

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP  
54th MEETING**

**17-18 September 2003**

**UNFPA Headquarters, Rafael Salas (19th Floor)**

**Preparations for the Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat: Background Note**

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**Background**

The 2003 Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat is scheduled to take place on 20 to 22 November. The retreat will follow the CAP launch, scheduled to take place on 18-19 November.

With regard to preparations, a HCs' Retreat Task Force has been established within OCHA. As a first step, the task force has set out to develop the retreat's objectives and agenda for discussion.

Based on discussion and recommendations stemming from last year's Retreat, a list of possible objectives and agenda items has been drawn up and is presented hereunder.

A round of consultations with HCs has been initiated to seek their feedback and suggestions. In the same vein, the IASC-WG is invited to discuss possible key issues of concern that could be purposefully addressed at the upcoming HCs' Retreat.

**Possible Objectives of the Retreat**

1. To obtain the HCs' experience and views on their needs and priorities in the discharge of their mandate,
2. To provide a forum for HCs to gain a fuller understanding of the support available to them in the exercise of their functions,
3. To facilitate the exchange of information among HCs and between HCs, OCHA and IASC members on key humanitarian challenges, with a view at promoting cross-fertilisation of experiences and lessons learned,
4. To deepen the knowledge of HCs on specific issues relevant to their mandate and to consolidate earlier dialogue and interventions with partners in the field.

**Possible Agenda Items for Discussion:**

- ❑ Review and Lessons Learned of the 2004 CAP Launch
- ❑ Humanitarian Financing
- ❑ Civil and Military Liaisons: A Year in Review (Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, etc.)
- ❑ HC Role and Support--(a) HC ToR, (b) IDPs, (c) Strengthening human rights-related action at country level, and (d) HIV/AIDS and the role of the HCs.
- ❑ Security Issues: training, lessons learned, update from UNSECOORD
- ❑ Advocacy and Media Relations (proposed training)
- ❑ Transition Issues
- ❑ Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (as recommended by the IASC WG at the July meeting)
- ❑ Health Action in Crisis
- ❑ Strengthening Field Information Management in Support of Coordination

**Expected Decisions/Action Points by the IASC-WG:**

To consider and provide views on the possible objectives and agenda items for the 2003 Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat with a view of reaching a preliminary agreement on the above.

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