

NOTE ON FOLLOW-UP TO IASC STATEMENT ON SOMALIA

The joint Statement on Somalia of members of the IASC was transmitted to the Security Council on 10 November 1994 under cover of a letter from the Secretary-General to the Council's President.

The Statement contained inter alia an appeal to support a set of measures recommended by the UN Inter-Agency Meeting which met in Nairobi on 24 and 25 October 1994. These included:

- the establishment of protected humanitarian operational bases at essential ports and airports;
- the transfer from UNOSOM II to operational UN organisations and international non-governmental organisations of some equipment and assets;
- the funding of additional security measures required in a post-UNOSOM phase through a special allocation outside voluntary funds intended for humanitarian activities;
- the creation of a United Nations Coordination Team (UNCT) composed of senior field Representatives of the UN organisations and chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative who will also serve as Humanitarian Coordinator;
- the continuation under UNOSOM financing of a core of existing humanitarian and security staff to support the new coordination structure and security arrangements.

Although the Security Council has not yet reacted formally to the Statement and the specific proposals it contains, a number of discussions have already taken place in the field and at UN Headquarters on these various issues. The purpose of this note is to review progress with regards to these recommendations.

a) **Protected Operational Bases**

Most of the reactions registered so far point to this proposal as being unimplementable. This is a position strongly held by both the SRSG and the UNOSOM Force Commander.

It will be recalled that the participants at the Inter-Agency Meeting of 24-25 October were aware that implementation of this proposal would be difficult.

b) Transfer of UNOSOM Assets

Progress has not been encouraging. At field level, UNOSOM feels bound by existing instructions from New York. Efforts by DHA to have these instructions modified have not yet yielded results. It should be noted that the SRSG has stated on a number of occasions that he preferred donating any remaining equipment to a future Somali government or, in its absence, to community leaders.

c) Funding of Security Requirements

Although no substantial progress has been made, it is generally felt that this is a point that needs to be pursued as it could set a positive precedent.

d) Creation of UNCT and Designation of Humanitarian Coordinator

The first meeting of the UNCT took place on 25 November 1994, in the presence of the SRSG. The group agreed on its composition, the frequency of meetings and the reactivation of a Security Working Group and a Telecommunications Working Group. It also examined the progress on the drafting of a Consolidated Humanitarian Appeal for Somalia as well as initial proposals related to the creation of a Relief and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit.

The designation of the Resident Representative of UNDP as Humanitarian Coordinator is being actively pursued by DHA.

e) Making Available Core UNOSOM Staff

A written proposal has been submitted to the SRSG by the current Humanitarian Coordinator for the creation of a Relief and Rehabilitation Coordination Unit composed of seven of the existing international humanitarian staff of UNOSOM. The proposal also foresees support through staffing for the creation of an IOM country office that would take over from the Humanitarian Division of UNOSOM the responsibility for the resettlement of IDPs. During initial discussions at the first meeting of the UNCT, the SRSG indicated his willingness to consider favourably these proposals for the period running to 31 March 1995.

The issue of UNOSOM making available some security staff has not been further discussed but might be raised again by the Working Group on Security when it meets.