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REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES
AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

**REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Report on the situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to the 12th Session of the Executive Council, reflects the most current developments in forced population displacement on the Continent for the period spanning July 2007 to January 2008. It highlights the activities undertaken by the African Union Commission and Member States of the African Union, in addressing one of the most complex and persistent problems faced by the Continent, as well as the challenges and way forward. During the reporting period, the Commission carried out its activities in line with Executive Council Decisions, in particular, EX/CL/Dec. 319 (X) taken in Addis Ababa, in January 2007 and EX/CL/Dec. 353 (XI) of Accra, Ghana in June 2007. This was done in collaboration with the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, African Union Partners and other relevant organizations.

II. REVIEW OF THE GENERAL SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

2. With the largest forced displacement population in the world, the African Continent continues to face tremendous challenges in meeting their needs, and addressing the root causes of their displacement. The current state of Africa's refugee, returnee and internally displaced persons (IDP) population as reflected in this report, is one of hope for those areas where the reasons for their flight have been resolved, and of continuing despair for those still awaiting durable solutions to their situations and those that have experienced multiple upheavals even while in displacement.

3. The persistent conflicts that have marred the central and eastern sub-regions have not produced suitable conditions for the return of their citizens and have led to the further displacement of hundreds of thousands more. In the northern sub-region, while there were no new cases of forced displacement, the protracted case of Sahrawi refugees continues to be of concern to the AU Commission. However, the western and southern sub-regions portrayed the most favourable situation for displaced persons, as tens of thousands have continued to repatriate to their countries of origin from where civil unrest had forced them to flee during the nineties and the earlier part of the 21st century. It is also encouraging to note that donors have started shifting some of their activities to areas of return where thousands of refugees will benefit from such programmes.

4. Some other emerging and persistent trends and issues of critical concern to the AU Commission during the reporting period were the continued insecurities faced by humanitarian workers and peacekeepers in the line of duty, which hampered their ability to carry out their mandates; and the increasing impact of global climate change on the Continent. The problem of targeting humanitarian aid workers and peacekeepers, which

was mentioned in the last report, has continued and is manifested as an obstacle to the access needed to provide critical protection and assistance to those in need. In areas like Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Darfur region in the Sudan, Chad and Central African Republic (CAR) on-going conflict has presented a challenge to the delivery of food aid rations, medical assistance, and protection to areas where they are most needed.

5. During this period, the Commission also noted with concern, the abuse of the privilege given to some organizations in carrying out their humanitarian work within the Continent, in particular, the incident in October 2007 with the non-governmental organization, Arche de Zoé, which attempted to illegally transport some children from Chad to France. In response to this, the Chairperson of the AU Commission expressed his condemnation of the event, and called for accountability on the part of those responsible. The Commission will hence continue to encourage transparency in the work of its partners, and hope that the mistakes of some organizations would not have a significant impact on the good work being carried out by many other humanitarian organizations in the field.

6. With regard to the effects of global climate change, the African Union Commission continues to be extremely concerned over the intensity and frequency of natural disasters on the Continent. During the second half of 2007, Africa experienced some of the worst flooding in over a decade. An estimated 1.5 million people in about 18 countries across the Continent, from west to the Horn and east of Africa were affected. In response to the severity of the humanitarian crisis, the African Union made some contributions of up to USD \$300,000 to the worst affected countries to help alleviate the suffering of the victims, and to assist Member States in meeting their food security and healthcare needs. In the upcoming year, the Commission plans to engage more strategically with Member States to advocate for effective disaster mitigation and response systems, to help safeguard the lives and livelihoods of their citizens. The issue of meeting the specific needs of victims of natural disasters is one of the key topics to be discussed at the Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, to be held in September 2008.

7. The Commission will therefore continue to encourage Member States and the international community to continue lending their support and solidarity to the plight of forcibly displaced persons on the Continent, with the objective of finding durable solutions to their situation.

III. REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

A. NORTHERN REGION

8. Since the last Report, there were no new incidents of forced population displacement in northern Africa. Countries of the region, however, continued to uphold their international obligations to share the burden of hosting refugees, such as Egypt and Algeria.

9. The critical humanitarian situation of Sahrawi Refugees in Tindouf camps in western Algeria still persists. The camps continue to experience food shortages, and the refugees are significantly dependent on external aid and food rations for their survival. According to WFP, about 125,000 general and supplementary rations were provided to 90,000 of the most vulnerable refugees in the camps, between July and November 2007, with plans to continue general food distributions to the same population in 2008. According to Algerian government officials, there are 165,000 Sahrawi refugees being hosted in the country.

10. Egypt also currently hosts some 51,000 refugees in its capital, Cairo, including 32,000 Sudanese, 5,000 Somalis and 2,000 others. Of these, it is said that about 10,000, or 20 percent of this population are unable to meet their minimum survival needs on their own, and are thus dependent on UNHCR for assistance.

B. WESTERN REGION

11. The situation in the west continued to be favourable for the repatriation of refugees and IDPs around the sub-region. Throughout the 2007 calendar year, hundreds of thousands of refugees and IDPs returned to their areas of origin in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and others. During the reporting period, the West Africa sub-region also experienced its worst floods in over ten years, leaving about 500,000 people in 12 countries affected. Among those hardest hit by the heavy rains and floods were Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Togo. In response to the humanitarian crises in the sub-region, the African Union made donations to Ghana and Togo, to help meet the food security needs and alleviate the suffering of the flood victims in both countries.

12. In Burkina Faso, the refugee population continued to be close to 600, with plans for their integration into local communities. The country should also be commended for its initiatives in accommodating the resettlement of refugees from across the Continent, in accordance with the recommendations of Member States at the AU Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in June 2006, to promote inter-African resettlement for victims of forced displacement. In August 2007, the country also experienced torrential rainfalls, which resulted in floods affecting about 40,637 people, and causing the destruction of agriculture in the provinces of Zandoma, Yatenga, Lorum, Passoré, Bam, Namentenga and Sanmatenga.

