

IASC

**INTER-SECTORAL WORKING GROUPS  
MEETING (tele/video-conference)**

**Geneva, 11 August 2005**

*Summary Action Points*

**Chaired by: Ms. Yvette Stevens, IASC WG Chairperson, Director OCHA Geneva**

**List of participants: attached**

*Circulated: 18 August 2005*

In preparation for the upcoming IASC WG Retreat (6-7 September 2005), the participants to the meeting:

- Agreed to ensure that the Sectoral Working Groups will focus on four objectives as defined at the Ad Hoc IASC WG meeting held on 12 July 2005, based on the OCHA's Concept Paper on "Developing Cluster Responsibilities and Accountabilities". In particular to:
  1. Define the role and responsibilities of a sectoral lead agency *and cluster [it was agreed to add "cluster" during the teleconference on 11 August]*.
  2. Produce actionable recommendations for improving the predictability, speed and effectiveness of international humanitarian response in the sector, taking into account relevant reports and humanitarian reform proposals, including the HRR
  3. Recommend to the IASC Principals for decision which IASC agency/ies should be the sectoral lead agency on a global basis
  4. Propose an implementation plan for short, medium and long-term actionable recommendations and prepare options if there is no consensus.
- Agreed that the Sectoral Working Groups would focus on capacity-building at the global level, while recognising that it implies responsibility/commitment at the country level.
- Understood that the definition and scope of lead agency will be in principle sector-specific, with an advocacy role for the whole cluster. Yet, on the basis of a synthesis of the forthcoming Sectoral Working Groups' reports (to be prepared by OCHA for the IASC WG Retreat of 6-7 September), it may be possible to draft generic roles and responsibilities for sectoral lead agencies, including limits in accountability. OCHA's synthesis report will examine consistency of the reports (structure and cross-sectoral issues) and will be shared for comments with agencies sufficiently ahead of time before the IASC WG retreat. **Action: OCHA (Synthesis report, to be prepared by 30 August 2005).**
- Noted that the approach to accountability should be broadened to include the responsibilities and accountabilities of implementing agencies, including those of HCs and OCHA in the field, while recognising that accountability of

sectoral leads is subject to certain limits, e.g. non-funding, and severe access/security issues or risks that intervention would impact negatively on the right of asylum.

- Agreed that defining response capacity and preparedness will imply also an analysis of resources required (both at the global level and at the situation-specific level) and that all Sectoral Working Groups should cover both complex emergencies and natural disasters. Secretarial support should be covered by global resources and included in the resource requirements.
- Noting the limited time available to complete the information on resources required, agreed that the Sectoral Working Group would recommend by 22 August a general analysis to build capacity within the sector and to address “gaps”, based on a global framework mechanism to be put in place. The format for the report to be prepared by each cluster will be: 1) Consensus (or non consensus) on lead agency and cluster membership. 2) Actionable recommendations for the implementation plan. 3) Key actions. This is just the minimum information needed and should be complemented with mapping and information on gaps for the sectors, in which this is possible at this stage. **Action: All SWGs by 22 August 2005.**
- Noted that subsequent analysis leading to decisions on the size and frequency of capacity building activities as well as resources required will be done at later stage and sectors will move as they are ready, taking into account the analysis of previous CAPs and Flash Appeals (average past 5 years?) or based on assumptions anticipating the resources needed over the next 2-3 years, to be prepared by OCHA. **Action: OCHA (analysis of previous CAPs and scenarios planning) to provide raw data to the SWGs for further analysis.**
- Noted that the timeline for a humanitarian response cannot be pre-defined, and implied that preparedness and transition is part of humanitarian action. Sector Working Groups should be responsible for a sector as long as humanitarian needs persisted and until a solution/transition to the situation had been found.
- Agreed that the issue of Non-Food Items (NFIs) would be dealt with by relevant specific sectoral groups. However, the forthcoming Sectoral Working Groups’ reports would be analysed by OCHA to avoid duplication of discussions on non-food items in different reports and to assess areas of interlinkages (particularly important for the Shelter, Reintegration/Recovery and Protection Sectoral Working Groups). **Action: OCHA (analysis of reports to assess interlinkages by 30 August 2005).**
- Agreed that logistics would be dealt with by specific sectoral groups and that the Logistics Sectoral Working Group will then address cross-sectoral issues and fill the gaps. Noted the initial recommendations made by the Logistic Sectoral Working Group and that the UNJLC is part of the Logistic group. Stressed the importance of looking at gaps in logistics also in countries.
- Stressed importance of broad-based participation in the ongoing sectoral discussion, including operational NGOs in the field and that the process

should be inclusive, with linkages with non IASC agencies, if needed, and with other sectors, similarly to the process followed with IASC Subsidiary bodies. At the same time, the meeting participants recognized the need of some Sectoral Working Groups (e.g. Emergency Telecommunications' point on standardization of services) to clarify modalities in involving and providing services to NGOs. It was also stressed that authority of lead agencies should rely on trust and confidence with the clusters.

- Noted that OCHA's role in the field includes support to the Humanitarian Coordinators by facilitating of inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral coordination. (This concept was mentioned in broad terms and would require further clarification).
- Discussed also preparedness for the next IASC WG Retreat and IASC Principals and structure of the agenda for above meetings (items, background documents, facilitation) which will be shared shortly with the IASC WG by the IASC Secretariat. **Action: IASC Secretariat.**
- Agreed that the next IASC Cross-Sectoral Working Groups Meeting (audio-teleconference) would take place on Friday 26 August 2005, at 4h30 pm time (Geneva and Rome)/10h30 am time (New York). **Action: IASC Secretariat.**

**IASC Inter-Sectoral Working  
Groups Meeting**



**11 August 2005**

**List of Participants**

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