

INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE  
88<sup>TH</sup> IASC WORKING GROUP MEETING

## Agenda

10-11 MARCH 2015

HOST: FAO, ROME, QUEEN JULIANA ROOM (B324), BUILDING B, 3RD FLOOR.

### DAY 1: TUESDAY, 10 MARCH 2015

08:30-09:00 *Arrival with Coffee/Tea*

#### OPENING

09:00-09:15 **Welcoming remarks by the Host, Mr Dan Gustafson, Deputy Director-General, FAO**

(15 min) **Opening remarks by Ms Kyung-wha Kang, Chair of the Working Group**

09:15-10:00 **Keynote Speaker: Ms Emma Bonino, Former Foreign Minister of Italy and human rights activist**

(45 min)

#### 'TERRORISM' AND COUNTER-TERRORISM

10:00-11:30 **Panel 1: Overview of the counter-terrorism framework**

(90 min)

**Presenters:**

*Mr Weixiong Chen, Deputy Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate*

*Mr Alexander Evans, Coordinator of the Al-Qaida/Taliban Monitoring Team*

**Facilitator:** *Ms Kyung-wha Kang, DERC*

**Background:** In September 2014, the Security Council adopted resolution 2178 requesting UN engagement to fight the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters. This is the latest addition to a body of UN resolutions that together address terrorism as a threat to international peace and security. Member States, including key humanitarian donors and host states, have developed a wide range of domestic laws, regulations and policies on counter-terrorism with important implications for UN agencies and NGOs.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Gain awareness of the counter-terrorism framework and trends.
- Discuss the obligations of humanitarian organizations.

**Background Papers:**

*SC Resolution; Analysis by OCHA/PDSB.*

*Counter-terrorism law and regulations, what aid agencies need to know, HPN, Nov. 2014*

11:30-11:45 *Coffee/Tea Break*

11:45-13:15 **Panel 2: Challenges to Humanitarian Action**

(90 min)

**Presenters:**

*Ms Áine Fay Vice President, Programs, Concern Worldwide*

*Ms Arnhild Spence, Director of Partnership, Policy Coordination and Advocacy, WFP*

*Ms Naz K. Modirzadeh, Director, Harvard Law School Program on International Law & Armed Conflict*

**Facilitator:** *Mr Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, OCHA*

**Background:** In 2013, OCHA and the NRC released a study on the impact of donors' counter-terrorism measures on humanitarian action. The study found that in many cases, these measures had a negative impact on humanitarian action, such as halts or decreases in funding, blocking of projects, suspension of programmes or delays in project implementation. In addition, the study found that lack of clarity around the content, scope and application of counter-terrorism measures had contributed to self-censorship and negative coping strategies by humanitarian organizations.

Humanitarians are often uncertain about what form of engagement with designated "terrorist" and other armed groups is legal or acceptable, what the risks of a misstep might be and how to mitigate these risks. This uncertainty can have a further "chilling effect" on the provision of humanitarian assistance. In light of this, IASC organizations started to make the case with Member States that counter-terrorism measures should not undermine principled humanitarian action.

Simultaneously, humanitarian actors face the real risk of aid manipulation, diversion and other interference by designated terrorist organizations. Considerable investment has been made by some humanitarian organizations to minimise these risks, for example in Somalia and northern Syria. However, the broader humanitarian community lacks common good practice. For example, in some contexts, there are significant divergent practices with respect to monitoring aid distributions and responding to unacceptable demands made by non-State armed groups. This inconsistency undermines the credibility of the humanitarian community, including with respect to seeking humanitarian exemptions from counter-terrorism laws and the negotiation of grant agreements.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Identify key risks and challenges facing humanitarian actors in delivering principled humanitarian assistance to people in need whilst complying with applicable counter-terrorism obligations.
- Affirm the importance of a unified and consistent approach within the IASC with respect to interference and diversion by designated terrorist organizations.

**Background Paper:**

*Independent study on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on Humanitarian action, OCHA and NRC.*

13:15 -14:30 *Lunch, FAO Restaurant, 8th Floor*

14:30-16:00 **Panel 3: Minimizing Risk, Negotiating Access, and Enhancing Advocacy**

(90 min)

**Presenters:**

*Ms Ingrid Macdonald, NRC*

*Mr Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, OCHA*

*Mr Mark Bowden, UN Deputy Special Representative and RC/HC for Afghanistan*

**Facilitator:** Mr Brian Tisdall, Sponsor of the TT on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action, ICRC

**Background:** UN humanitarian agencies and NGOs have been criticized for failing to address aid diversion and are expected to do more to improve due diligence and comply with counter-terrorism laws and policies. The Task Team on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action has prepared concrete guidance for humanitarian organizations to address donor counter-terrorism measures whilst continuing to deliver principled humanitarian assistance to people in need. In this session, the WG will provide feedback on the draft “toolkit” and discuss elements of an advocacy strategy.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Identify good practices that humanitarian organizations should take to reduce risk, in particular with respect to aid manipulation and diversion.
- Provide feedback on the toolkit before it goes to print.
- Engage on key elements of an advocacy strategy supported by clear examples vis-à-vis governments and key stakeholders.
- Propose key messages for IASC Principals’ consideration by the end of April.

