

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE

WEEKLY MEETING

Summary Notes

21 December 2005

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room F.3

I IASC in 2005 and Work Plan 2006

By Marilena Viviani, Chief, IASC Secretariat

Ms. Viviani, welcomed participants to this, the last of the IASC Weekly meetings in 2005 before giving the word to Ms. Yvette Stevens, AERC and Chair of the IASC Working Group, who thanked the weekly meeting participants for their support and commitment to the work of the IASC during the year. Ms. Stevens emphasised the importance of the weekly meetings especially as a forum where sudden emerging issues can be discussed and mentioned that the recent IASC Working group in November 2005 agreed that the country discussions based on the Early Warning – Early Action Report should partly take place at the IASC Weekly meetings.

Ms Viviani gave a brief overview of the work and achievements of the IASC in 2005 as well as the IASC Work Plan in 2006 (endorsed by the IASC Principals on 12 December) outlining a number of the main achievements, key issues discussed and coming challenges of the IASC. Among others Ms. Viviani underlined the work done on the various humanitarian reform initiatives, particularly the Cluster approach. Participants all received a copy of the IASC Progress in 2005 and the IASC Work Plan 2006.

II IASC Weekly Meetings 2005 and 2006

By Marilena Viviani, Chief, IASC Secretariat

Ms. Viviani gave a brief overview of the IASC Weekly meetings in 2005 as well as the plan for 2006 underlining the importance of the weekly meetings as the primary forum for regular inter-agency information sharing and discussions as well as a forum that strengthens informal inter-agency networks.

Through out the year the meetings have been held almost every week with a very broad representation. A few figures to illustrate this were presented: 2005 had 42 meetings with 72 different presenters including many colleagues from the field. 21 different agencies presented, with an average attendance of 26 participants. an incredible number of countries, regions and issues were covered. In 2006 the IASC Weekly meetings will continue to prove their relevance. Ms. Viviani urged agencies to increase attendance and keep providing presenters. Following the agreement of the IASC Working Group to use the Weekly forum for country discussions, the Weekly meetings in 2006 will maintain a strong country focus. The Working Group also suggested that IDP issues raised by the RSG on HR of IDPs could also be addressed at IASC Weekly Meetings.

The discussion following the two briefings focused on the promotion of the IASC in the field and the inclusion of non-UN agencies in the various country teams. On a specific question regarding the NGO-IASC Monthly meetings, and whether they should be resumed, ICVA replied that it would depend on NGOs willingness to participate.

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