13. Since the last Report, continued progress has been made in consolidating the peace in Côte d'Ivoire, including the launch of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process on 30 July 2007, and the resumption of the *Audiences Foraines* (Public Hearings) on 25 September 2007. With regard to the 709,000 Internally Displaced Persons that had to leave their homes to seek refuge in the mainly urban areas of Abidjan, Grand Bassam and Yamoussoukro during the crisis, the UNHCR, Ivorian authorities and their implementing partners began assisting their repatriation to their former habitual places of residence in September 2007. The improved political and security situation in the country, however, has not managed to induce the significant return of Ivorian refugees, who continue to seek refuge in their

thousands around the sub-region. Côte d'Ivoire is also host to some 24,608 refugees most of whom are Liberians who have remained after the UNHCR organized voluntary repatriation process ended in July 2007. Mechanisms are being put in place between asylum countries, and the country of origin, to monitor spontaneous returns, and to find other durable solutions for those who cannot return to their countries of origin.

14. Upon the recommendations of the mission of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees to Côte d'Ivoire in May 2007, the African Union made a contribution of USD \$100,000 through UNHCR, towards the purchase of tools and agricultural materials for IDPs in the Temporary Reception Centre for Internally Displaced Persons (CATD), in Guiglo Prefecture and female IDPs living in Abobo Commun in Abidjan, to enable them to develop their income-generating activities and become self-sufficient.

15. Ghana is host to more than 36,000 refugees, 27,500 from Liberia, 8,500 from Togo, and the remaining from various other countries including, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Rwanda, Somalia and Sudan. Additionally, the country also suffered significant loss during the second half of the year when about 273,525 people were affected by floods, mostly in the northern part of the country where the White Volta River burst its banks following days of torrential rains and large areas of farmland were inundated. The disaster led to the internal displacement to some 75,000 people, to whom the WFP has been providing immediate life saving food assistance. In response to the crisis, the AU contributed USD \$75,000 to the flood victims.

16. Guinea also continues to host about 22,134 refugees from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and a small number from various other countries in camps and also within the city capital, Conakry. With the closing of the voluntary repatriation programmes for Sierra Leonean and Liberian Refugees, in 2004 and 2007, the priority for UNHCR and Government officials will now be on local integration as a durable solution for about 12,000 refugees who are unable or unwilling to return to their countries of origin. Following the mission of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees to the country in May 2007, the AU made a contribution of USD \$100,000 through UNHCR, which will be used for creating shelter, acquiring tools and agricultural materials for more than 3,000 Ivorian refugees living in Kouankan camp.

17. In Liberia where about 15,000 UN peacekeepers continue to maintain the still fragile security situation, there has been progressive movement towards political and socio-economic recovery in accordance with the 2003 Accra Agreement and the Mano River Union Agreement. During the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees' mission to Liberia from 28 July to 3 August 2007, the delegation visited Grand Cape Mount County in the west where an estimated 30,684 returnees had been resettled. The major concerns raised by the returnees and humanitarian workers included lack of basic infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools, housing; lack of medical facilities, access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate food supplies; unemployment, especially among youth; and the absence of rule of law. Liberia has the highest per-capita returnees in the world, with more that 100,000 refugees and over 300,000 internally displaced persons returning to their homes since October 2004. As a result, more than 30 IDP camps closed down in April 2006 and organized repatriation of

Liberian refugees by the UNHCR ended on 30 June 2007. The country however, continues to host about 15,000 refugees mainly from Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and other countries of the region. In response to the outcry for education for refugee children in the camps, the African Union made a contribution of USD \$200,000 to the UNHCR, to work in close collaboration with the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRR) in rehabilitating an educational facility to be used as a school for children in Grand Cape Mount County.

18. In Nigeria where 8,299 refugees are being hosted, UNHCR and government officials have begun implementation of the local integration programme of the remaining Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees, as well as others who cannot or opt not to return to their countries of origin; and the implementation of the Exit Strategy from Oru camp which was handed over to local authorities on 30 June 2007 and is marked for closure in December 2007.

19. The second democratic elections following the decade long civil war in Sierra Leone was successfully held in August 2007, ushering in the promise of sustained opportunities for post-conflict socio-economic development. The problem of forced population displacement is no longer a significant issue in Sierra Leone, where dependency on direct assistance has been reduced and self-reliance and community projects associating the host population are being phased in, mostly in the southern and eastern regions, as well as the main urban towns of Bo, Freetown and Kenema. The country continues to host about 15,000 refugees, most of who are from Liberia.

20. The mission of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees to Sierra Leone, which was undertaken from 23 to 27 July 2007 visited Tobanda refugee camp in Kenema District where some 1,067 remaining Liberian refugees still awaited durable solutions, among which were voluntary repatriation, integration into Sierra Leonean society, and resettlement to a third country (U.S.A., Canada, and Australia). According to Government officials, Sierra Leone is committed to honouring its international legal obligations evidenced by the Refugee Protection Bill which was passed on 3 May 2007, and which will subsequently lead to the establishment of a National Refugee Authority, an Implementing Agency and Appellate Authority. In the meantime, the Government has undertaken programmes and activities that would facilitate the integration of refugees that had opted to stay in Sierra Leone. The African Union contribution of USD \$200,000, made to UNHCR in Sierra Leone would further go towards the construction of water points in the returnee and reintegration community areas in the Kenema District.

21. Togo is home to approximately 7,000 refugees and plans are underway to repatriate thousands of Togolese who fled during the political crises in 2005, following the signature of the Tripartite Agreement with the Governments of Benin, Ghana and Togo in April 2007. Throughout 2007, UNHCR assisted in the repatriation of some 900 Togolese refugees from Benin, with approximately 1,600 registered to return home from Ghana by the end of the year.

