United Nations General Assembly Fifth Committee

Agenda item 134

In the process of revising the financial rules, UNHCR has consulted with other United Nations system organizations in particular with those who were early adopters of IPSAS. The amendments have also been reviewed by the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Legal Advice Section of UNHCR and their comments have been duly taken into consideration.

The final draft document containing the amendments to the rules has been reviewed by the ACABQ at its 7 September meeting, and its comments were reflected in a corrigendum to the document submitted to the Executive Committee.

Subject to the endorsement by the Executive Committee, the revised IPSAS based financial rules for the voluntary funds administered by the High Commissioner may be applied as long as they are in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, as stipulated in the GA resolution 1166.

In this respect, taking into consideration of the timing of the alignment of the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules with IPSAS, the High Commissioner is requesting the approval by the General Assembly to allow UNHCR to apply the Financial Regulations of the United Nations mutatis mutandis in a manner that is consistent with IPSAS, as a transitional measure and until such time that these regulations are revised to become IPSAS based.

On behalf of the High Commissioner for Refugees, I would like to thank you for your consideration of this request.