/60/129 (2005)
UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)
UNHCR - A/RES/52/103 (1997)

27. States are encouraged to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require **international protection** in their respective regions, including the **support provided for host communities** that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection.
28. States are called upon to adopt an approach that is sensitive to **gender-related concerns** and to ensure that women whose claims to refugee status are based upon a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons enumerated in the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, including persecution through sexual violence or other gender-related persecution, are recognized as refugees.
29. **Gender-related violence** and all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex directed against refugee and displaced women and girls are deplored. States are called upon to ensure that their human rights and physical and psychological integrity are protected, and that they are made aware of these rights.
30. Member States are urged to pay particular attention to **mental health needs** and establishment of service-delivery models in their health and social systems.

Dispositions addressed to the United Nations and the humanitarian system in general

31. The consensus adoption by the GA of the two Optional Protocols to the CRC to prevent the involvement of children in armed conflict and to ensure the **protection of children from sale, prostitution and pornography** is welcomed.
32. States and UNHCR are called upon to make renewed efforts to ensure that the rights, needs and dignity of **elderly and disabled** refugees are fully respected and that programmes are designed bearing in mind their special vulnerabilities.

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)
UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)
UNHCR - A/RES/52/103 (1997)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 85 (XLIX) (1998)

WHA.58.1 (2005)

UNICEF EB Decision 2000/11

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

33. **Family** is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and it is entitled to protection by society and the State. States, working in close collaboration with UNHCR and other concerned organizations, are called upon to take measures to ensure that the refugee's family is protected, including through measures aimed at **reuniting family members** separated as a result of refugee flight.
34. The importance of mainstreaming **gender equality** as reflected in the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for the development of the UN system.

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

35. **UNICEF** works at strengthening **child protection in armed conflict and natural disaster** with an emphasis on preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuses. UNICEF's child protection strategy aims at strengthening coherence and synergies between emergencies and non-emergency child protection programming.
36. The **protection of refugees** is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable **UNHCR** to fulfill its mandated functions.

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)
UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
2009/6

E/ICEF/2008/5/Rev.1 ("UNICEF
Child Protection Strategy")
endorsed by UNICEF EB
Decision 2008/12

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)
UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)
UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/61/137 (2006)
UNHCR - A/RES/60/129 (2005)
UNHCR - A/RES/59/170 (2004)
UNHCR - A/RES/58/151 (2003)
UNHCR - A/RES/57/187 (2002)
UNHCR - A/RES/56/137 (2001)
UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)
UNHCR - A/RES/52/103 (1997)

37. International **protection of refugees** is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the **mandate of UNHCR**. It includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs.
38. The importance of **age, gender and diversity mainstreaming** is recalled in analyzing protection needs and in ensuring the participation of refugees and other persons of concern to **UNHCR**, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of UNHCR and State policies. The importance of accord- ing priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the **protection needs of women and children in particular is also affirmed**.
39. It is important for States to promote an **age- and gender-sensitive approach** in the application of inter- national refugee instruments. **UNHCR** should ensure consideration of age and gender in its policy making and operations through further mainstreaming.

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)
UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)
UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/61/137 (2006)
UNHCR - A/RES/60/129 (2005)
UNHCR - A/RES/59/170 (2004)
UNHCR - A/RES/58/151 (2003)
UNHCR - A/RES/57/187 (2002)
UNHCR - A/RES/56/137 (2001)

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)
UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)
UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/61/137 (2006)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 95 (LIV) (2003)

40. The value of structured dialogues with refugee **women** in order to better address their protection needs and safeguard their rights and of working towards their empowerment, particularly through training and skills development is reiterated. **UNHCR** and other concerned actors are encouraged to promote wider acceptance and inclusion in their protection criteria of the notion that persecution may be gender-related or affected through sexual violence. UNHCR and other concerned actors are encouraged to develop, promote and implement guidelines, codes of conduct and training programmes on gender-related refugee issues, in order to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and enhance accountability for the implementation of gender policies.

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 99 (LV) (2004)**

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 87 (L) (1999)**

3. Humanitarian Access

REFERENCE

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

41. The protection of refugees continues to be seriously jeopardized in certain situations as a result of **denial of access, expulsion, refoulement and unjustified detention**, as well as other threats to their physical security, dignity and well-being.
42. All concerned are urged to allow full **unimpeded access by humanitarian personnel to all people in need of assistance**, and to make available, as far as possible, all necessary facilities for their operations, and to promote the **safety, security and freedom of movement of humanitarian personnel** and the UN and its associated personnel and assets, as set forth in **IHL**.