22. The flood crisis in Togo also affected around 111,695 people, mostly in the north, and washed away a significant portion of cultivated land, destroyed over 30,000 houses,

as well as 6 dams. In addition to infrastructural damages, the floods also resulted in significant food shortages in the affected areas. The African Union, in a show of solidarity with the flood victims, made a contribution of USD \$50,000 to help alleviate their suffering.

C. CENTRAL REGION

23. In the Central region, some improvement in the humanitarian situation was reported during the period under review. In recent months some thousands of refugees, in particular those from Burundi, were able to return home in safety and dignity. However, on the other hand, various countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Chad, and the Central African Republic were affected by the mass movements of refugees and IDPs as a result of continuing conflicts in the region.

24. The new Government of Burundi since the signing of the peace agreement in 2005 was welcomed by the international community because of the consolidation of peace and democracy which as a result has created conducive conditions for the return of thousands of refugees mainly in neighbouring countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Rwanda. The total number of refugees that have returned since 2002 is over 400,000 and out of this number 35,753 returned in 2007 according to UNHCR estimates. The majority returned in the areas of Makamba (70,240), Muyinga (70,889), Ruyigi (70,43), Kirundo (30,172), and Karuzi (21,931). The returnees benefit from a six-month return ration with the main purpose of promoting return and reintegration of people into their communities and eventually becoming self-reliant. The country's IDPs had decreased to about 11,000. On the other hand, the country is hosting 10,550 refugees, the majority being Congolese from the DRC.

25. In Cameroon, the country is asylum to some 50,000 refugees due to the conflict in the countries of the region such as Central African Republic and Chad. Several refugees are living in villages with the local community.

26. The conflict in Sudan continues to affect Chad, where about 240,000 refugees from Darfur, are found along the border areas of Chad and Sudan. Additionally, other refugees come from the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Republic of Congo, thus bringing the number of refugees in the country to more than 300,000. The country is also overwhelmed by the large number of IDPs who are believed to be about 180,000, an increase of over 60,000 IDPs since the last reporting period. It was reported by UN agencies that more than 130 aid workers from various organizations were relocated to the main eastern town of Abeche after being blocked because of the fighting during the month of November and they were trying to adjust how to assist the affected population even though they were absent in many areas of insecurity. This has affected the IDPs and civilians who are increasingly becoming reliant on the external aid for their survival.

27. It is believed that with the presence of about 3,700 peacekeeping troops in the country it will greatly contribute towards safeguarding refugees, civilians and aid workers who have been suffering from attacks across the border with Sudan in the Darfur area.

28. Due to fighting at the beginning of 2007, in the Central African Republic (CAR), especially in the northern part where there are more than 220,000 IDPs, the total number of uprooted people that need humanitarian assistance is close to 300,000. At the same time, there are about 15,000 refugees in CAR, mainly from the region. In order to provide support for the socio-economic recovery of the country and for eventual peace and stability in the country, the AU Commission organized a Solidarity Conference in October 2007. The Conference among other things dwelt on the humanitarian aspect of victims of forced displacement. Some of the funds pledged during the Conference would benefit the refugees and IDPs in the country.

29. Following the first democratically elected Government in four decades in November 2006, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, over 42,000 refugees returned home in 2007 mainly from neighbouring countries such as Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Uganda and the Central African Republic, thus making the number of returnees since 2004 an estimated 100,000.

30. However, since December 2006, the number of returnees dropped as the security situation changed and became volatile when tensions flared up in particular in the north and south Kivu as well as Katanga provinces. In most of these areas massive human rights abuses, widespread looting, massacres of civilians, burning of villages, sexual violence and forcible recruitment of both adults and children have produced thousands of new cases of IDPs and prevented the return of refugees. In mid-November 2007, UNICEF and Save the Children helped to free over 230 children who had been recruited as child soldiers. In North Kivu, the continued fighting since 2006 has led to the worst internal displacement with over tens of thousands of people forced to leave their homes. Close to 200,000 were displaced between October and November 2007 thus bringing the total number of IDPs to more than 800,000 at the time of reporting. South Kivu has 266,140 IDPs, followed by Ituri with 152,369, and the oriental Province with 68,022. The local communities were finding it difficult to extend their hospitality to the influx of IDPs who are sometimes from the camps and are mixed with the local people. Furthermore, there were also isolated armed incidents in Oriental Province, district of Ituri, Bas Congo and Kinshasa. The total number of IDPs in the country is over 1.2 million. The majority of these IDPs were suffering, as aid could not reach them because of insecurity and lack of communication infrastructure. WFP supports about half a million IDPs and 83,000 returnees.

31. While DRC is struggling with its large numbers of returnees and IDPs, it had a refugee population of over 180,000 as at end of September 2007. The majority of them were Angolans accounting for 113,160, followed by 34,017 Rwandese, 17,741 Burundians and others from Uganda, Sudan, the Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and a small number of other nationalities. During the period under review, Congo was host to almost 40,000 refugees from the region and the internally displaced persons estimated at almost 150,000.

D. EASTERN REGION

32. Due to the implementation of the various Peace Agreements, the region has made tremendous progress to receive its nationals back from countries of asylum, and a substantial number of IDPs went back to their villages. On the other hand, crises in some countries have affected the return of thousands of refugees and IDPS. In addition to that, the region also suffered from natural disasters since the previous reporting. According to the humanitarian agencies, the disasters were said to be the worst in some of the countries for decades, with several people killed while thousands became homeless and internally displaced.

