INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

INTER-CLUSTER WORKING GROUP MEETING
(audio/video-conference)

14 October 2005

16h30-18h30: Room F3, Palais des Nations (Geneva)

10h30-12h30: S-3627B, UN Secretariat (New York)

Draft Summary Record and Action Points

Circulated: 18 October 2005

<u>List of Participants:</u> **see Annex 1**

<u>Objectives:</u>

1. To ensure coherence in the follow up to the Outcome Statement of the IASC Principals meeting of 12 September 2005
2. To discuss the priority actions among different IASC Cluster Working Groups, as well as outstanding issues in preparation for the upcoming IASC Working Group and IASC Principals meetings taking place in November and December 2005 respectively, such as inter-cluster co-ordination and integration of cross-cutting issues.
3. To review status of Implementation Plans for Clusters and agree on next steps.

Summary of the presentation by the Chairs of the CWGs:

- All clusters reported that their work is on track, though some stressed the importance of a final decision on 'first phase' countries for implementation as critical in terms of addressing the third task listed in para 21 of the Outcome Document.
- Emergency Shelter: on track.
- Camp Coordination: on track, but noted lack of participation of NGOs.
- Protection: completing soon the Matrix/Implementation Plan, acknowledged strong support provided by OCHA-IDD.
- Logistics: ready by end of October.
- Emergency Telecom: costs elements being estimated, handing over to OCHA (from WFP).
- Early Recovery: requested ERC's support to engage World Bank.
- Nutrition: Undertaking gap analysis and solving technical issues. Clarification on "Nutrition" (gap identified by HRR and work led by UNICEF) and "Feeding" (not a gap, work led by WFP).
- Water and Sanitation: on track, with participation of NGOs.
- Health: good progress, UN and non-UN, with planned "Triple cluster" meeting (Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation).

As per list of questions discussed (Annex 2), the participants:

1. Noted the progress made by CWGs in drafting and finalising the implementation plans, which are to be submitted for the IASC WG meeting (21-22 November 2005) and the IASC Principals Meeting (12 December 2005) for their review and subsequent endorsement, while acknowledging that different CWGs may have different timelines. Requested that CWGs to submit the draft implementation plans (or at least a progress report) to the IASC Secretariat by 15 November 2005, together with the financial implications in implementing the work of clusters. **For Action: All CWGs.**

2. Noted the importance of a decision and a message on the identification of the three countries selected (ongoing emergencies), since the IASC Principals did not discuss this during their meeting on 12 September. Some proposals had been made and some consultations had taken place including with the relevant HCs/IASC Country Teams. **For Action: OCHA.**

3. Suggested to apply the cluster approach in at least two countries under consideration, (Liberia and Uganda). Noted that DRC is also being considered, subject to agreement among Principals and subject to consultative process to be completed. **For Action: OCHA**

4. Reiterated that in such existing emergencies the cluster approach would be applied to improve the response and fill gaps (the role of "provider of last resort" being particularly important) and is not intended to undermine existing arrangements when they are effective (see para 6 of the Outcome Document).

5. Clarified that resource mapping should be undertaken at both global and national level (in the selected countries), as well as in new emergencies, but noted the severe time limitations due underake this, particularly since countries are not yet selected. Resource mapping should also include staffing for Clusters if necessary. **For Action: All CWGs.**

5. Reaffirmed the importance of ensuring inter-linkages between CWGs, to avoid duplication of activities. In this respect, it was noted that the triple-cluster approach is a good example of strengthening inter-linkages. The need to examine the Implementation Plans/Reports to address inter-linkages was also noted. **For Action: All CWGs.**

6. Noted that there are some elements that are common to respective functions of the CWGs (e.g., early warning, contingency planning, stock-piling and training etc) that could be addressed by relevant IASC Subsidiary Bodies. In this respect, agreed to request chairs of relevant Subsidiary Bodies to produce short guidance note on inter-linkages with CWGs, with OCHA playing an oversight role. **For Action: IASC Secretariat to contact IASC Chairs of Subsidiary Bodies. OCHA to provide oversight role.**

