

Draft Proposals for the Panels of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment –2001

IASC Plenary March 2001

Background

- Member States agreed that the theme of the ECOSOC Humanitarian segment in 2001 should be “strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations”, namely the overall title of the Secretary-General’s report.
- Member states have also begun informal consultations on the themes for the panels and decided that the natural disaster panel should be entitled “*Natural disaster preparedness and response measures*”. Agreement on the wording for the theme and title of the complex emergency panel has yet to be reached. However, it is expected to deal with the issue of “*vulnerable groups in emergencies*” or “*emergency assistance to groups with special needs*”.

Proposals for the panel discussions

- The Humanitarian segment of ECOSOC will be held from 11-13 July 2001 in Geneva. Although member states have yet to agree on the exact day(s) for the panel presentations, there is a need to ensure that the IASC begins consultations on the panel organization soonest. Below are proposals for the two panels on (a) natural disasters and (b) complex emergencies for consideration by the IASC.

A. Natural Disaster Panel

Topic: Natural Disaster Preparedness and Response Measures

Suggested Case Studies:

- (i) Cambodia Floods
- (ii) El-Salvador Earthquakes
- (iii) Horn of Africa Drought
- (iv) Mongolia “Dzud”
- (v) Mozambique Floods

B. Complex Emergencies Panel

Topics under consideration: “vulnerable groups in emergencies” or “emergency assistance to groups with special needs”.

Suggested Case Studies:

- (i) Afghanistan
- (ii) Burundi
- (iii) West Africa

Action Requested

The IASC is invited to consider the suitability of the case studies proposed and recommend the most appropriate participation from headquarters.