33. Ethiopia continued to host refugees but the numbers have significantly reduced from the over one million in the early 1990's to 86,128 by August 2007. This was mainly due to the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from late 1990's up to present. Additionally, since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in 2005, several Sudanese returned home in the South of Sudan. The refugees in Ethiopia come from Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Kenya. There is also a small group of urban refugees made up of 13 nationalities who are mainly residing in Addis Ababa. The recent refugee influxes into the country are Somalis from Mogadishu estimated to be over 20,000; Eritrean asylum seekers arriving between 250 and 300 a month; as well as some cases from DRC.

34. UNHCR is also looking at the possibility of resettling refugees from Somalia and Eritrea, and some urban refugees as well as some vulnerable Sudanese refugees who might opt to be resettled in Ethiopia.

35. Kenya's refugee population increased since the last reporting. This was mainly due to an influx of Somali refugees who fled heavy fighting and insecurity in many areas of Somalia. The number exceeds 270,000 and a majority of them were located in Daadab and Kakuma camps where the capacity of absorbing them has reached the maximum. Other refugees in the country were from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, DRC, and Uganda.

36. Furthermore, the effects of drought and floods that occurred in early 2007 and affected people including refugees will take the country some years to recover especially in the areas of the north and northeastern Kenya. The country needs to put in place the necessary infrastructure such as bridges, houses, and roads while on the other hand thousands of people are still in need of basic services including healthcare.

37. In the case of Rwanda, during the reporting period about 5,000 Refugees came back home mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. The country continued to engage in the rehabilitation and reintegration processes for them. The country has a refugee population of about 50,000.

38. Concerning Somalia, the African Union is strongly concerned about the deteriorating political, security, and humanitarian situation which has forced thousands

of people to flee to neighbouring countries and others to become IDPs in various parts of the country. The number of victims of forced displacement is over one million and about 800,000 are in the south where 600,000 people from Mogadishu have been displaced since February of this year. In mid-November 2007, the United Nations reported that some 170,000 people fled the violence in one week. Tens of thousands of others were killed. The humanitarian agencies were unable to access many areas and provide the necessary aid because of insecurity in many parts of the country. There were also rampant violations of human rights during this period. The humanitarian situation is believed to be one of the worst in the world.

39. In order to have lasting peace, the African Union through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) will continue to support the efforts of the Government to promote dialogue, consultation and reconciliation while on the other hand there is great need for international assistance to address the grave humanitarian situation in the country. These measures will go a long way in bringing back Somalis to the country and engage in socio-economic development.

40. With regards to Sudan, the mission of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees in December was briefed about the humanitarian and security situation which has had an impact on the work of the humanitarian agencies as gross violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that include rape, and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence persist. Access to some parts of the country to provide humanitarian assistance has also been difficult to obtain. Due to insecurity in the Darfur region in October 2007, the number of IDPs increased to approximately 2.2 million while some 200,000 found refuge in neighboring Chad. Several villages have also been abandoned. The influx of new cases of IDPs has overwhelmed the humanitarian agencies that are struggling to meet their basic needs. Many people had been internally displaced several times since the conflict started in 2003. During the reporting period, there were no organized repatriation operations except a few spontaneous returns from Chad and they are in IDP camps. UNHCR organized repatriations to South Sudan during the earlier part of the year were disrupted by the rainy season, and the political situation between the National Government and the Government of South Sudan. However, all is not in vain. It is hoped that a hybrid AU-UN peacekeeping force (UNAMID) which is expected to be deployed in January 2008 will help to quell the widespread violence and humanitarian suffering.

41. While Sudan was host to over 200,000 refugees and at the same time trying to cope with the thousands of returnees and IDPs, the country experienced the worst recorded floods in its history which has exacerbated the already critical humanitarian situation and significantly impacted on the country with over 400,000 people directly affected including 200,000 that have been internally displaced from their homes, and over three million others at risk from epidemic outbreaks and polluted water. The United Nations and its partners, including the Government of Sudan launched a joint appeal of USD \$20 million to assist the flood victims. In this regard, the African Union responded to assist the victims and the Government of Sudan cope with the consequences of this disaster by donating US\$100,000.

42. The refugee population in Tanzania continued to drop as was reported to the Executive Council in July 2007. The number of refugees assisted by the UNHCR decreased from 291,000 in December 2006 to 241,000 in September 2007. This is mainly attributed to the ongoing voluntary repatriation to Burundi (24,000) and to some extent to the DRC (19,000), and the resettlement of 5,100 Congolese from DRC as well as the naturalization of 550 Somali refugees. As a result of these positive developments, the UNHCR closed down four out of its eleven camps in early 2007. The country continues to host 461,000 refugees, of whom 353,000 are Burundian refugees, 133,000 living in camps; and 220,00 from 1972 case loads are found in three settlements and not benefiting from the UNHCR assistance. The other refugees are from the DRC, Somalia and a small number from different nationalities.

43. The UNHCR reported that for the first time in more than two decades, it was working closely with the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi on one hand and the donor community on the other to develop a package of comprehensive durable solutions to integrate and naturalize the 1972 Burundian refugees living in the three old settlements, according to the Tanzanian laws. This would solve the long-standing status issue of the 220,000 refugees who are not assisted by the UNHCR.

44. Concerning Uganda, the country has struggled to cope with having almost 2 million IDPs in the north and eastern parts of the country for nearly three decades. Some 1.2 million IDPs live in more than 260 camps. Following a truce signed between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group in August 2006, peace talks and several consultations have taken place and are considered to be the best to end the over 30 year conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced close to 2 million out of the total population of approximately 2.8 million people in northern Uganda. The ceasefire has helped to restore stability, thus allowing some internally displaced persons to return to their villages and farms. The Government is also encouraging people to return. In November 2007, the Commonwealth Secretary General visited Gulu in the north of the country and opened a center for vocational training which would cater for about 4,000 youth recovering from war. All this is expected to contribute to rebuilding the affected communities.

45. On the other hand, Uganda is host to over 200,000 refugees and due to fighting in the DRC, the country received an influx of new cases of refugees from the DRC during the last few months.

