

**INTER – AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE – WORKING GROUP
48th MEETING**

13-14 March 2002

at

**WFP Headquarters, Rome
Green Tower, Room 6G19**

New Agenda for the CAP: Background Note

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Summary

In May 2001, the IASC Working Group initiated a Review of the CAP with the aim of increasing senior-level involvement in the CAP and setting an agenda for strengthening the CAP. The Review, conducted by Mr. David Bassiouni, Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Programmes, UNICEF, included extensive consultations with IASC members, the field, donors, NGOs and individuals knowledgeable on the CAP. The review revealed significant strengths and achievements of the CAP, but also shortfalls that need to be addressed if the CAP is to live up to its potential as an inter-agency strategy setting and fundraising tool.

The Review culminated in a set of 19 Recommendations for a new Agenda for Strengthening the CAP. These will be presented to the IASC for endorsement at their meeting in April 2002. The recommendations are divided into three categories:

1. Strengthening senior level involvement in the CAP,
2. Strengthening advocacy through the CAP, and
3. Strengthening the CAP as a tool for strategic planning and coordination.

At the request of the IASC WG, the IASC Sub-working Group on the CAP, in close collaboration with Mr. Bassiouni, prepared a draft Plan of Action. This was discussed and refined at the annual CAP Lessons Learned and Best Practices Workshop from 13-15 February. The workshop, which was attended by experienced field and headquarters CAP practitioners representing the United Nations, the Red Cross Movement and, for the first time, NGOs, was an invaluable “reality check” on the feasibility of the Plan of Action.

During the workshop, detailed action plans were developed for six recommendations, which had been identified by the CAP SWG as being particularly difficult to achieve without full commitment of all IASC members. A great deal of momentum was generated by the CAP workshop, in particular in the area of NGO involvement in the CAP. In addition, the SWG agreed that a single agency would be responsible for follow-up on the implementation of each of the six recommendations, which addressed the following long-standing issues:

- NGO participation in the CAP (SCHR),
- the link between the CAP and CCA/UNDAF (UNDP),
- the use of CAP in humanitarian crises not covered by a Consolidated Appeal (IFRC),
- the development of joint guidelines for assessment and evaluation (WHO and UNICEF),
- multi-year strategies in the CAP (WFP), and
- the development of joint guidelines for strategic monitoring and impact analysis of CAP programmes (OCHA).

The IASC is now requested to build on the momentum generated by the workshop by endorsing the Plan of Action in its current draft format, and thus fully supporting the recommendations for strengthening the CAP. The IASC WG is recommended to present the Plan of Action to the IASC during its meeting in April.

Discussion points and outputs:

1. The Draft Plan of Action outlines the indicative actions required to fulfil each recommendation, and assigns responsibility for each recommendation to IASC members or entities. The Plan of Action is submitted to WG for **review and endorsement** prior to being sent to the IASC principals in April.
2. All IASC members bear responsibility for the implementation of the Plan of Action and members of the WG are encouraged to **express their full commitment** to ensuring its implementation.
3. To ensure implementation of the Plan of Action, the WG is encouraged to strengthen OCHA's CAP and Donor Relations Section through the **immediate secondment** of experienced agency staff, as per Recommendation 7.
4. To support advocacy efforts, in particular Recommendation 8, it is critical to agree upon the **date** and **identify a theme** for the 2003 CAP (e.g. Reaching the Vulnerable), and ensure that this is endorsed by the IASC in April. This will enable the IASC country teams to develop the theme during upcoming CAP field and strategy-setting workshops and in the preparation of the Appeal document.
5. During the CAP Lessons Learned Workshop in February, it was proposed that the **annual Mid-Year Review of the CAP** be the opportunity for the WG, in close consultation with Humanitarian Coordinators, to assess, and come to agreement on which countries should have a CAP in 2003 and to select which CAPs should be reviewed by Directors of Emergency. The WG is requested to discuss this proposal, and advise the CAP SWG on how to proceed. The WG is also requested to agree on the date of the Mid-Year Review, which is proposed for 29 May.

Issues for IASC endorsement and follow-up in April 2002:

1. The IASC WG-endorsed Recommendations for a New Agenda for Strengthening the CAP, and its corresponding Plan of Action.
2. Full commitment by the IASC of the Recommendations and Plan of Action.
3. Agreement by the IASC on the date of the CAP launch (19 November) and the CAP 2003 theme.
4. Agreement by the IASC on the use of the Mid-Year Review of the CAP to make decisions on which countries should have a CAP in 2003.