

**IASC Weekly Meeting**  
**30 March 2005**  
**Notes**



**1: Briefing on the Situation in Kyrgyzstan**  
(by, Dusan Zupka, OCHA)

Mr. Dusan Zupka, Humanitarian Affairs Officer in the Europe, Central Asia, Middle East, North Africa Section, OCHA briefed on the latest developments in Kyrgyzstan following the civil and political disturbance as well as the UN response.

In the end of February protesters, accusing President Akayev of electoral fraud and demanding his resignation stormed the Government Headquarters forcing the President to flee the country. Mr. Zupka pointed out that the protests were also rooted in a general discontent with the disastrous economic situation of the country.

The security situation in the country is volatile and UN-DSS has increased the security level to faze 3. The presence of a US military airbase outside the capital Bishkek is providing a stabilising factor.

As potential developments, the Resident Coordinator's (RC) office in Kyrgyzstan points to the risk of increasing violence, authority loss of control as well as Uzbek-Kyrgyz ethnic tensions. Furthermore the RC's office points to the risk of the unstable situation being used to promote radical Islamism. Another important issue in this context is that the opposition to the President is far from united and the very structure of the Kyrgyz society, which to a large extend is based on tribal clans, is a source of confrontation and potential disintegration. On the humanitarian side, the RC has pointed to the shortage of food and medical supplies.

The Early Warning Unit of OCHA has been in contact with the IASC SWG on Contingency Planning and Preparedness and the Country Team regarding sending an IASC mission to Kyrgyzstan to conduct assessments and in particular to look at preparedness and contingency planning, also considering the broader region. Draft ToRs for the mission will be circulated to IASC members. Mr Zupka underlined that the mission should take stock of the potential disasters created by the melting of the snow in the mountains in the springtime, which will likely cause devastating landslides.

The discussion following the briefing focused on the regional consequences as well as the managerial aspects and ToRs of the IASC mission.

**2: Discussion on topics for future weekly meetings**  
(by, Marilena Viviani, IASC Secretariat)

Marilena Viviani, Chief of the IASC Secretariat, OCHA, opened the discussion urging agencies to provide suggestions for future topics in the IASC weekly meetings.

Agencies welcomed the discussion and several confirmed their interest in giving briefings in the meetings. The point will be followed up upon in future weekly meetings.

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

- The IASC Task Force on the Tsunami will meet this afternoon, Wednesday, 30 March from 17h00 – 18h00 in Room III of the Palais des Nations. Briefings will include updates on the recent earthquakes off the coast of Sumatra and the Mid Term Review.
- The IASC Principles will meet on 7 April at 9h30 –13h00 in Room I, Palais de Nations. The theme of the meeting, “Major Challenges Facing the International Humanitarian Community” will be discussed under three agenda items:
  1. Responding to the Tsunami disaster: Lessons from the Humanitarian Response and speeding up recovery efforts.
  2. Addressing the Protection Crisis in Humanitarian Situations
  3. Reform of the Humanitarian Response System
- The IASC/NGO Monthly meeting will be on next Wednesday, 6 April. Focus of the meeting will be on improving dialogue with Islamic NGOs. The meeting is follow-up to discussions that OCHA and ICVA have had with Islamic Relief.

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List of Participants**



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