46. During the period under review, Uganda was one of the countries that was also greatly affected by floods that washed away roads, homes, buildings and crops mostly in the northern and eastern regions, and impacted on more than 300,000 people many of whom were families that had just returned to their villages after several years of internal displacement in camps due to civil war. The African Union contributed the sum of US\$75,000 to the country to assist in meeting the food security needs and alleviate the suffering of the flood victims.

E. SOUTHERN REGION

47. The Southern region has not experienced any major movements of forced displacement during the reporting period. The refugees in the region numbering over 160,000 come from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda and Somalia.

48. In Angola, the UNHCR marked the end of a four-year repatriation program for Angolan refugees who were living mainly in the region. Several Angolans continued to return home on their own and the number increased from 2006 to 2007 to over 600,000 returnees.

49. Zambia is still home to approximately 115,000 refugees, the majority from Angola and the DRC, and a small number from Burundi and Rwanda. The refugee population decreased considerably during the last four years due to the repatriation of thousands of Angolans and Congolese from the DRC.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

50. The Commission of the African Union, and the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, in collaboration with the AU Partners and other relevant humanitarian organizations, implemented various programmes and activities in accordance with the Executive Council decision, EX/CL/Dec. 353 (XI), the Plan of Action of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees as well as the Work Plan of the Commission. The programmes and activities included the following:

Missions of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons

51. The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons visited Liberia, Sierra-Leone and the Sudan between July and December 2007. They assessed the humanitarian situation of forced displacement in the refugee and IDP camps, as well as in the areas of return in the various countries. Extensive discussions were held with Government officials, AU Representatives, humanitarian organizations operating on ground as well as refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

52. In Liberia, the mission observed that even though the country's security situation was still fragile it was moving from conflict to political and socio-economic recovery. The Government stated that the country had the highest per-capita returnees in the world mainly from the neighboring countries. Over 400,000 of refugees and IDPs had returned home by 2007. In solidarity with the Government, the African Union made a financial contribution of USD \$200,000 towards an educational rehabilitation facility.

53. Concerning Sierra Leone, the Government was trying to cope with over half a million returnees in the areas of post-conflict reconstruction while at the same time looking after more than 15,000 refugees. The mission was gratified to note that the

country had put in place a refugee protection bill in addition to the other international and regional legal instruments on refugees. The bill will help in ensuring the protection of refugees within the country. In order to associate itself with the on-going recovery programmes, the African Union contributed USD \$200,000 towards a project in the returnee and reintegration community areas in the Kenema District.

54. In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, the AU made a financial contribution of USD \$100,000 in order to lend support to its efforts to assist two organized groups of needy internally displaced persons which the delegation had the opportunity to meet. The funds would be used for income generating activities mainly for women and also to purchase tools and agricultural inputs to assist the 10,000 internally displaced persons.

55. In Guinea the AU made a financial contribution of USD \$100,000 to support the agency in its efforts to assist more than 3000 Ivorian refugees living in Kouankan camp who have real needs for shelter, tools and agricultural activities.

Meetings

56. The Commission participated in the Conference of the Ministers of Education in South Africa in August 2007, which among other things, considered the draft Policy on Access to Post-Primary Education for Victims of Forced Displacement in Africa as requested in Decision, Dec. EX/CL/ 353 (IX). Once adopted, the Policy would ensure provision of post-primary education for victims of forced displacement.

57. The meeting of the Member States Legal Experts on the draft Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons took place at the AU Headquarters from 15 to 17 December 2007. It was well attended by several Member States Legal Experts, representatives of Ministries in-charge of forced displacement, Regional Economic Communities as well as AU partners and other relevant organizations. The document will be presented to a meeting of Ministers responsible for forced displacement for consideration during the early part of 2008 before consideration by the Executive Council in July 2008.

58. The Task Force on Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons scheduled to be held in September 2008 met several times towards the preparations of the Summit. The meetings concentrated on the division of responsibilities in particular, the documentation to be presented to the Special Summit. Furthermore there were consultations on the venue, the exact dates and other logistics.

59. The African Union Commission together with the Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees attended the 58th Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (EX-COM) in early October 2007. Considering dwindling resources and donor fatigue, the delegation emphasized the need for the international community to redouble their efforts in assisting the forcibly displaced people in Africa. The delegation also met the African Ambassadors Group and several

AU partners, and held extensive discussions on how to improve the protection and assistance of victims of forced displacement on the Continent.

60. Members of the PRC Committee on Refugees held an informal meeting with the ICRC on International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Several recommendations were made on the way forward in the promotion of IHL and also for the preparations of future AU/ICRC Brainstorming sessions and seminars.

Cooperation with AU Partners

61. Within the context of the cooperation agreements, the Commission continued to strengthen its cooperation with AU partners and other relevant humanitarian agencies, in particular the UNHCR, ICRC, IOM, WFP and AHA. This was clearly demonstrated when the UNHCR Regional Representative handed over office equipment worth about USD \$16,000 to the Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees, and Displaced Persons (HARDP) in November 2007. The equipment will help to effectively fulfill the daunting tasks of the Division's mandate, especially with the preparations of the forthcoming 2008 Special Summit of African Union Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

Consideration of the documents in accordance with the Decision of the Executive Council, Dec. EX/CL/ 353 (IX)

62. The Commission revised the Rules of Procedure of the revitalized AU Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (CCAR) and the Terms of Reference of its Working Group, which, upon adoption by the Executive Council in January 2008 will work with the AU Commission in meeting the challenges of addressing the problems of forced displacement in Africa. The two documents are before this august Assembly for consideration.

Disasters

63. The African Union Commission is also concerned about the humanitarian situation facing several countries in Africa as a result of natural disasters. The AU therefore expressed its support to the Governments and peoples of the countries most affected by making donations totaling the sum of USD \$300,000 to various Member States namely: Ghana US\$75,000, Togo US\$50,000, Sudan US\$100,000, and Uganda US\$75,000.

V. CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD

64. Some countries of origin made it possible for their refugees and IDPs to return home in safety and dignity; the most durable solution to the problem of refugees. However in some cases, the majority of refugees opted for other durable solutions to their problem, including inter-African resettlement, resettlement outside the Continent and naturalization. In spite of the return of thousands of victims of forced displacement,

the African Continent is still faced with the problem of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, which is compounded by natural and man-disasters.

Challenges

65. Some of the challenges, which need the attention of Member States and the international community include:

- Lack of sufficient resources to look after the victims of forced displacement mainly due to donor fatigue, in particular for protracted refugee cases;
- Commitment of the international community to honour their pledges for the various programmes and activities during the post-conflict recovery period;
- Overwhelmed villages/communities where the influx of returnees, refugees and IDPs in large numbers cannot not be absorbed and could subsequently lead to destabilization in the various areas;
- Serious issue of environmental degradation as refugees and IDPs continue to cut firewood mainly for cooking purposes;
- Delay of various repatriation operations due to insecurity in the areas of return, presence of landmines or unexploded ordnances (UXO), lack of essential services such as water, healthcare, education, and access to good roads;
- Hindrance of humanitarian aid workers to deliver the much needed humanitarian assistance due to insecurity, and denial of access to areas with refugees and IDPs;
- The ever increasing problem of illegal and irregular migration in Africa;
- Lack of enthusiasm on the part of the refugees and the UN Agencies to resettle refugees in Africa.

The Way forward

66. Some of the issues to be tackled in order to find durable solutions to the problem of forced displacement while at the same time catering for them until such a time when they could return home in safety and dignity are the following:

- Member States to continue addressing the problem of forced displacement in the search for durable solutions;
- International community to provide the necessary assistance to host countries in order to cope with the problem of forced displacement;
- Enaction of national refugee legislation and adoption of important forced displacement legal instruments for the protection of forced displacement;
- Encouragement of refugees and UN agencies to promote inter-African resettlement as recommended at the Ouagadougou Ministerial Conference on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons that took place in Burkina Faso, in June 2006.

67. Finally, the Commission of the African Union, the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees together with its partners and other humanitarian organizations will continue to

forge ahead in the search for durable solutions to the problem of forced displacement in Africa. On the other hand, while searching for durable solutions, the Member States call upon the international community to render a helping hand as a way of burden sharing. To this end, the African Union Member States are urged to earnestly participate in the forthcoming first ever Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons scheduled in September 2008. The Summit will not dwell on achievements and statements but rather map out the daunting challenges and how to move forward in the form of recommendations and a Solemn Declaration for eventual elimination of the scathing problem of forced displacement in the Continent.

Estimated Population Statistics by Region in Africa: January 2008*

North Africa Region	Total
Refugees 2008	202,250
Returnees 2008	
IDPs 2008	

Western Region	Total
Refugees 2008	159,090
Returnees (refugees) 2008	63,050
Returnees (IDPs) 2008	200,000
IDPs 2008	723,230

Central Region	Total
Refugees 2008	549,492
Returnees(refugees) 2008	165,121
IDPs 2008	1,537,000

Eastern Region	Total
Refugees 2008	1,266,450
Returnees (refugees) 2008	92,000
Returnees (IDPs) 2008	56,000
IDPs 2008	4,560,000

Southern Region	Total
Refugees 2008	161,680
Returnees 2008	0
IDPs 2008	0

Source: Government Figures and UNHCR Estimates

** Note: Data are provisional and subject to change*

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**REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: JULY- DECEMBER 2007**

**REPORT OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS: JULY- DECEMBER 2007**

I. INTRODUCTION

The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons together with the Commission of the African Union and in collaboration with the AU Partners implemented its programmed activities as per the Plan of Action of the OAU Commission on Refugees (Strategic Plan) adopted in 1996 in Yaoundé, Cameroon during the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the OAU. The activities, which were approved at the beginning of the year were carried out successfully.

II. ACTIVITIES

Missions of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons

The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons visited Liberia, Sierra-Leone and The Sudan between July and December 2007. The humanitarian situation of forced displacement was assessed. Extensive discussions were held with Government officials, AU Representatives, humanitarian organizations operating on ground as well as refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.

In Liberia, the mission observed that even though the country's security situation was still fragile it was moving from conflict to political and socio-economic recovery. The Government stated that the country had the highest per-capita returnees in the world mainly from the neighbouring countries. Over 400,000 of refugees and IDPs returned home by August 2007. Upon the recommendation of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, the African Union granted a financial contribution of US\$200,000 towards an educational rehabilitation facility.

Concerning Sierra-Leone, the Government was focused on addressing the plight of the over half a million returnees as part of its post-conflict reconstruction efforts while at the same time looking after the more than 15,000 refugees. The mission was gratified to note that the country had put in place a refugee protection bill in addition to the other international and regional legal instruments on refugees. The bill will help in ensuring the protection of refugees. In order to associate itself with the recovery programmes, the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees recommended that the African Union contribute US\$ 200,000, which was provided towards assisting in the project of the returnee and reintegration community areas in the Kenema District.

It should be recalled that the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees visited Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea in May 2007. In pursuance of the recommendations of the mission, the AU made a financial contribution of US\$100,000 to Côte d'Ivoire towards assisting two groups of needy internally displaced persons. The funds would be used for income generating activities mainly for women and also to purchase tools and agricultural inputs to assist more than 10,000 internally displaced persons.

In Guinea the AU granted a financial contribution of US\$100,000 to support the efforts of the Government in assisting more than 3000 Ivorian refugees living in Kouankan Camp who have real needs for shelter, tools and agricultural activities.

