

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING-GROUP
XXXX MEETING**

Rome ~ 17-18 February 2000

STAFF SECURITY

Staff Security

In response to two serious security incidents in October 1999 in which UN staff lost their lives, the Deputy-Secretary-General chaired a meeting of Executive Heads of UN humanitarian agencies to review issues relating to staff security.

As a result of this meeting, two internal task forces were established, one to look at policy issues linking the humanitarian imperative with security considerations, and the other reviewing operational issues.

These two task forces have submitted their joint report to the Deputy-Secretary-General who is expected to take forward the main recommendations in the context of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

During the meeting of the task force, participants discussed the principles, which should guide the relations of the UN with NGOs regarding security matters. It was recalled that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been prepared by the Office of Legal Affairs which outlined the conditions under which implementing partners of UN organisations could become full partners in UN security arrangements. To date only the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) had signed a global agreement while a number of other organisations had signed agreements at the duty station level. In addition to the possibility of NGOs signing such MOUs, the issue of information sharing between UN agencies and NGOs at each duty station was discussed.

It was agreed that these questions be tackled in the context of the IASC Working Group.

It is therefore proposed that the IASC Working Group should establish a Task Force including representatives of the three NGO consortia, IOM, the Red Cross movement and a representative group of UN agencies, as well as UNSECOORD, OLA and OCHA.