

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
20 June 1997

Item 7. ECHA/IASC Relationship

Principles for IASC-ECHA relationship (in any reform structure)

1. The United Nations is responsible for ensuring a forum for humanitarian coordination which includes the Red Cross Movement, non-governmental organizations and other inter-governmental organizations working in humanitarian assistance.
2. Humanitarian coordination must take place in the field and be linked to effective coordination and cooperation at the IASC-WG and IASC level.
3. The overall objective of "improved delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected population" agreed to in the Concise Terms of Reference and Action Procedures of the IASC should be respected.
4. The division of labour between IASC and ECHA must be clearly delineated, and agreed to by IASC members and its Standing Invitees.
5. The primary objectives of the IASC should remain the same:
 - a. to develop and agree on system-wide humanitarian policies;
 - b. to allocate responsibilities among agencies in humanitarian programmes;
 - c. to develop and agree on a common ethical framework for all humanitarian activities;
 - d. to advocate common humanitarian principles to parties outside the IASC;
 - e. to identify areas where gaps in mandates or lack of operational capacity exist;
 - f. to resolve disputes or disagreements about and between humanitarian agencies on system-wide humanitarian issues.
6. The key role of the IASC (indicated above in the objectives) should be respected and neither duplicated nor undermined in the terms of reference as well as the functioning of the ECHA.