Meetings

As one of the members of the Task Force on Special Summit of Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons scheduled to be held in September 2008, the Bureau of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees participated in several preparatory meetings of the Task Force.

The Chairperson of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees together with the African Union Commission attended the 58th Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (EX-COM) from 2 to 6 October 2007. Due to the dwindling resources and donor fatigue, the delegation emphasized the need for the international community to redouble their efforts in assisting the forced displaced people in Africa. The delegation also met the African Ambassadors Group and several AU partners and held extensive discussions on how to improve the protection and assistance of victims of forced displacement on the Continent.

Ambassadors representing the five regions who are also members of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees held an informal meeting with the ICRC on the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) on 13 November 2007. Several recommendations were made on the way forward in the promotion of IHL, in particular in the preparations of the forthcoming AU/ICRC Brainstorming Sessions and Seminars.

III. Conclusion

In various meetings and conferences, the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees emphasized the importance of all Member States to participate at the first ever Special Summit of African Union Heads of State and Government on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa as it will not dwell on achievements and statements but rather to map out the daunting challenges and how to move forward in the form of recommendations and solemn Declaration for eventual elimination of the problem of forced displacement.

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**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AU COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON
ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**

**Revised and adopted by the African Union Coordinating Committee on Assistance
and Protection to Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa
at its Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session - 9 November 2006, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AU COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON
ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA**

Revised and adopted by the African Union Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa at its Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session - 9 November 2006, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Article I
Functions**

The African Union Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, herein after referred to as the 'Coordinating Committee' or 'CCAR", created in 1968 is an advisory and coordinating body to the African Union Commission and the African Union Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) Sub-Committee on Refugees Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, herein after referred to as the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees. Its main functions are as follows:

- (a) advise the AU Commission, the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, RECs and relevant African Union Organs, including the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) on matters that promote the better protection, assistance and the search for durable solutions for refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Africa, with particular focus on the special needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities;
- (b) perform as an advisory group that promotes policies on the protection and assistance of refugees, returnees and IDPs as well as propose strategies for mainstreaming of various principles contained in the relevant regional and international legal instruments including the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law as well as Regional and International Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement;
- (c) provide a platform for the exchange of data and information, experiences, best practices and lessons learnt as well as analyze policy formulation and recommendations and advise on areas of intervention, modalities of engagement and strategies of implementation in order to improve concerned human protection and relief assistance at country level;
- (d) ensure wide dissemination of important resolutions and decisions adopted by relevant AU Organs;

- (e) establish modalities and/or plans of action, including a mechanism for monitoring and reporting to the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees on the implementation of relevant resolutions and decisions;
- (f) coordinate efforts of members of the CCAR in order to harmonize their policies and activities and, ensure complementarity in their programmes relating to refugees, returnees and IDPs;
- (g) mobilize support for capacity and institution building activities of member organizations, refugee hosting countries and other organizations particularly indigenous African NGOs involved in the protection and assistance to refugee, returnees and IDPs;
- (h) assist and support the AU and member organizations in mobilizing resources necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the Coordinating Committee and the implementation of planned activities;
- (i) assist and support the AU and member organizations in mobilizing support and resources for refugees, returnees, IDPs and other related humanitarian activities;
- (j) provide early warning and advice on the prevention of large-scale forced population displacement and humanitarian catastrophes, and support African countries and communities hosting refugees and IDPs on adequate, timely and appropriate preparedness, and response to emergency situations; as well as advocate for comprehensive peace building, reconstruction and development for countries emerging out of conflict to ensure that the needs of displaced persons are addressed
- (k) undertake any other assignment as and when necessary, and particularly when requested by the AU Commission and/or the AU decision-making organs.
- (l) play the role of advocacy on issues related to refugees, returnees and Internally Displaced persons regarding their assistance and protection on humanitarian needs

Article II Membership

(a) Members

Membership of the Coordinating Committee shall be open to all Member States of the African Union – especially government departments dealing directly with issues relating to refugees, returnees, IDPs, migration and other humanitarian issues. Relevant United Nations Agencies, Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs), International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations that are active in providing assistance and protection to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in

Africa and believe and support the principles and objectives of the AU on humanitarian, refugee and IDP issues are also eligible for membership.

(b) Criteria for Membership

Notwithstanding the overall conditions for membership stated in paragraph section “a” above, members of the CCAR are expected to fulfill most of the following criteria:

- (1) demonstrated commitment to actively participate in activities of the CCAR and willingness to contribute to human, financial and institutional support and resources for the functioning of the CCAR;
- (2) substantial experience in hosting and assisting a large number of refugees, returnees, IDPs, other displaced persons and/or managing humanitarian programmes;
- (3) significant involvement and hands-on experience in multi-sectoral activities in the field including protection, education, community development and material assistance such as food, water, shelter, health services and sanitation, in more than one location and/or country;
- (4) substantial engagement in providing support to training, capacity and institution building relating to refugees, IDPs, returnees and other humanitarian activities;
- (5) engagement in strategic policy making with significant capacity in strategic analysis, policy development, advocacy, communications and the mobilization of support and resources;
- (6) ability to bring together field perspectives, national, regional and international policy development, implementation and supervision on refugees, returnees, IDPs, and other humanitarian issues;
- (7) Member States will be represented on a regional basis. This representation will rotate within the region every two years;

(c) Special Invitations

The AU Commission may, in consultation with the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, invite any State, Organization or personality to the Coordination Committee’s sessions for reasons, which in the opinion of the AU Commission warrant their presence.

Article III

Application for membership

Application to the Coordinating Committee for membership shall be communicated through the Political Affairs Department of the African Union Commission who will then forward it to the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee shall study the application and provide advice to the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, which will in turn make a decision on the application for membership within a reasonable period of time and report its decision to the Executive Council for information.