Dispositions addressed to Member States

43. Governments are called upon to **ensure full, safe, timely and unhindered** humanitarian access to persons in need of protection and assistance, including internally displaced and victims of armed conflict, as well as refugees within their territories.
44. Member States are urged to ensure that, in times of crisis, all affected populations have **equitable access to essential health care**.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 71 (XLIV) (1993)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 108 (LIX) (2008)
UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 101 (LV), (2004)
UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV), (1994)
UNHCR - A/RES/49/169 (1994)
UNHCR - A/RES/48/116 (1993)
WFP/EB.2/2007/11

WHA.58.1 (2005)

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

45. The fact that in certain situations refugees, as well as returnees and other persons of concern to UNHCR, have been subject to armed attack, murder, rape and other violations of or other threats to their personal security and other fundamental rights, and that incidents of refoulement and denial of access to safety have occurred, is deplored. **UNHCR**, in line with its mandate and responsibilities, should be given **rapid, free, unhindered and safe access to refugees and returnees**, in particular so as to monitor their proper treatment in accordance with international standards.
46. In order to carry out effective and timely assessment, delivery, distribution and monitoring of food aid and to ensure the safety of its personnel, **WFP requires safe and unhindered humanitarian access. Humanitarian access is a precondition to humanitarian action.**

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No.101 (LV) (2004)**

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 74 (XLV) (1994)**

**WFP/EB.1/2006/5-B +corr.1
+ corr.2 (“Note on
Humanitarian Access and its
implications for WFP”) taken
note by WFP/2006/EB.1/4**

4. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

REFERENCE

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

47. The **involuntary displacement of persons is recognized as a problem of global dimensions**, and the plight of such IDPs is a matter of grave humanitarian concern.
48. The **underlying causes of large-scale involuntary population displacements** are complex and inter-related and encompass gross violations of human rights, including in armed conflict, poverty and economic disruption, political conflicts, ethnic and inter-communal tensions and environmental degradation, and that there is a need for the international community to address these causes in a concerted and holistic manner.
49. Many **underlying causes of involuntary internal displacement and of refugee movements are often similar**, and that the problems of both refugees and the internally displaced often calls for similar measures with respect to prevention, protection, humanitarian assistance and solutions.
50. The international community needs to seek ways and means to **avert** involuntary displacements.
51. The **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** is an important tool for dealing with situations of internal displacement. All relevant actors are encouraged to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV) (1993)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 80 (XLVII) (1996)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV) (1993)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV) (1994)

OHCHR – E/CN.4/RES/2004/55
OHCHR – E/CN.4/RES/2003/51

52. **International human rights law, IHL** and, in many cases, **national laws** include norms providing for the security and protection of the internally displaced as well as those at risk of displacement. Serious concern is expressed at the failure of parties involved to respect these norms.

Dispositions addressed to Member States

53. States concerned have the **primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to IDPs** within their territorial jurisdiction during all stages of the displacement cycle, as well as to address the root causes of their displacement in appropriate cooperation with the international community.
54. **Prevention and reduction of statelessness** as the protection of and assistance to IDPs are **primarily the responsibility of States**, in appropriate cooperation with the international community.

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV) (1994)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 80 (XLVII) (1996)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV) (1993)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV) (1993)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2005/46

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2002/56

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)

UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)

UNHCR - A/RES/61/137 (2006)

UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)

55. Countries are called upon to **address the causes of internal displacement, including environmental degradation, natural disasters, armed conflict and forced resettlement**, and to establish the necessary mechanisms to protect and assist displaced persons. It further calls for measures to ensure that internally displaced persons receive basic education, employment opportunities, vocational training and basic health-care services, including reproductive health services and family planning.
56. Governments are called upon to develop national policies aimed at **addressing the plight of IDPs**, as well as to ensure that they benefit from **public services**, in particular basic social services such as health services and education, based on the principle of non-discrimination, and to facilitate the efforts of relevant UN agencies and humanitarian organizations in these respects, including by improving **access** to IDPs.

Dispositions addressed to the UN and the humanitarian system in general

57. **Inter agency arrangements** and the capacities of UN agencies and other relevant actors to meet the immense humanitarian challenge of internal displacement should be strengthened. States are called upon to provide adequate resources for programmes to assist and protect IDPs.
58. Involuntary displacement, in addition to the human suffering involved, can impose significant **intra-regional burdens, and may also affect security and stability at the regional level**. The value of **regional cooperation** in addressing involuntary displacement in a manner which encompasses the political dimension of causes is underlined.

UNFPA - A/CONF.171/13 taken
note by A/RES/49/128 (1994)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2005/46

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 80 (XLVII) (1996)

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

59. Activities of **UNHCR** related to **protection of and assistance to IDPs**, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field. Such activities should be consistent with relevant GA resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of UNHCR and the institution of asylum.

