

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
57th MEETING**

**16-17 June 2004
Room XII
Palais des Nations, Geneva**

Preparations for the 2004 Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC: Update

Circulated: 11 June 2004

Background

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment of ECOSOC will be held from 12-14 July. The theme of the Segment as agreed to by Member States is: *“Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian assistance of the United Nations: present and future challenges.”*

Organization of Panels

Apart from the theme, ECOSOC delegations also agreed on 2 topics to be dealt with as part of the panels to be held on 13 July. A third informal panel, to be held on the morning of 12 July, entitled *ECOSOC event to discuss the transition from relief to development* was also agreed upon. The discussions in this panel will be informed by the findings of the UNDG/ECHA Working Group on Transition and its programme is being prepared by ECHA and UNDG.

After consultations with IASC colleagues, the following panel participants are being invited to partake in the discussion of 13 July:

Panel 1 (13 July 1000–1300 hrs.) *“Strengthening preparedness and response to natural disasters, with an emphasis on capacity building.”*

Participants list:

1. ERC (Moderator)
2. IFRC (President of the Iranian Red Crescent)
3. Assistant Administrator UNDP
4. Deputy Director WFP
5. Chairperson INSARAG
6. Senior ECHO Representative

Panel 2 (13 July 1500-1800 hrs.) – *“Field-level coordination for the purpose of continuing the presence and operations of United Nations humanitarian assistance missions in higher risk environments.”*

Participants list:

1. ERC (Moderator)
2. UNHCR
3. Vice-President ICRC
4. UNSECOORD
5. RC/HC Somalia

Informal Briefings

The following informal briefings to be held in the margins of the segment are also being planned:

- Mainstreaming a gender perspective into humanitarian operations. (Proposed by IASC Task Force on gender and humanitarian assistance).
- Humanitarian financing and Good Donorship. (Proposed by Mission of Canada).
- Briefing on the World Conference for Disaster Reduction.

Prepared by: OCHA June 2004