

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
60th MEETING**

**21-22 March 2005
WFP Rome**

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2005

Update

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Organizational Issues

The ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment has been scheduled for Wednesday, 13 July through Monday, 18 July 2005 in New York. The ECOSOC vice president selected to chair the Humanitarian Affairs Segment is H.E. Mr. Johan Verbeke of Belgium.

Themes

Member States have not yet adopted a theme for this year's segment. However, informal consultations on selecting a theme are ongoing. It is expected that a theme will be adopted by the time the IASC meets on 21 March.

Please find below the latest proposal by Belgium, based on ideas expressed by Member States during these informal discussions.

Overall theme proposal:

Strengthening the response capacity of the United Nations humanitarian system and response systems at local, national and regional levels

Panel discussions proposal:

- *Strengthening the coordination of the United Nations humanitarian assistance, including through the use of intergovernmental and other mechanisms*
- *Lessons learned from the recent earthquake/tsunami Indian Ocean disaster, including civil-military relations*

NB: The issue of whether or not to hold an *ECOSOC event on the transition from relief to development*, as well as its modalities, format etc., is still not resolved and will be subject to further consultations.

Reporting Requirements

The following reports will be submitted to ECOSOC as part of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment.

- 1) *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.* (Note: this report will also include analysis on the respective roles of and complementarity among relevant entities of the United Nations operating in the framework of United Nations multidimensional missions.)
Due May 6, 2005
- 2) *Report of the Secretary-General on the issue of transition from relief to development* **Due May 6, 2005**
- 3) *Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster*
Due May 13 2005

Implications for the IASC

- OCHA will begin consultations with the IASC in mid-March to discuss both the editorial process and the substance of the above-mentioned reports and make-up of the panels and side events.
- The consultation and drafting process on the reports will follow the same format as last year: regular, consultative meetings involving combined with an email-based drafting process. The details and timetables for this process will be discussed with IASC members during the first organizational meeting on this issue.
- Unlike previous years, Member States have requested that the annual *Report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance to the United Nations* include a progress report on the implementation of three years of humanitarian resolutions. This will take some coordination with agencies, in particular on standardizing the methodology and approach to this analysis. This too will be discussed with the IASC during its first organizational meeting.
- The additional reporting requirements (three reports as opposed to one), combined with the tight timetables (deadlines in early and mid-May) require that we move quickly without compromising the quality of analysis in the reports. We look forward to working with the IASC and, in turn, ask for its close cooperation in ensuring this process is as smooth and efficient as possible.

Proposed Actions by the IASC WG members:

- Active IASC participation, in New York and in Geneva, in the ongoing inter-agency consultations process for the 2005 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

Prepared by: OCHA, March 2005