60. **WFP** will **provide food assistance to the internally displaced** and other groups affected by displacement to promote their **food security** and the immediate and longer-term re-establishment of coping mechanisms and livelihoods when: requested by Member States or associate member of any specialized agency or at the request of the Secretary-General; there is a food consumption problem and WFP will address the food insecurity of the internally displaced and assess the food needs of other groups affected by internal displacement; **access to affected groups is obtained for assessments, targeting, distribution, monitoring and evaluation of assistance; and security is sufficient.** WFP will target displaced persons on the basis of food insecurity rather than identify them as a particular group.

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)
UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/61/137 (2006)
UNHCR/ExCom/No. 75 (XLV)
(1994)

WFP/EB.A/2001/4-C (“Reaching people in situation of displacement”) taken note by WFP/2001/EB.A/5

5. Safety and Security of Humanitarian Personnel

REFERENCE

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

61. Deep concern is **expressed about the increasing number of attacks** against humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need.

Dispositions addressed to Member States

62. All countries are called upon to renew their **commitment to the protection of humanitarian workers**. States and concerned parties should take all possible measures to ensure and to promote the safety and security of personnel and property of the humanitarian organizations of the UN system and that of all other organizations in discharging the mandated functions of these UN entities, and to protect national and international personnel involved.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)

UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion No. 102 (LVI) (2005)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion No. 83 (XLVIII) (1997)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion No. 65 (XLII) (1991)

WFP/EB.2/2007/11

FAO Conference Decision C.L. 119 (2000) (on WFP)

WHA.58.1 (2005)

WHA.55.13 (2002)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55

63. States are urged to take all necessary steps to **investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian staff** of humanitarian organizations of the UN system and their implementing partners, as well as other humanitarian personnel, and to bring the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international and national law.
64. States should ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and UN and associated personnel do not operate with **impunity**, and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law is emphasized.
65. Member States are urged to condemn all **attacks directed at [health] personnel**, especially those that impede ability of such personnel to carry out their humanitarian function **during armed conflicts**.
66. All parties to armed conflicts are called upon to fully adhere to and implement the applicable rules of **IHL protecting civilians and combatants who are hors de combat as well as medical, nursing and other health and humanitarian personnel**, and to respect provisions that regulate the use of Red Cross and Red Crescent **emblems** and the protective status they have under IHL.

UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)
UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 99 (LV) (2004)
UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 83 (XLVIII) (1997)

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)

WHA.55.13 (2002)

WHA.55.13 (2002)

Dispositions addressed to the UN and the humanitarian system in general

67. Organizations of the UN system are encouraged to give their fullest attention to the examination and adoption of **measures to improve staff safety and security**.
68. Within the framework of the **IASC** and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, the Secretary-General was called upon to use all the means at his disposal to **enhance the safety and security of humanitarian workers**.

UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)
UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 102 (LVI) (2005)
UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 83 (XLVIII) (1997)
UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 65 (XLII) (1991)
WFP/EB.2/2007/11
FAO Conference Decision C.L.
119, 2000 (on WFP)
WHA.58.1 (2005)
WHA.55.13 (2002)
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55

WFP/EB.2/2007/11

6. Humanitarian-Military Relations in Humanitarian Assistance

REFERENCE

Dispositions addressed to Member States

69. States are urged to uphold the **civilian and humanitarian character** of refugee camps and settlements, inter alia, through effective measures to prevent the infiltration of armed elements, to identify and separate any such armed elements from refugee populations, to settle refugees in secure locations and to afford UNHCR and other appropriate humanitarian organizations **prompt, unhindered and safe access to asylum-seekers, refugees and other persons of concern.**

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)



II. LINKAGE BETWEEN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, DISASTER REDUCTION AND TRANSITION

7. Prevention, Preparedness and Capacity-Building

REFERENCE

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

70. Most relief assistance has initially been, and will continue to be **provided from within affected communities and through local authorities**, supported through intense international cooperation. The effectiveness with which affected nations respond to sudden events of large magnitude reflects their **preparedness and readiness**, particularly in relation to saving life and sustaining survival. **WHA.58.1 (2005)**
71. Concern is expressed that **emergency preparedness in many countries is weak**, and that existing mechanisms may not be able to cope with large-scale disasters. **WHA.59.22 (2006)**
72. The commitment to **prevent hunger through disaster preparedness** and other risk reduction measures including strengthening the capacities of governments to prepare for, assess and respond to hunger arising from disasters as well as assisting communities to build resilience to shocks is reaffirmed. **WFP/EB.1/EB.1/4 (2009)**
73. The need to **build local capacity to assess risks, and to prepare for, and respond to, any future catastrophe**, including by providing continuous **public education**, dispelling myths about **health consequences of disasters**, and reducing the risk of disaster damage in critical health facilities is reaffirmed. **WHA.58.1 (2005)**
74. Action to address the **public health aspects of crises should at all times strengthen the ingenuity and resilience of communities**, the capacities of local authorities, the preparedness of health systems, and the ability of national authorities and civil society to provide prompt and coordinated back-up geared to the survival of those immediately affected. **WHA.58.1 (2005)**

