

IASC Weekly Meeting
23 March 2005
Notes



1: Mission Debriefing on Panama - Establishment of an OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
(by Fabrizio Gentiloni, OCHA)

Mr. Fabrizio Gentiloni, Assistant Director in Geneva of OCHA's Coordination and Response Division briefed on his recent mission to Panama.

Currently, OCHA is establishing a Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama. The office will be set up in the same compound as other UN agencies approximately 10 km from the centre of Panama City. 3 internationals, 4 locals and one national will staff the office. Two of the international posts are to be filled – one at L-5 level who will head the office and a second at L-3 level. The posts will be announced on ReliefWeb during April and should be filled-thereafter to prepare for the hurricane season, which starts in the summer.

The main tasks for the office will be disaster response and contingency planning, as well as monitoring the region with regard to possible complex emergencies. The regional office will work to assist and liaise with the country offices in the region.

Following the briefing there was some discussion on the link with other UN offices working in and from Panama as well as some comments on OCHA regional offices in general.

2: Briefing on the 60th IASC Working Group Meeting in Rome
(by Marilena Viviani, IASC Secretariat)

Marilena Viviani, Head of IASC Secretariat, briefed on the recent IASC Working Group meeting, held in Rome at WFP HQ from 21-22 March 2005. Ms Viviani gave a brief overview of the issues discussed at the meeting as well as some of the outcomes and action points from the meeting.

3: IASC Standard Briefing
(by Marilena Viviani, IASC Secretariat)

- This afternoon, Wednesday, 23 March from 17h00 – 18h00 the IASC TF on the Tsunami is taking place in Room III of the Palais des Nations. As the Management of the TF has now been handed over to OCHA's Asia, Pacific, Americas and Caribbean Section (APAC); suggestions for agenda items should therefore be directed to Ms. Merete Johansson, Chief of Section.
- The HLWG will be briefed on the IASC WG Meeting this afternoon, Wednesday, 23 March from 15h00 – 16h00.

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List of Participants**



Name	Organisation	E-mail
Fabrizio Gentiloni	OCHA	gentiloni@un.org
Marilena Viviani	IASC Secretariat	viviani@un.org
Tom Getman	WVI	Thomas_getman@wvi.org
Peggy Saillen	IOM	psaillen@iom.int
Eric Laroche	UNICEF	elaroche@unicef.org
Ariane Waldvogel	WFP	Ariane.Waldvogel@wfp.org
Francis Caas	UNEP	Francis.caas@unep.ch
Amanda Bok	ICRC	abok@icrc.org
Fernan Selva	IOM	fselva@iom.int
Paul Paredes	FAO	Pparedes-portella@fao.org
Virginie Cano	AISP	contact@aisp.fr
Attar Bayrou	Soldats de la Paix	contact@aisp.fr
Kerstin Holst	UNESCO	k.holst@unesco.org
Elisabeth Rasmusson	NRC	Elisabeth.rasmusson@nrc.ch
Stefan Toma	UNICEF	stoma@unicef.org
Sylvie Lacroux	UN-HABITAT	Lacroux.unhabitat@unog.ch
Jacob Korreborg	IASC Secretariat	korreborg@un.org
Ellen Funch	IASC Secretariat	funch@un.org