

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
50th MEETING**

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Conference Room 9, United Nations Headquarters New York

Proposal for IASC Review: A Preliminary Outline

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1. Background

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) was established by GA resolution 46/182 over 10 years ago. The IASC was placed under the chairpersonship of the Emergency Relief Coordinator with the membership of all operational humanitarian agencies, a standing invitation to ICRC, IFRC and IOM and invitation to relevant NGOs to participate in IASC meetings on an ad hoc basis. Various additional UN resolutions (47/168, 48/57 and 52/12) as well as a number of reviews) further provided guidance and defined the role and mandate of the IASC. As stated in resolution 48/57 (Dec 1993) the mandate of the IASC is to serve as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination and act in an action-oriented manner on policy issues related to humanitarian assistance and on formulating a coherent timely United Nations response to humanitarian emergencies. Throughout the past decade, the IASC has been growing in importance and visibility. Various efforts to strengthen its mechanisms and processes have been undertaken (e.g, the 1999/2000 IASC review on strengthening of the IASC mechanism and process). While commitment to the IASC as an inter-agency coordination body seems high, there have been concerns voiced from within and externally to the IASC regarding its ability to meet its role and mandate. In order to address these concerns, the Emergency Relief Coordination has established the need for a comprehensive external review of the IASC.

2. Purpose of the Review

The Emergency Relief Coordinator has therefore requested the Policy Development and Studies Branch of OCHA in consultation with IASC members to undertake a review of the IASC. The purpose of the review will be to outline the core function and roles of the IASC viz its mandate as well as the function and roles of other UN coordination bodies, to define the issues of structure, representation and working methods that are required to fulfill the role and function, and to come up with recommendations on how to strengthen the IASC in the future.

3. Implementation of the Review

An independent and external expert with thorough understanding of the UN humanitarian system will be recruited to undertake this assignment.

Background document: Proposal for IASC Review

4. Timing

Depending on the selection and availability of the consultant, it is anticipated that the review will start in November 2002 and will last for 3 months.

Proposed action/decision by the IASC WG:

IASC WG is invited to provide comments and inputs on the preliminary plans for an IASC review.