Dispositions addressed to Member States

75. Member States are urged to enhance **international solidarity and to identify mechanisms for joint cooperation in the development of emergency preparedness and response strategies.** **WHA.58.1 (2005)**
76. Member States should further strengthen **national emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programmes** through, as appropriate, legislative, planning, technical, financial and logistical measures, with a special focus on building **health systems and community resilience.** **WHA.59.22 (2006)**
77. Member States should strengthen the **capacity of health systems for monitoring and minimizing the public health impacts of climate change** through adequate preventive measures, preparedness, timely response and effective management of natural disasters. **WHA.61.19 (2008)**
78. The need for a **comprehensive approach** by the international community for refugees and displaced persons including **addressing root causes, strengthening emergency preparedness and response, providing effective protection, and achieving durable solutions is recognized.** In this context, the special needs of women and children in terms of protection and assistance are also recognized. **UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion No. 71 (XLIV) (1993)**
79. Member States are urged to make their best efforts to engage actively in the collective measures to establish **global and regional preparedness plans** that integrate risk-reduction planning into the health sector and **build up capacity to respond to health-related crises.** **WHA.58.1 (2005)**
80. Member States are urged to ensure that women and men have equal **access to both formal and informal education in emergency preparedness and disaster reduction** through early warning systems that empower women, as well as men, to react in timely and appropriate ways, and that appropriate education and response options are also made available to all children. **WHA.58.1 (2005)**

81. Member States are urged to formulate, on the basis of risk mapping, national emergency-preparedness plans that give due attention to public health, including health infrastructure, and to the roles of the health sector in crises, in order to **improve the effectiveness of responses to crises and of contributions to the recovery of health systems.**

Dispositions addressed to the United Nations and the humanitarian system in general

82. The **Representative of the Secretary-General for IDPs**, through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and NGOs concerned, should continue his analysis of the causes of internal displacement, the needs of those displaced, measures of prevention and ways to strengthen protection, assistance and solutions for the internally displaced, taking into account specific situations.

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

83. The important work of the **UNDP** in emergency assistance, including prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction is recognized. **Crisis prevention and disaster mitigation should be integral parts of sustainable human development strategies** and the UNDP has some relevant operational experience in crisis and post-conflict situations.
84. **UNDP** should continue to extend its support to programme countries within the context of the **Hyogo Framework for Action** as one of the members of the **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)** system, in close coordination with the ISDR secretariat.

WHA.58.1 (2005)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2000/53

UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
2001/1
UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
1997/19

UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
2007/32

85. **UNICEF's** emergency programmes aim to not only meet the immediate needs of affected children and their families, but also **reinforce national systems and sector capacity**.
86. **Mainstreaming gender equality** is important and **UNICEF** aims at strengthening its gender analysis, as well as its plan to strengthen capacity in gender equality across all focus areas and in emergency contexts through the establishment of sector-specific guidance, the dissemination of tools and checklists, and staff training.
87. **UNICEF** is encouraged to continue to strengthen its internal capacities and its **coordination with national Governments, relevant parts of the UN system and civil society** to ensure an effective, predictable and timely response to natural disasters as well as to ongoing complex emergencies.
88. States, in cooperation with **UNHCR** and other relevant organizations, are urged to explore and support fully **capacity-building initiatives as part of a comprehensive approach to addressing refugee issues** and to take necessary measures to promote sustainable development, and to ensure the success of capacity-building activities. Such initiatives may include those which strengthen legal and judicial institutions and civil society, those which promote services for refugees, the observance of human rights, the rule of law and accountability and those which enhance the capacity of States to fulfill their responsibilities with respect to persons under the mandate of UNHCR.
89. **UNHCR's** activities in the field of **prevention must be complementary to its international protection responsibilities** and consistent with the principles of international human rights and humanitarian law, and that the institution of asylum must not in any way be undermined.

E/ICEF/2006/6 ("UNICEF water sanitation and hygiene strategies 2006-2015")
endorsed by UNICEF EB
Decision 2006/4

UNICEF EB Decision 2009/7
UNICEF EB Decision 2009/3

UNICEF EB Decision 2006/16

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 71 (XLIV) (1993)

