

IASC

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

26 August 2005

16h30 – 18h00: Room H – 3, Palais des Nations (Geneva)  
10h30 – 12h00: S – 3627B, UN Secretariat (New York)

*Final Summary Action Points*

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

**List of participants: attached**

*Circulated: 2 September 2005*

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

1. Reviewed the Action Points of the 11 August 2005 meeting. In that context, the Chairperson, Yvette Stevens, expressed her best gratitude to all agencies for the great achievement of completing the Reports and Executive Summaries by the expected deadline, despite the very short timeframe set up for this work. Stevens also seized the opportunity to thank UNDP for hosting and financially supporting the next IASC WG Retreat and IFRC for accepting to release Richard Blewitt as an independent facilitator for the Retreat.
2. Noted the progress made by OCHA in preparing the Synthesis Report, and provided initial comments. Participants also reiterated the importance to receive the draft Synthesis Report by 30 August at the latest. **For action: OCHA, by 30 August 2005.**
3. Noted the importance of Logistics as a cross-cutting area, as emerging from the initial Synthesis Report and the report of the Logistics Cluster Working Group. **For action: discussion at the Retreat (if required) on the basis of the Logistics Cluster Working Group report recommendations on cross-cutting aspects of logistics.**
4. Suggested that if agencies will note factual mistakes in cluster reports, they should address directly the chairpersons for clarifications or corrections. (Example: UNHCR will follow up with UNICEF to check whether the final report on Water and Sanitation required a correction in a paragraph on the role

of UNHCR in IDPs). **For Action: all Clusters (and please cc: IASC Secretariat if corrections are made in final reports).**

5. Agreed that inter-linkages among Cluster Working Groups should be examined in the Synthesis Report, including (a) possible duplicate activities across different Clusters and (b) the role of the IASC (global and field) and OCHA in ensuring appropriate inter-linkages. In this context it was also suggested to clarify what “inter-linkages” also indicates. Proposals for streamlining and simplifications are welcome, in order to avoid a too complicated architecture. It was also stressed the importance of linkages with agencies outside the IASC. **For Action: discussion at the Retreat.**
6. Noted that different words were used in the reports of Sectoral Working Groups to describe sector/cluster, and agreed in the future to consistently use the words “Clusters”, “Cluster Working Group (CWGs)”, and “Lead Agency of Cluster Working Group” to streamline terminology. **For Action: IASC Secretariat to edit/format all cluster reports and their Executive Summaries, prior to the Retreat.**
7. Agreed that resource mobilization is an important cross-cluster issue and a key challenge, which should be addressed during the Retreat’s 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Reiterated the need to quantify the scope and size of the tasks by Cluster Working Groups, for improved preparedness and advocacy. Recognizing the limits of CAP analysis in producing quantitative figures that will allow to discuss projections and scenarios, the meeting participants requested OCHA to prepare for the Retreat a background paper on Resourcing humanitarian capacity with a recommended methodology that would enable to quantify projections. **For Action: OCHA, by 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2005.**
8. Noted the clarification provided by OCHA that UNICEF is a leading agency for Education (a cluster not addressed by any Report yet) and that InterAction will introduce at the Retreat the issue of Deployment of qualified personnel.
9. Emphasized that the issue of managerial accountability is broader than standard-setting/benchmarks, and that there are two levels of accountability that the Cluster Working Group should address: (a) at global level, the Cluster Working Group vis-à-vis the ERC and (b) at the country level, the Cluster Working Group vis-à-vis the HCs. The meeting participants stressed that accountability should continue to be examined by the CWGs and that clear TORs are needed in this regard. **For Action: discussion at the Retreat.**
10. Reiterated the need for inclusive field processes to ensure coherent inter- and intra-cluster coordination, whether through for example expanded CMTs or through the “IASC country team”, including the NGOs and Red Cross movement, in order to support the HC with a more predictable response. Inter-

Action mentioned the Tsunami coordination model, and indicated that they will be able to come up with suggestions on NGOs representation on field coordination. **For Action: InterAction.**

11. Noted that the objective of the Retreat's 2<sup>nd</sup> Day is to agree on the Plan of Action of processes to be followed to address relevant non-sectoral issues, and as such the participants noted that 2<sup>nd</sup> day's discussion would focus on this. **For Action: Discussion at the Retreat.**
12. Took note of the suggested methodology for the IASC WG Retreat, for which an annotated agenda will be urgently finalized, taking into account the comments of this meeting. Welcomed the suggestion to follow a less formal arrangement for the IASC WG Retreat. **For Action: IASC Secretariat by 30 August.**

**IASC Inter-Sectoral Working  
Group Meeting  
26 August 2005  
List of Participants**



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