

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE IASC TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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I. BACKGROUND

In the last few years, humanitarian actors and donors have recognized that climate change is a major driver of humanitarian needs. On this background, and in view of addressing jointly the humanitarian challenges of climate change, the IASC Working Group decided at its 71st Working Group Meeting in June 2008 to establish an IASC Informal Taskforce on Climate Change.

The mandate of the IASC TF on CC is to:

- a. lead the preparation of high-quality analytical inputs to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) process, and
- b. provide guidance as appropriate to the IASC on integrating climate risk management into agency policies, operations and relevant IASC guidelines and tools.

The 74th IASC Working Group Meeting in July 2009 agreed to formalise the Task Force with a mandate to the end of 2010. It further agreed to maintain and where possible step up support to the implementation of programmes and projects in support of climate change adaptation at the regional, national and local levels, in line with the opportunities for action identified in the IASC regional and national level consultation process on the humanitarian challenges of climate change.

II. OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the IASC TF on CC is to promote the integration of climate change adaptation into humanitarian action and agency policies and operations and to ensure that, where appropriate, agency technical expertise and analysis can support Member State decision making within the UNFCCC process. This will enable informed decision making and improve humanitarian preparedness and response to climate change.

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The IASC TF on CC will focus on six sub-objectives which will be supported by a detailed work plan:

1. Support strengthened advocacy and awareness raising of the humanitarian impacts of climate change by:
 - a. facilitating IASC agencies to effectively advocate on issues of common concern regarding the potential humanitarian impacts of climate change to the UNFCCC process and other relevant fora;
 - b. promoting strong communication and media outreach to highlight the humanitarian consequences of climate change in the context of deliberations towards a post-2012 global climate change agreement, including providing information to IASC members on opportunities presented through global climate change campaigns.
2. Support a dialogue with IASC agencies and fora at regional and national levels to facilitate the provision of climate change adaptation guidance, support and training for awareness raising and capacity building.
3. Support and facilitate utilisation of the existing ISDR system for improved integration of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action.
4. Enhance information and knowledge sharing mechanisms in order to make guidance, good practices and tools easily accessible.
5. Identify opportunities, where appropriate, for increased inter-agency analysis on the consequences of climate change for humanitarian action.
6. Analyse the implications for humanitarian action of climate change adaptation mechanisms emerging from the UNFCCC processes.

IV. STRATEGY

The IASC TF on CC will build upon existing strategies and mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management as key components of climate change adaptation, including working closely with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, where many IASC members are also represented.

The IASC TF on CC will build on synergies with relevant groups, initiatives and activities, such as the IASC Sub-Working Group on Preparedness and the IASC Needs Assessment Task Force.

V. ACCOUNTABILITY

An annual Work Plan will be developed that includes specific objectives, prioritized activities, outputs and deadlines. Focal points will be identified for each activity identified in the Work Plan. The focal points will be accountable for ensuring the implementation of the specific tasks and for progress reporting to the IASC TF on CC on a regular basis.

The need for continued existence of the Task Force will be reviewed annually by the IASC Working Group.

Should the Task Force be continued into 2011 and beyond, the TOR for the Taskforce will be reviewed annually, as will the designation of a taskforce Chair and Secretariat.

VI. COMPOSITION AND ORGANISATION

Chair and Secretariat responsibilities:

The IASC TF will be chaired by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

The chair also holds the secretariat responsibilities of convening regular meetings, producing agendas and minutes, dealing with substantive matters arising between meetings, facilitating the flow of information, monitoring and encouraging progress on focus areas of the IASC TF on CC, and representing the IASC TF on CC in other relevant fora.

Moreover, the chair will ensure synergy with other relevant groups and inform the IASC TF on CC of activities in these other fora.

Composition:

The IASC TF on CC consists of the IASC Members and Standing Invitees: NGOs, UN agencies, intergovernmental organisations and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is open for participation and partnerships, and experts will be invited to provide technical input.

It is recommended that members of the IASC TF on CC make concerted efforts to ensure continuity in their participation by identifying a focal point on climate change and back-up focal points. Focal points would ensure consultations within their respective organizations on issues considered by the TF and should be able to speak on behalf of their organisation and also ensure that technical expertise is made available in support of the specific objectives, be they on policy, communication or operational matters.

Decisions of the IASC TF on CC will be reached by general approval.

Timeframe and Frequency of Meetings.

The IASC TF on CC will meet monthly and will have teleconference opportunities. Extraordinary meetings or teleconferences may be called by the chair when this is considered necessary to address an urgent matter.

Communication:

The IASC TF on CC will regularly brief the IASC Working Group on progress.