

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP
XXTH MEETING
29 November 1995 UNDP, New York**

LIBERIA

I. BACKGROUND

1. The signing of the Abuja agreement has led to the possibility of significantly expanding relief operations and demobilizing an estimated 40,000 ex-combatants. In recognition of the complexity of the humanitarian activities ahead, the Secretary-General, in his thirteenth Progress Report on the UN observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), called for the appointment of a UN Humanitarian Coordinator. The report was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1020 of 10 November. This decision was also supported by the Inter-Agency Standing committee at its 30 October meeting. In his report, the Secretary-General described the responsibilities of the Humanitarian Coordinator to include relief coordination and the organization and delivery of services related to the demobilization and early phase reintegration of ex-combatants. To that end, the Secretary-General called for the establishment of a Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit to support the Humanitarian Coordinator. The Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit will in turn be composed of two sub-offices: a Humanitarian Assistance/Relief Coordination Office and a Demobilization and Reintegration Office.
2. As action to deploy the Humanitarian Coordinator progressed, some concern was raised at the field level regarding his role. It is now essential that IASC members brief their field representatives on the responsibilities of the Humanitarian Coordinator, as presented in the Secretary-General's report and further discussed at the 30 October IASC meeting, in order to ensure that he receives their support.

II. IASC RECOMMENDATIONS

_UN Humanitarian Coordinator appointed (Mr. Tesema Nagesh, WFP Uganda)

_UN Humanitarian Coordinator to be supported by Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit, comprised of two offices: a Humanitarian Assistance/Relief Coordination Office and a Demobilization and Reintegration Office. Staff for Humanitarian Assistance/Relief

Coordination Office are being recruited, to be deployed early December. Staff for the Demobilization and Reintegration Office to be funded through assessed contributions, their deployment is contingent upon budgetary processes. Staff from Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit in Angola (UCAH) will be deployed temporarily to Liberia as a bridging measure.

III. REGIONAL FOCAL POINT

Donors approached to support office of Regional Focal Point. Discussions underway with Regional Focal Point on candidates to support his activities, pursuant to the inter-agency mission report of September 1995. Expected deployment December 1995.

IV. ACTIONS TAKEN

Mr. Tesema Nagesh, formerly WFP Country Director in Uganda, has been appointed Humanitarian Coordinator and is in Liberia.

The Deputy Director of the Complex Emergency Division has been despatched to Liberia to ensure the effective establishment of the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Staff from the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit in Angola (UCAH) have been temporarily deployed to Liberia to support the Humanitarian Coordinator in both relief coordination and demobilization activities, pending the arrival of his staff.

Staff for the Humanitarian/Relief Coordination Component of the Coordinator's office are under recruitment and will be deployed to Liberia before mid-December.

Based on the framework plan for demobilization outlined in the Secretary-General's Thirteenth Progress Report, follow-up consultations in New York and discussions with UNOMIL, funds will be sought through the assessed budget to staff and resource activities related to demobilization. The draft budget is scheduled to be finalized during the week of 27 November.