**CLUSTER WORKING GROUP ON
EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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It was the determination of the working group and the Executive Management of the participating organisations that the magnitude of the Inter-Agency Emergency Telecommunications (ET) activities precluded any one organisation accepting the responsibility of the cluster lead as originally defined.

In order to meet the spirit of enhancing the response capabilities of the cluster, the working group has suggested that the original role be split into two types of role (i.e. process owner and service provider). Three organisations have been proposed to assume the responsibilities and the obligations of these roles.

OCHA has been proposed for the role of overall Process Owner, UNICEF has been proposed for the role of Service Provider for common data services, and WFP has been proposed for the role of Service Provider for common security telecommunications service.

The implementation of this redefined model is dependant upon the acceptance of the responsibility by the three proposed agencies as well as the availability of the appropriate level of funding. The funding estimates will be subject to further planning guidance by the IASC concerning emergency levels.

Specific Recommendations for IASC consideration:

1. The IASC is requested to approve the re-defined cluster lead roles as identified in this document. Once approved, the Process Owner, Data Service Provider, and Security Telecommunications Service Provider roles to be accepted by OCHA, UNICEF, and WFP respectively.
2. A cost study would be undertaken to determine the funding required, based on an indication of the number and size of emergencies to be used as planning.
3. It is proposed to mainstream the emergency telecoms sector into UNDAC missions to ensure that the sector is able to mobilise as early as possible.
4. The existing WGET work plan will need to be expanded to include the required training, preparedness, stock level review, standardization review, detailed standing operating procedures, and advocacy activities for this process.
5. The Process Owner will need to coordinate the cluster activities with those of the other cluster working groups.