

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP  
55th MEETING**

**12-13 November 2003**

**IFRC Headquarters, Geneva  
Auditorium (Basement)**

**IASC TF on Sanctions: Background Note**

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**I. Report on Activities Undertaken in 2003**

During 2003 the Task Force on Sanctions worked on:

- Sanctions assessment methodology:  
The TF worked together with OCHA on the development of a methodology for assessing the impact of sanctions. The primary output so far was the draft handbook on “*Assessing the Humanitarian Implications of Sanctions*”.

The draft handbook was discussed within the TF and initial comments and remarks were incorporated. In the last meeting of the TF it was agreed that more detailed feedback would be provided by mid November 2003, to allow the preparation of a second draft of the Handbook that will be ready by mid of December 2003.

- Assessment of the UN sanctions imposed on Liberia:  
Security Council resolution 1478 (2003) requested an assessment of the possible humanitarian and socio-economic impact of the timber sanctions on Liberia. The outline and the drafting process for the assessment report were discussed within the TF and important contributions to the report were provided by the TF, which helped to include the expertise of the wider humanitarian community on sanctions and their humanitarian implications.

**II Workplan 2004**

- The second draft of the *Sanctions Assessment Handbook* will again be shared and discussed within the TF. It is planned that the final version of the handbook is ready by February/March 2004.

The *Sanctions Assessment Handbook* constitutes one of the two main outputs generated by the TF. It will serve as a reference manual for those involved in sanctions assessments, and is intended also to better inform policymakers of how such assessments should be undertaken. The second output of the TF will be a concise set of *Field Guidelines* to assist practitioners in undertaking or contributing to humanitarian assessments under sanctions.

- The TF will be dissolved upon completion of the *Sanctions Handbook* and the *Field Guidelines* (i.e., April/May 2004).