

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
59th MEETING**

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2005 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

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The next ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment will not be scheduled until early next year, however, it is expected that the event will take place around the same time as previous years, or mid-July 2005. It has also not yet been decided whether the meeting will be held in New York or Geneva. As a result, OCHA preparations and IASC consultations will also take place beginning next year.

Themes

As in previous years, ECOSOC Member States will propose, negotiate and endorse an overall theme for the next ECOSOC segment early next year. However, several possible sub-themes or agenda items are already beginning to emerge:

Good Humanitarian Donorship. During a meeting on GHD in Ottawa in mid-October, participants agreed to convene again in the margins of the ECOSOC humanitarian affairs segment to take stock of progress. Such a meeting may provide an opportunity for agencies to report back to donors on the overall impact of GHD on emergency operations, including needs assessment initiatives.

Natural disasters. The World Conference on Disaster Reduction, an upcoming multi-stakeholder review of the UN's disaster response capacity and several smaller initiatives designed to address the needs of disaster-prone countries are expected to provide a basis for analysis and discussion during the ECOSOC event. Of particular importance will be the issue of supporting natural disaster recovery as part of the UN's overall support of countries in transition.

The impact of humanitarian resolutions. The request by ECOSOC for a three-year review of the implementation of humanitarian resolutions has prompted a number of discussions among Member States about the strategic use of such resolutions. OCHA has already drafted a non-paper on the sources and uses of humanitarian resolutions (attached) and has begun to compile a database of humanitarian resolutions. Extensive consultation with IASC members next year will be necessary to complete the picture of how resolutions impact operations on the ground.

Transition. Following ECOSOC's request for a report of the Secretary-General on the transition from relief to development, ECHA and UNDG are planning a series of meetings with Member States, particularly G77 countries, to discuss their transitions concerns with the

aim of improving the international community's efforts to better respond to transition situations, including natural disasters.

Integrated missions. OCHA, DPKO and UNDG are currently conducting a joint evaluation of integrated missions in progress and their impact on humanitarian operations. The results of this evaluation, expected next spring, will inform consultations with states and among humanitarian resolutions to clarify the roles and responsibilities of integrated missions, as requested by ECOSOC, and will feed into the Secretary-General to report to ECOSOC on this subject.

Reporting Requirements

The following reports were requested by ECOSOC and need to be submitted by the dates provided below:

- Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance to the United Nations on progress made in the implementation and follow-up to ECOSOC resolutions 2004/50, 2003/5 and 2002/32. (June 5, 2005)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the respective roles of and complementarity among relevant entities of the United Nations operating in the framework of United Nations multidimensional missions. (June 5, 2005)
- Report of the Secretary-General on the Issue of Transition from Relief to Development (May 5, 2005)

Implications for the IASC

- As soon as Member States agree on an ECOSOC theme early next year, OCHA will convene the first of several planning meetings with IASC members to discuss ECOSOC sub-themes, panels and events.
- In February/March, OCHA will begin consultations with IASC members on each of the three reports, which will include a series of meetings held in New York and Geneva. In preparation for such meetings, IASC members are asked to begin their own consultations and analysis beginning early next year.
- In preparation for the GHD meeting to be held in the margins of ECOSOC next summer, IASC members may want to do their own stock-taking of the impact of the GHD initiative on their own operations.

Proposed Actions by the IASC WG members:

- Reach a consensus on priority themes which would be useful to address in the ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment
- Endorsement of the proposed preparatory steps for the ECOSOC Humanitarian Segment