7. Agreed on importance of consistent information sharing on Cluster Approach, both internally (involving field staff) and externally (involving donors, Member States and private sectors). Noted that new initiatives under development (Cluster portal, IASC News, IASC Website on clusters etc) could serve as information sharing tools and would help in streamlining information on events (to avoid overlapping of initiatives). **For Action: IASC Secretariat to prepare IASC News and liaise with OCHA on new portal for dissemination of information to IASC. OCHA to send a note to OCHA field offices.**

8. Stressed that the dialogue with donors and Member States is crucial to the process, and noted that both ERC and AERC had initiated this dialogue through HLWG and other channels. Noted that the AERC will present the cluster approaches to donors after the IASC WG and before the Principals meeting 2005. It was also emphasized the need for having this as an inclusive process. **For Action: OCHA (AERC) and IASC Secretariat.**

9. Agreed that the costing/budget of capacity building for the clusters will be also necessary in order to mobilize funds, and requested OCHA to compile a template indicating cost estimate for capacity building exercise of each cluster (over the next 2-3 weeks). **For Action: OCHA.**

10. Agreed on the need of "dedicated staff" to advance the work of cluster approach, while recognizing recommendation made by the IASC Principals not to create another layer of bureaucracy/secretariat within the system.

11. Reaffirmed that all members in the IASC WG have a shared responsibility in ensuring integration of NGOs into the process. Stressed important role of HCs in setting up inclusive IASC Country Teams.

12. Noted that OCHA is in the process of drafting a paper on OCHA's role on the cluster approach. OCHA committed to ensuring consistent OCHA participation in the clusters and to review and respond to issues arising from them.

13. Reaffirmed that the experience of South-Asia Earthquake vis-à-vis cluster approach is not a field-test or piloting of the Cluster Approach. Rather, it is a living example of application of cluster and could inform the work of the clusters.

14. Noted more efforts to be made with the World Bank to engage them in the Early Recovery.

15. Agreed that the discussion on "How to activate this process ?" will take place at the IASC Nov WG, since it will rely also on resources to be mobilized (which is a collective responsibility). **For Action: IASC Secretariat.**

16. Agreed to hold a next videoconference around the end of October 2005. **For Action: IASC Secretariat.**

Annex 1

List of Participants

**IASC Inter-Cluster Working
Group Meeting
14 October 2005
List of Participants**

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Annex 2 **List of Questions**

1. *Choice of countries for implementation. Need to identify the three emergency countries where the new approach could be applied and to agree on what level of detail in the implementation plan in these three countries?*

2. *The interlinkage between the Cluster WGs still remains unclear; How the links have to be built between the clusters to prevent duplication with other structures? How will OCHA guide and support inter-sectoral coordination in the coming months at the global level?*

3. *10th Priority Action to be undertaken needs clarification: "Prepare cluster-specific resource requirements has to be done on Global or National Level?"*

4. *How to better establish Cluster secretariats or cells when the IASC Principals seemed rather reluctant on creating unnecessary bureaucracy or secretariats?*

5. *Expecting from IASC/OCHA guidance on how the working groups will function at country level, on communication to the field and preparedness of HC/RCs and Country Teams.*

6. *OCHA's role in the new cluster approach needs further clarification.*

7. *How to deal with cross-Cutting issues like gender, HIV/AIDS, age and diversity, human rights, early recovery, protection and possibly environment?*

8. *Encouraging the non-UN participation in the clusters on a global and field level, how OCHA will see this ?*

9. *Is it possible to draw lessons learned from the discussions at cluster level in the recent Pakistani earthquake?*

10. *What is the common approach and what messages to donors ?*

11. *For IDD: what is expected/not expected from the system overall in the 5 IDD priority countries and in other IDP situations?*