90. The importance of **promotion of refugee law as an element of emergency preparedness**, as well as to facilitate prevention of and solutions to refugee problems is noted, and **UNHCR** is called upon to continue to strengthen UNHCR's promotion and training activities with the active support of States and through increased cooperation with other international organizations, NGOs, academic institutions and other relevant organizations.
91. **Preventing hunger through disaster preparedness and other risk reduction measures** by strengthening capacities of governments to prepare for, assess and respond to hunger arising from disasters and by assisting communities to build resilience to shocks is an integral part of **WFP's** mandate.
92. **WFP approach to disaster preparedness and mitigation is based on the following principles:** In countries prone to recurrent natural disasters, development activities and emergency interventions need to be linked. Disaster prevention, preparedness, contingency planning and responses need to be integral parts of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Disaster mitigation depends on structural and non-structural solutions in several sectors at various levels of national economies. Mitigation should be a principal objective of projects in disaster-prone areas. Targeting must focus on those who cannot cope with recurrent disasters, not just those who live in disaster-prone areas. Understanding gender relations in the context of natural disasters is important in disaster-mitigation strategies. Preservation of livelihoods must be a central goal of disaster-mitigation measures.

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 79 (XLVII) (1996)**

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 68 (XLIII) (1992)**

WFP/EB.1/2009/4

**WFP/EB.1/2007/5-B (“An Update
on WFP Interventions in
Disaster Preparedness and
Mitigation”) taken note by
WFP/2007/EB.1/4**

93. The basis for **FAO** support to member countries in assisting them to prepare and respond better to crisis and to **build linkages between emergency response, rehabilitation and longer-term development** is organized around the key elements of disaster risk management, as relevant for agriculture, forestry and fisheries: (i) early warning; (ii) contingency planning; (iii) elaboration of sectoral and cross-sectoral disaster risk management frameworks; (iv) disaster risk reduction (preparedness, prevention and mitigation); (v) needs assessment; (vi) timely response; (vii) support to transition from emergency response to rehabilitation and development programming.
94. **WHO** should ensure that all relevant groups concerned with preparation for, response to, and recovery after, disasters and crises through timely and reliable assessments of suffering and threats to survival, using morbidity and mortality data; coordination of health-related action in ways that reflect these assessments; identification of, and action to, fill gaps that threaten health outcomes; and building of local and national capacities, including transfer of expertise, experience and technologies, among Member States, with **adequate attention to the links between relief and reconstruction**.
95. **WHO** should take the necessary steps to provide the necessary technical guidance and support to Member States for building their health-sector emergency preparedness and response programmes at national and local levels, including a focus on **strengthening community preparedness and resilience and risk-management capability** of hospitals and other key health infrastructures.
96. **WHO** should continue to **strengthen global influenza surveillance**, including the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance Network, as a crucial component of preparedness for seasonal epidemics and pandemics of influenza.

As elaborated in FAO Strategic Framework 2010-2019 (C/2009/3), endorsed by FAO Conference Decision C.L. 116 of 2009

WHA.58.1 (2005)

WHA.59.22 (2006)

WHA.58.5 (2005)

97. The critical role of **UNFPA** in **emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery is recognized**. UNFPA is encouraged to continue to strengthen its efforts in this area. UNFPA is encouraged, within its mandate, to provide appropriate and timely support in emergencies. UNFPA plans to strengthen its institutional capacity in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery are recognized.

**UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
2006/35**

**UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
2005/40**

**UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
2000/13**

8. Transition

REFERENCE

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

98. The transition from relief to development represents a complex challenge as regards the universal achievement of the **MDGs**. The UN development system has a vital role to play in situations of transition from relief to development.
99. Transitional activities needs to be undertaken under **national ownership**, and the UN development system should contribute in this regard to the development of national capacities at all levels to manage the transition process.

Dispositions addressed to Member States

100. Member States and relevant UN organizations are encouraged to integrate **disaster risk reduction** into their respective activities, including measures aimed at restoring and improving services and infrastructure as part of the **early recovery and transition phase**.
101. Member States are urged to provide adequate backing to all countries affected by crises and disasters for the **sustainable recovery of their health and social systems**; in this context particular attention should be paid to mental health needs and establishment of service-delivery models in their health and social systems.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/59/250 (2004)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)

WHA.58.1 (2005)

102. All States are called upon to promote conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety and with dignity, including conditions furthering reconciliation and long-term development in countries of return, and to support the **sustainable reintegration of returnees** by providing countries of origin with necessary rehabilitation and development assistance in conjunction, as appropriate, with UNHCR, relevant mechanisms, including those within the UN system, and development agencies.
103. All States and relevant organizations are urged to support UNHCR's **search for durable solutions to refugee problems**, including voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement in a third country, as appropriate. Voluntary repatriation is the preferred solution to refugee problems, and countries of origin, countries of asylum, UNHCR and the international community are called upon to act in a spirit of burden sharing and partnership to enable refugees to exercise their right to return home in safety and with dignity. The importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to **address in this process the root causes of refugee movements** in order to avert new flows of refugees is recognized.

