

IASC WORKING GROUP

XXXVIth Meeting

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RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Action Points for consideration by the Inter-agency Standing Committee - Working Group

(To be presented by the UN Resident Coordinator in the Russian Federation, on behalf of the Country Team)

1. IASC-WG support for the UN Inter-agency Response Programme's dual track approach to addressing humanitarian and development needs stemming from the economic and financial crisis in the Russian Federation, i.e.:

- a) Expanding and accelerating current UN system assistance programming in response to needs identified by inter-agency missions in priority areas identified by the Russian Government; and
- b) Fielding an inter-agency diagnostic team to continue with the assessment process and identification of humanitarian and development needs in target areas (See TOR in Annex B).

In support of 1 (a):

2. IASC-WG support for the efforts of the Country Team members in the urgent mobilization of resources to fund projects developed by individual agencies following the inter-agency missions, and to cover other needs identified as appropriate for UN system intervention through the inter-agency response programme.

In support of 1 (b):

3. IASC-WG support in ensuring the human and financial resources necessary for the deployment of the multi-sectoral diagnostic team, through the secondment of staff and/or through cost-sharing arrangements. (See TOR at Annex B).

4. IASC-WG consideration of support for the extension of the assignment of an OCHA officer until the end of 1999 to support the Resident Coordinator and Country Team to implement the proposed response programme, including consideration of a cost-sharing arrangement to contribute to the costs of the post.

Draft Terms of Reference UN Inter-agency Diagnostic Team

ACTION: To deploy a mobile team of sectoral experts in the Russian Federation.

PURPOSE: To determine the net impact of the financial and economic crisis on affected sectors of the Russian population, in particular the most vulnerable groups, and establish priority areas for UN and/or bilateral/NGO intervention.

AIMS: To assess the humanitarian and development needs engendered by the economic and financial crisis; to devise a mechanism for the UN to better monitor these evolving needs; and to provide expert advice on how best to intervene to the Russian Government, donors and the humanitarian and development community, by:

- (1) Developing appropriate assessment mechanisms for the Russian Federation and a strategy that incorporates an early warning and contingency planning component;
- (2) Developing strategies to promote information exchange and to disseminate reliable and timely data on the situation to interested parties;
- (3) Bringing greater coherence to current methodologies used to assess vulnerability;
- (4) Identifying appropriate implementing partners for project execution in the field;
- (5) Lending expertise and training to the federal government and regional authorities on the design, development and implementation of structural rehabilitation and economic revitalization projects, with the ultimate aim of enhancing local capacities to respond to domestic needs.

COMPOSITION: Approximately five experts representing relevant sectoral interests; especially health, water & sanitation, food & agriculture, energy & transport, environment and education. In addition, a multi-sectoral analyst would be required to collate individual sector analyses and direct the production of a unified and coherent multi-sectoral response programme. Particular emphasis must be placed on utilizing Russian expertise and knowledge of local conditions.

DEPLOYMENT: The team must be mobile and deployable at short notice to areas of government, agency and donor concern. Initial deployment is for six months (May – October 1999) after which the Resident Coordinator will report to the IASC-WG on the diagnostic team's activities.

FUNDING OPTIONS:

- (1) Individual agencies to bear cost/seek external resources for deployment of their own sectoral expert;
- (2) Cost sharing among Country Team members;

- (3) Resource mobilization with bilateral donors; and
- (4) A combination of the above.