Applications must include appropriate background documents such as the Statute and Constitution of the Organization and programme of activities for the last two years. Such applications should be supported by at least two full members of the Coordination Committee.

Article IV

Meetings

A. Categories of meetings

1. Ordinary Sessions

The Coordinating Committee shall meet once a year on the third week of October to review its activities; formulate a plan of action and, elect members of the Bureau for a period of two years.

2. Extra-ordinary Sessions

The Coordinating Committee shall be convened at the request of any member of the Coordinating Committee with co-sponsorship of at least four other members, after due consultation with the AU Commission, and with the approval of the Chairperson or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee; if it is considered that such a meeting would advance the purpose and objectives of the Coordinating Committee.

B. Quorum

The quorum for all meetings shall be made up of one-third of the members of the Coordinating Committee.

C. Recommendations and decisions of meetings

1. All recommendations and decisions shall be made by consensus. Where consensus may be difficult to achieve decisions will be made by a simple majority of votes by the members present during the meeting who should meet the minimum quorum.

2. The AU Commission based on the report of the Coordinating Committee and in consultation with the members of the Bureau shall convey a list of recommendations of the Coordinating Committee's meetings that require further consideration and adoption for the decision of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees.

3. The Coordinating Committee shall periodically review the implementation of all recommendations and decisions emanating from its meetings.

Article V Procedures for convening meetings

A. Invitations

Invitations to ordinary sessions with supporting documents shall be sent at least one month before the meeting. Invitations to extra-ordinary meetings may be sent on shorter notice of at least one week.

B. Venue of meetings

The Coordinating Committee's ordinary sessions will normally be held at the Headquarters of the African Union. Meetings may also take place at other venues upon an offer to host from an African Union Member State or a Member of the CCAR at the cost (logistical/conference facilities) of the invitee in accordance with the relevant provisions of the AU Financial Rules and Regulations, and Rules 6(2) and 5(2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council and the Assembly respectively.

Article VI Working Group

A Working Group comprised of members of the Coordinating Committee resident in Addis Ababa and members of the Bureau will be established to assist Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons Division (HARDP) of the AU Commission in its normal activities. The Working Group will meet on an ad-hoc basis at the request of Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee in consultation with the Bureau and the AU Commission.

Article VII Secretariat

The AU Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons (HARDP) with the support of the Office of the Chairperson, shall be responsible for the Secretariat of the Coordinating Committee and shall ensure; preparations of the CCAR Annual Report, Preparations and timely distribution of relevant documents for regular and extraordinary sessions of the CCAR, printing and distribution of documents, reports etc as well as any other tasks assigned to it by the Coordinating Committee.

**Article VIII
Bureau**

A. Election of Officers

The Coordinating Committee shall elect, by a simple majority, a Chairperson, 1st Vice-Chairperson, 2nd Vice-Chairperson and Rapporteur.

B. Duration of term of office

The term of office shall be for two years subject to a limit of a maximum of one additional year for the Rapporteur.

C. Duties and responsibilities of Officers

1. Chairperson

The Chairperson shall maintain link with the Bureau of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, open and adjourn all meetings, submit the minutes of the meetings for approval, preside over debates and manage discussions during meetings. He/she shall also put questions under discussion to vote, announce the results of votes and shall decide on points of order in conformity with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure. The Chairperson may call, as deemed necessary, a meeting of the Bureau, the Working Group or the entire Committee in consultation with the AU Commission Division of Humanitarian Affairs, Refugees and Displaced Persons.

2. Vice-Chairpersons

The Vice-Chairpersons shall support the Chairperson and the activities of the Bureau and, in the absence of the Chairperson, assume his/her duties and responsibilities in conformity with the Rules of Procedure.

3. Rapporteur

The Rapporteur shall in consultation with the Secretariat draft reports of meetings of the Coordinating Committee, the Bureau and the Working Group.

**Article IX
Termination of membership**

Any member organization whose activities are contrary to the principles and objectives of the Coordinating Committee as well as the African Union on refugee, returnee, IDP and other humanitarian issues shall cease to be associated with the work of the Coordinating Committee. Any member organization that has missed two consecutive ordinary sessions of the Coordinating Committee shall lose its membership rights.

Article X
Working languages

The working languages of the Coordinating Committee shall be English and French. Every effort should however be made to provide interpretation and translation in the other languages of the AU to broaden participation.

Article XI
Entry into force

These revised Rules of Procedure of the Coordinating Committee shall enter into force on their approval by the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees and adoption by the AU Executive Council.

**DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE WORKING GROUP OF THE AFRICAN UNION
COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO
REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

WORKING GROUP OF THE AFRICAN UNION COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

1. According to the Rules of Procedure of the Coordinating Committee on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons ; Article VI, provides for the establishment of a Working Group. The Working Group will comprise of members of the Coordinating Committee on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and IDPs based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

2. The meetings of Working Group will be called and chaired by the Chairperson of the Bureau of the Coordinating Committee on Assistance or his/her Representative

Activities of the Working Group:

3. The Working Group will undertake the following activities:

- Review the existing rules and regulations of the Coordinating Committee and make recommendations to the Coordinating Committee as necessary;
- Guide and support the preparatory activities necessary to operationalize the revitalized Coordinating Committee;
- Propose an agenda for the meetings of the Coordinating Committee
- Propose a programme of work for the following operational year
- Determine the level of Budget necessary to ensure smooth functioning of the CCAR
- Develop a resource mobilization strategy and allocate responsibilities for its implementation, and provide the CCAR with the requisite administrative support for its initial years
- Interact and liaise with members of the CCAR in between meetings of the Coordinating Committee,
- Assume responsibility for mobilizing resources necessary to ensure the entry into operation and smooth functioning of the Coordinating Committee. The Working Group will meet on an ad hoc basis to identify and carry out actions that are considered necessary to strengthen the Coordinating Committee.

2008

Report on the situation of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa

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