Dispositions addressed to the United Nations and the humanitarian system in general

104. The important role that the **resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator** can play in situations of transition from relief to development is recognized.
105. UN agencies and the donor community, in coordination with the national authorities, are urged to begin planning the transition to development and taking measures supportive of that transition, such as institutional and capacity-building, **from the beginning of the relief phase**.

UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)
UNHCR - A/RES/63/148 (2008)
UNHCR - A/RES/62/124 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/55/74 (2000)
UNHCR - A/RES/54/146 (1999)
UNHCR - A/RES/53/125 (1998)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/59/250 (2004)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/59/250 (2004)

106. The UN development system, in responding to countries in transition from relief to development, is requested to **tailor support to country-specific needs** and to develop approaches in order to effectively provide support for early recovery, in accordance with national strategies, policies and requirements, while assisting in restoring or developing national capacity.
107. The UN development system is requested to take measures, in line with guidance provided by Member States that further **strengthen the coherence, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness** of operational activities of the UN development system in countries in transition from relief to development.
108. The UN development system should consider ways to **improve the effectiveness of its resource mobilization for transition from relief to development**.

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

109. **Promoting sustainable human development is the core mandate of UNDP**. Its operations should be carried out in accordance with its mandate and principles, and at the request of the Government concerned. UNDP should take a human development-based approach to programming.
110. **UNICEF's** role in emergencies focuses on planning, short-term response, medium-term coordination and long-term support for the transition from an emergency to a development programme.

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)
 UNHCR - A/RES/56/201 (2001)
 UNHCR - A/RES/53/192 (1998)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)

UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
 2007/32
 UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
 2001/1

E/ICEF/2006/6 ("UNICEF water
 sanitation and hygiene
 strategies 2006-2015")
 endorsed by UNICEF EB
 Decision 2006/4

111. The aim of the **WFP** food-aid-assisted recovery programme is to enable people to restore their livelihoods in order to **assure immediate and longer-term food needs**. WFP contributes to the process of transforming insecure, fragile conditions into durable, stable situations with activities that meet the food needs of the most vulnerable through targeted assistance, rehabilitate cases of acute malnutrition in mothers and children, rebuild self-reliance and restore positive coping mechanisms, restore social cohesion and human capacity, and develop better access to food by strengthening local food distribution and marketing systems.
112. **WFP** recognizes that a **realistic and deliberate exit strategy**, planned with government and other partners, and clearly stated at the beginning of an emergency operation, can help to facilitate more effective country responses after the initial stage of an emergency. “Exiting” for WFP means either the withdrawal of WFP assistance from an emergency operation or from a country, or a shift to a longer-term programme to protect and improve livelihoods and resilience. WFP will endeavor to ensure that exit strategies become part of its emergency responses. Emergency response, particularly in relation to recurrent shocks, is more effective when it is carried out in the context of a **longer-term strategy for capacity-building and resilience**.
113. An **FAO** strategic objective is the improved preparedness for, and effective response to, food and agricultural threats and emergencies, and to ensure countries and partners have **improved transition and linkages between emergency, rehabilitation and development**.
114. The **UNFPA** strategy for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery programmes at national, regional and international levels, as the basis for strengthening UNFPA activities in this area is endorsed. The UNFPA strategy is designed to increase the commitment and capacity of the international humanitarian system to **ensure that reproductive health, gender and data issues are addressed in all phases of relief and transition**.

WFP/EB.A/98/4-A (“From crisis to recovery”) taken note by **WFP/1998/EB.A/3**

WFP/EB.1/2005/4-B (“Exiting emergencies”) taken note by **WFP/2005/EB.1/3**

As elaborated in FAO Strategic Framework 2010-2019 (C/2009/3) endorsed by **FAO Conference Decision C.L. 116 (2009)**

UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision 2006/35



III. TOOLS AND MECHANISMS FOR COORDINATION

9. Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)

REFERENCE

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

115. The ERC has the **central role in inter-agency coordination for the protection and assistance of IDPs**. The ERC should lead the efforts aimed at promoting an effective, predictable and collaborative response among all relevant international agencies and bodies with regard to protecting and assisting IDPs, at headquarters as well as in countries with situations of internal displacement, bearing in mind the central role of resident or humanitarian coordinators and the need to continue to enhance their capacity. Collaboration should be extended to the Representative of the Secretary-General for IDPs.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2005/46

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2003/51

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2002/56

10. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

REFERENCE

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

116. The IASC is the primary mechanism for inter-agency decisions on **system-wide policy issues** relating to humanitarian assistance, for formulating a coherent and timely response to major disasters and complex emergencies and for inter-agency decisions of an operational nature. Members of the Standing Committee should continue to examine, as a matter of priority, options and proposals to improve its functioning.
117. The IASC and its members should continue to focus on problems relating to **protection, assistance and solutions for IDPs**.

