

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
20 June 1997

Item 3. Conclusions of the ACC on Peace-building: Implications for Humanitarian Activities

Paper prepared by DHA

1997/IASC-WG/XXVII/3

1. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) held its First Regular Session for 1997 in Geneva from 10-11 April under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi A. Annan. ACC Agenda Item 2.2, "Review of developments affecting international cooperation and development, and their implications for the UN system: Peace-building," is of particular relevance to the IASC member organizations given its focus on countries experiencing or threatened by crisis. As stated in the draft Summary of Conclusion, the basic issue is how to draw maximum advantage of the range of capabilities available in the system to ensure that conflicts are prevented, or when this does not prove possible, that they can be resolved on a lasting basis: "The objective should be to integrate the system's analytical capabilities, its capacity for political mediation and humanitarian intervention, and its experience in development cooperation, into a coherent force to build and sustain peace."

2. The ACC background documentation and discussions build on the work already undertaken by the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) on post-conflict recovery and a strategic framework approach. Many of the key themes raised within the ACC are also consistent with agreements and recommendations emanating from the ECOSOC interagency consultative process. Among these:

- a. The recognition that political, humanitarian, economic and social factors cannot, in most situations, be considered independently of one another but are best addressed in a holistic, mutually reinforcing manner;
- b. The need for effective early warning and preventive action;
- c. Acknowledgement of the limitations of the "continuum" concept;
- d. Implementation of the strategic framework should maximize the use of existing mechanisms including the resident and humanitarian coordinator systems, the common country assessment and the country strategy note, and should link to existing resource mobilization mechanisms (CAP, Round Table, Consultative Group);
- e. The need for greater synergy between relief and development partners and for overcoming divisions that are reflected in the current separation of approaches, budgets and functions;

- f. The importance of adequate availability of funding for immediate rehabilitation and recovery activities;
- g. The necessity of forging and strengthening alliances with the Bretton Woods Institutions, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, donors and national authorities in the formulation of the strategic framework;
- h. Development of more participatory approaches at the national as well as local levels in order to ensure ownership by the affected population of the recovery process;
- i. The need to give priority attention to the selection and training of Resident Coordinators;
- j. The need for mainstreaming a gender perspective in UN system activities in the areas of peace-keeping, peace-building, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, rehabilitation and development.

3. Several background documents are being forwarded via fax to the IASC-WG to facilitate the Working Group's review of the principal issues:

Appendix 1: Final Draft Summary of Conclusions of ACC at its First Regular Session of 1997 Geneva, 10-11 April (ACC/1997/4, 29 April 1997, Introduction and paragraphs 18-41)

Appendix 2: Background Documentation for ACC Agenda Item 2.2 on Peace-building (Excerpt from Annotations and Background Information, paragraphs 20-35 plus Issues for Consideration)

Appendix 3: Excerpts from the Report of CCPOQ on its 10th session (Geneva, 3-4 March).

4. At the IASC-WG, there will be a briefing on the follow-up to the ACC decisions and a discussion of how the collective strengths of the IASC member organizations might be drawn on to assist in the formulation of the Strategic Framework in appropriate countries.