

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

**New York 14-15 September 2000**

**United Nations Disaster Management Training Programme**

1. As discussed at the previous IASC-WG meeting in May, further development of the DMTP training module on "The Role and Responsibilities of the United Nations Disaster Management Team" was dependent upon the agreement of relevant agencies and organisations on the policy framework and guidelines which pertained to the functioning of UNDMTs.
2. The foundation policy giving rise to the UNDMTs is provided in General Assembly document A/43/731 (1988) which called for the creation of UN Disaster Response Teams at the country level. GA resolution 46/182 (1991) further called for the resident coordinator to chair "an emergency operations group of field representatives and experts from the system" in coordinating the humanitarian assistance of the UN system at the country level. Translating the decisions of the GA into a operational policy framework and practical guidelines was begin in the preparation of the draft UNDP/UNDRO Disaster Management Manual and in the Guidelines for Cooperation between UNDP and UNDHA established in 1993.
3. The current draft training module presents Guidelines which bring together the pertinent legislation and practical experience on the role and responsibilities of UNDMTs, including the recent conclusions of the IASC Reference Group on Natural Disasters. The text of these Guidelines is a result of consultations among IASC members and DMTP partner organisations<sup>1</sup>. Key steps in the process include: a) draft circulated 27 March, b) comments received and reviewed in a consultative meeting held 12 April, c) amended version circulated 27 June, and d) second consultative meeting held 27 July, during which additional revisions were incorporated into the current draft
4. The module comprises Guidelines which aim to provide a practical instrument to establish (where necessary) and improve the performance of the UNDMTs. Relevant Trainers' Guides in English, French, Spanish and possibly other languages will be finalised upon feedback obtained in field testing of the current draft through DMTP workshops.

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<sup>1</sup> FAO, ICVA, IFRC, IOM, NRC, OCHA, SCHR, UNCHS, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNITAR, UNOPS, UNV, WFP, WHO and WMO

5. It is suggested that the DMTP Advisory Committee, at its meeting scheduled for 29 September in Geneva agree on selection of countries for field testing and implementation modalities of the training.

**6. Recommendations:**

The IASC-WG is invited to:

1. Endorse the general framework and content of the Module as practical Guidelines for the United Nations Disaster Management Teams;
2. Follow-up within their respective organisations in order that final comments on the Module may be provided through their representatives in the DMTP Advisory Committee by 13 October 2000.
3. Support the initial field testing and implementation of the Module at country level through the participation of relevant staff and the provision of "best practices" to further develop and update the Module.