UNHCR - A/RES/51/75 (1996)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2002/56
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2001/54
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2000/53
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/1998/50

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

118. **UNICEF's** interventions in health in emergency aim at providing vaccines, essential drugs, basic and emergency health kits, fortified nutritional products and micronutrient supplements and other emergency health supplies. As the lead agency **for the nutrition sector** in emergencies, as designated by the IASC, UNICEF **leads coordination efforts nationally, regionally and globally**.
119. **UNHCR** is encouraged to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, UN offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and NGOs to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the **cluster lead for protection, camp coordination and management, and emergency shelter in complex emergencies**.

E/ICEF/2006/8 ("UNICEF joint health and nutrition strategy 2006-2015") endorsed by UNICEF EB Decision 2006/3

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)

120. **UNHCR** is encouraged to take on coordination responsibilities for **clusters related to IDPs' protection, camp management and shelter in conflict situations** as part of a broader UN coordination effort in support of UN humanitarian coordinators, with a view towards ensuring a more effective, predictable and timely response to humanitarian crises, including a system of accountability.
121. The proposal made by the Secretary-General and the GA to strengthen the UN humanitarian system was welcomed. The work of the IASC to bring about greater consistency in the response to humanitarian emergencies is noted. **UNHCR** is encouraged to explore the feasibility of taking on **coordination responsibilities for clusters related to IDPs' protection, camp management and shelter in conflict situations** as part of a broader UN coordination effort in support of UN humanitarian coordinators, with a view towards ensuring a more effective, predictable, and timely response to humanitarian crises, including a system of accountability.
122. The relevance of the **Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement** is reaffirmed. **UNHCR** should continue its close cooperation with the representative of the Secretary-General in the fulfilment of his mandate, and should reinforce and structure coordination through existing inter-agency mechanisms, notably the IASC, in order to improve the response by the international community to the plight of the internally displaced.
123. **WFP** is actively involved in the humanitarian **cluster** system: it is the **leader of the logistics and emergency telecommunications cluster** and is engaged in the other clusters.
124. **WHO** should strengthen existing **logistics services** within its mandate, taking part in UN system-wide mechanisms for logistics and supply management that would assure immediate mobilization of vital supplies in emergencies and crises.

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 102 (LVI) (2005)**

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 102 (LVI) (2005)**

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 108 (LIX) (2008)**

**UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 75 (XLV) (1993)**

**WFP/EB.1/2010/5-C (“WFP’s role
in humanitarian assistance
system”) taken note by
WFP/2010/EB.1/4**

**WHA.59.22 (2006)
WHA.58.1 (2005)**

11. Humanitarian Financing, including the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

REFERENCE

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

Dispositions addressed to Member States

125. Member States are urged to consider improving existing intergovernmental mechanisms for humanitarian assistance and possible **additional mechanisms and modalities for the rapid availability of resources** in the event of disasters, so as to allow for prompt and effective response.
126. The donor and other countries in a position to do so are urged to consider more coordinated and flexible approaches to funding operational activities for development in situations of **transition from relief** to development, making use of multiple resource mobilization instruments. Contributions to humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance and that sufficient resources for humanitarian assistance should be made available by the international community.
127. There is need for adequate, predictable and timely funding of operational activities for development in countries in situations **from relief to development**. Donors and countries in a position to do so are called upon to provide **timely, predictable and sustained financial contributions** for the operational activities of the UN system for early recovery and long-term development for countries in transition from relief to development.

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

128. **WFP** is active in the **humanitarian financing working group**, aiming at strengthen the CERF. The programme is engaged in activities such as joint needs assessments, inter-agency emergency preparedness, pandemic preparedness and humanitarian policy engagement.

WHA.58.1 (2005)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)

UNHCR - A/RES/59/250 (2004)

UNHCR - A/RES/56/201 (2001)

UNHCR - A/RES/53/192 (1998)

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)

WFP/EB.1/2010/5-C (“WFP’s role in humanitarian assistance system”) taken note by WFP/2010/EB.1/4

12. Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP)

REFERENCE

Overarching principles, policies and guidelines

129. The increased attention paid to IDPs in the consolidated inter-agency appeals process is noted with appreciation. Further efforts to **improve the integration of internal displacement in consolidated appeals** are encouraged.

