

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE-WORKING GROUP  
51<sup>st</sup> MEETING**

**25-26 November 2002**

**WHO, Headquarters, Geneva  
Room M505**

**Agenda Item: Review of the Work of the IASC Subsidiary Bodies: Reference Group  
on Telecommunications**

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**IASC-RGT / WGET  
Summary Work Plan for 2003**

**Use of Telecommunications for the Safety and Security of Humanitarian Personnel:**





**Activity:**

Application of minimum standards of communication for humanitarian operations as developed by the IASC-RGT / WGET and the ISCC SIG-TAG and approved by the ACC, related training, ensuring immediate action in case of staff encountering communications-related security problems, facilitation of joint training.

**Output:**



Improved safety and security for the staff of all partners in international humanitarian assistance applying the standards.

**Performance Criteria:**





Number of UN agencies and other partners in international humanitarian assistance, which make the minimum standards approved by the ACC or own, higher standards mandatory for all their field operations and implement them to the full extent; lowest possible number of security related incidents which better use of telecommunications could have prevented, number and results of joint training activities.

**Improvement of links between disaster response and telecommunications:**

**Activity:**



Pursuing the development and implementation of a more stable framework for and a more appropriate positioning of the IASC-RGT / WGET secretariat, possibly, including an institutionalized cooperation between the United Nations and the International Telecommunication Union, preparation of second edition of Handbook on Disaster Communications (first edition 2001 out of print) and widest possible dissemination.

**Output:**



Implementation of the tasks defined by the IASC-RGT / WGET in the reports and recommendations to the IASC-WG, recognition of the relevance of inter-operable telecommunications networks and their un-hindered use in the service of international humanitarian assistance by all IASC partners



**Performance Criteria:**



Number of priority elements as defined by the IASC-RGT / WGET which can actually be implemented, continuation of the implementation of the mandate of the ERC as the operational coordinator of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, publication and subsequent utilization of Handbook on Disaster Communications.

**Facilitation of Inter-Operability:**

**Activity:**



Further development and implementation of common standards for all inter-operability of agency owned and public networks used in humanitarian assistance, implementation of joint training activities. Support to all IASC-RGT / WGET partners as well as national administrations and private sector partners in the application of the standards defined and adopted by the IASC-RGT / WGET obtaining recognition for these standards in applicable regulations, ensuring joint training programmes on above.

**Output:**





Application of the defined standards and inclusion of gateways including connectivity between agency-owned and public networks, acceptance of so far proprietary standards on a broader basis, ensuring inter-operability in all phases of humanitarian response, inclusion of respective texts in international regulatory instruments.

**Performance Criteria:**



Number of locations/operations in which full inter-operability is being achieved, character of the documents in which recognition of the common standards can be introduced as a mandatory rule or a recommendation to administrations, results of related training programmes.

### **Cooperation with Private Sector / Telecommunication Industry**

#### **Activity:**

The project will continue the existing cooperation on private sector support to humanitarian operations and on development of new technologies, extend the cooperation to additional partners in the telecommunications and IT industry and work towards acceptance of so far proprietary standards by the main manufacturers of equipment appropriate for use in humanitarian operations and facilitate joint training activities.

#### **Output:**

Establishment of cooperation with enterprises who can provide effective support which directly benefits the work of the providers of international humanitarian assistance and thus the beneficiaries of such assistance, facilitation of inter-operability for all partners.

**Performance Criteria:**



Number of cases and dimension of assistance actually provided by private sector enterprises, degree of interoperability.

**Application of the Tampere Convention:**

**Activity:**





Application of the Tampere Convention and related Resolutions and Recommendations, training in the utilization of these regulatory tools, entry into force of the Convention, Continuation of the cooperation with the ITU and other regulatory and policy entities, including the European Union, and the administrations of their Member States towards full compliance of national regulations with the stipulations of the Convention and ratification of the latter. Ratification by 30 States before 21 June 2003 required for entry into force.

**Output:**

Un-hindered use of all appropriate technologies from the earliest stage of emergency situations.

**Performance Criteria:**



Lowest possible number of cases where providers of international humanitarian assistance encounter difficulties with host country authorities, number of States party to the Tampere Convention, results of related training activities.





**Safeguarding the Interests of Humanitarian Users of ICT:**



**Action:**



Safeguarding the interests of the users of telecommunications in the service of humanitarian response through representation of the common interests of all IASC-RGT / WGET partners in major events such as WRC-03 and ITU Study Groups and similar fora.

**Output:**

Creating awareness through presentations, publications and personal contacts with the respective authorities.  
Facilitation of the use of telecommunications in humanitarian operations.

**Performance Criteria:**

Response of national and international regulatory authorities to above action.

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