

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP

61 st MEETING

22-23 June 2005

IOM (Geneva)

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.**

Member States agreed that there would be a negotiated outcome of this year's segment in the form of a resolution. Belgium expects negotiations will begin at the end of June and a resolution will be adopted at the closing of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment on Monday 18 July. Argentina and Switzerland have agreed to facilitate informal negotiations for the resolution.

Agenda

The rough agenda for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment is as follows: ¹

Wednesday, 13 July	10:00 – 13:00	Informal ECOSOC event on the transition from relief to development Panel session 1: Post-disaster recovery Panel session 2: Post-conflict transitions
	13:15 – 14:45	Side event on follow up to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction and implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (lunch, hosted by Japan)
	15:00 – 18:00	Opening of the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening by H.E. Mr. Johan Verbeke, Perm. Rep. of Belgium, Vice President of ECOSOC• Opening statement and presentation of the Secretary-General's reports by Jan Egeland• General statements by Member States

¹ A more detailed agenda with additional information about panelists and speakers will be circulated once confirmed

Thursday, 14 July	10:00 - 13:00	Lessons learned from the Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel 1: Response challenges and lessons learned • Panel 2: Recovery challenges and emerging issues
	13:15 – 14:45	Side event on strengthening humanitarian response capacity
	15:00 – 18:00	Lessons learned from the Indian Ocean earthquake/tsunami (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel 2: Recovery challenges and emerging issues (cont'd) • Panel 3: Investing in preparedness and risk reduction
Friday, 15 July	10:00 – 13:00	General statements by Member States (cont'd)
	15:00 – 18:00	General statements by Member States (cont'd)
Monday 18 July	10:00 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General statements by Member States (cont'd as needed) • Closing remarks by Jan Egeland • Adoption of the resolution and closing of the Segment

Reports

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

- 1) *Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening 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.)
 - A separate matrix that lists humanitarian resolutions and related actions will be submitted as a supplement to this report.
 - This report includes eleven specific recommendations for strengthening humanitarian response capacity including strengthening financial mechanisms; and for preserving humanitarian space in integrated missions.
 - It is hoped that these recommendations will inform the draft resolution prepared by the facilitators.
- 2) *Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster*

- This report includes specific recommendations for strengthening field structures for national and international response to major sudden-onset emergencies; strengthening the role and capacity of regional organizations; improving coherence of civilian and military response; investing in early warning and preparedness; enhancing UN coordination and funding mechanisms to support national recovery efforts; and promoting commitment and investment in reducing vulnerability and risk.

3) *Report of the Secretary-General on the issue of transition from relief to development*

- This report offers no specific recommendations to ECOSOC.

Proposed Actions by the IASC WG:

- Participate actively in ECOSOC panels and events (OCHA has been in touch with IASC members individually in this regard).
- Provide substantive support, if necessary, to the informal negotiations of the ECOSOC resolution.
- OCHA would like to thank to its IASC partners for their time, effort and patience during what has been an especially time-consuming consultation process this year, and welcomes any suggestions on how to improve inter-agency consultations on ECOSOC reporting in the future.

Prepared by: OCHA