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

130. It is **WFP** policy that targeting is a central element of an integrated and comprehensive emergency needs assessment and response strategy. WFP should continue to respond immediately and in a cost-effective manner to emergencies and, in so doing, aim to meet conditions for effective targeting such as: food assistance is required to save or protect lives and livelihoods; the most vulnerable target groups are identified; type and form of food assistance best suited to the needs of the target groups are identified; and ongoing adjustments are made to the above on the basis of **appropriate assessments and modification of activities according to changing needs**.
131. **WHO** should develop models and guidelines for **rapid health-impact assessments** after crises, in order to assure appropriate, timely and effective response to affected communities.
132. Efforts by **UNFPA** in policy advocacy, technical leadership and field collaboration with relevant partners for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery are encouraged.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2003/51
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2002/56
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2001/54
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2000/53

WFP/EB.1/2006/5-A (“Targeting in Emergencies”) endorsed by WFP/2006/EB.1/3

WHA.58.1 (2005)

UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision 2005/40

133. At the global level, **UNFPA** will secure and deploy experts to incorporate gender and reproductive health considerations into UN processes, including **joint needs assessments and consolidated humanitarian action plans**, post-conflict needs assessments and transition frameworks. **UNFPA** will also help to integrate emergency preparedness and conflict analyses into common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

13. Humanitarian Field Coordination

REFERENCE

Dispositions addressed to the UN and the humanitarian system in general

134. The organizations of the system are requested to strengthen **interdepartmental and inter-agency coordination** to ensure an integrated, coherent and coordinated approach to assistance **at the country level**, which takes account of the complexity of challenges that countries in those circumstances face and the country-specific character of those challenges.

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

135. **UNDP**, in its capacity as the manager of the resident coordinator system, is requested to **strengthen its coordinating role and its cooperation**, in keeping with its core mandate, with other UN entities.
136. **UNICEF's nutrition interventions** in humanitarian assistance aim at supporting infant, young child and mother feeding, and therapeutic and supplementary feeding with **WFP** and other partners, as well as introduce nutritional monitoring and surveillance.
137. **UNHCR** is encouraged, among other relevant UN and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and humanitarian and development actors, to continue to **work with OCHA** to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)
UNHCR - A/RES/59/250 (2004)

UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
2001/1

E/ICEF/2006/8 ("UNICEF joint health and nutrition strategy 2006-2015") endorsed by UNICEF EB Decision 2006/3

UNHCR - A/RES/64/127 (2009)

138. **WHO**, within its mandate, should respond effectively to emergencies and crises and, in doing so, continue to work closely with other organizations of the UN system, **under the coordination of OCHA**, and other relevant international organizations and mechanisms.
139. **UNFPA** will provide technical **expertise in gender mainstreaming** to support UN humanitarian coordinators during crises and will second technical experts to OCHA.

WHA.59.22 (2006)

**UNDP/UNFPA EB Decision
2006/35**

14. Other Mechanisms, including Standby Capacity

REFERENCE

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

140. **WHO** should explore and implement measures to enhance its **participation in the overall humanitarian response through existing mechanisms** such as the CERF, INSARAG or UNDAC.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

WHA.59.22 (2006)

15. Information Management

REFERENCE

Dispositions addressed to Member States

141. Member States are urged to strengthen information systems and to improve **collaboration with national and international media** in order to ensure the availability of accurate and up-to-date information.

Dispositions addressed to the United Nations and the humanitarian system in general

142. The relevance of the **global database on IDPs** advocated by the representative of the Secretary-General is recognized and Member States and members of the IASC are encouraged to continue to collaborate on and support this effort, including by providing relevant data on situations of internal displacement and financial resources.
143. Relevant UN entities are called upon to further increase efforts, with due consideration of national data, to **harmonize data collection and information management** during the transition phase from relief to development, and to make that information available to the Member State concerned.

Dispositions addressed to each agency, fund or programme in particular

144. **Availability of and access to objective and accurate information** concerning the various causes of coerced displacement in order to facilitate informed decision-making at all stages of refugee situations is important. In this regard **UNHCR's** efforts to develop an appropriate information strategy and to maintain relevant information databases are supported.

LEGISLATIVE DECISION

WHA.58.1 (2005)

OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2004/55
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2003/51
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2002/56
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2001/54
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/2000/53
OHCHR - E/CN.4/RES/1999/47

UNHCR - A/RES/62/208 (2007)

UNHCR – ExCom Conclusion
No. 71 (XLIV) (1993)

145. **FAO** and the international community are **urged to monitor closely trends and developments with negative implications for world food security** and the persistence of severe food shortages requiring external assistance in a large number of developing countries.
146. **WHO** should compile a **global database of authoritative technical health references** in order to facilitate health-sector response to emergencies and crises and to maintain, in collaboration with organizations of the UN system and other partners, a tracking service that will monitor and assess mortality rates in humanitarian emergencies.

**FAO Conference Decision C.L.
116 (1999)**

WHA.59.22 (2006)



5. ABBREVIATIONS

Chapter 5: ABBREVIATIONS

BCPR	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
CCC	Core Corporate Commitments
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CFA	Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
EB	Executive Board
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EPF	Emergency Programme Fund
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator
ExCom	Executive Committee
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GA	General Assembly
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
IPA	Immediate Plan of Action
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SC	Security Council
UN	United Nations
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme
WHA	World Health Assembly
WHO	World Health Organization

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