**Background Papers:**

*Draft Toolkit Outline prepared by the TT on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action*

*Draft elements for a statement prepared by the TT on Revitalizing Principled Humanitarian Action*

16:00-16:15 *Coffee/Tea break*

16.15-17:30 **Data Revolution: Opportunities and Challenges**

(75 min) **Presenter:** Mr Mark Dalton, Information Services Branch, OCHA

**Facilitator:** Mr Arafat Jamal, UNHCR

**Background:** Data are crucial for decision making and accountability. In recent years we have witnessed a true Data Revolution forcing society to adapt through innovation. In this session, OCHA will present an overview of this Revolution’s opportunities and threats from a humanitarian and coordination perspective and of OCHA information strategy and initiatives: INFORM, KOBO, Humanitarian Data Exchange, IASC new website and Humanitarian ID. In this session, Working Group members are invited to share their views on the following:

- 1 Are there any gaps in data that impedes humanitarian policy-making?
- 2 How can we better leverage data to improve response?
- 3 How do we collect and share beneficiary data?
- 4 How do we safeguard data to mitigate risk to beneficiaries?
- 5 Big data: what does it mean for humanitarians?

**Expected outcomes:**

- Get an update on OCHA’s initiatives in data management and provide feedback.
- Highlight opportunities to improve humanitarian policy-making and advocacy.

**Background papers:**

*“A World that counts- Mobilizing the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development”- Report prepared at the request of the UN SG by the Independent Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, November 2014.*

*“World Humanitarian Data and Trends 2014” OCHA. This report is part of OCHA’s efforts to improve data and analysis on humanitarian situation worldwide and build a*

*humanitarian data community.*

17.30-18:00 **Recap of the Day by the Chair**

(30 min)

19:30 *Dinner*

**Venue: Taverna Cestia, Viale della Piramide Cestia, 71, Roma, Tel: +39065743754**

## DAY 2: WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH

### HUMANITARIAN FINANCING

9:00-10:00 **Future of Humanitarian Financing**

(1 hour)

*Presenter: Ms Sandra Aviles, FAO*

*Facilitator: Mr Brian Lander, co-sponsor of Task Team on Humanitarian Financing, WFP*

Background: The UN Secretary-General is convening a High-Level Panel that will explore ways to address the humanitarian funding gap. Under the work plan of the IASC Task Team on Humanitarian Financing, CAFOD, World Vision and FAO launched the *Future Humanitarian Financing dialogues* in 2014. In November and December 2014, representatives from local and international civil society, UN agencies and funds, local and international businesses, took part in discussions in London, Amman, Bangkok and Dakar to think about solutions to the current challenges in financing response to humanitarian needs. This work was captured in a discussion paper that presents implications of the findings and recommendations on the humanitarian financing enterprise. In light of the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and the Financing for Development meeting in Addis, the proposed analysis and solutions require discussion and comments from the IASC Working Group members.

***Expected outcomes:***

- A position vis-à-vis what should be provided to the High Level Panel.

***Background Papers:***

*Terms of Reference of High-Level Panel.*

*Discussion paper on the Future of Humanitarian Financing.*

### WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

10:00-11:00 **IASC Strategic Engagement with the World Humanitarian Summit**

(1 hour)

*Presenter: Ms Kate Halfj, SCHR*

Background: The deadline to submit papers to the WHS Secretariat is July 2015. There are a number of regional consultations remaining in 2015 and the global consultations scheduled for October 2015 in Geneva. The purpose of this session is to determine whether the IASC Working Group would like to make recommendations to IASC Principals, for consideration in their May meeting, for collective influence in the Summit, and if so on what issue(s).

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Identify key recommendations to be put forward for the Principals' spring meeting.
- Identify areas where the IASC expect more work to be done on the WHS outcomes in order to refine the focus of the debate.

**Discussion paper:**

IASC engagement with the World Humanitarian Summit: strategic options.

11:00-11:15 *Coffee/Tea Break*

11:15-12:00

**PHILIPPINES EVALUATION MANAGEMENT RESPONSE**

(45 min)

**Presenter:** Ms Astrid Van Genderen Stort, Chief, IASC Secretariat

**Facilitator:** Ms Kyung-wha Kang, Chair of the Working Group

Background: In the second half of 2014, an Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation was undertaken on the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. This first evaluation of a L3 response put forward a number of recommendations for consideration in later L3 responses. It was agreed that an action plan for addressing the recommendations would be developed by the IASC Working Group in early 2015 and subsequently shared with the IASC Principals. With support from OCHA's Strategic Planning, Evaluation and Guidance Section, a draft Management Response Matrix was developed which has been shared with the WG members. Input on this is being gathered by the IASC secretariat. From this matrix a Management Response Plan will be developed after the WG which will be shared electronically.

**Expected Outcome:**

- Decide how the IASC should respond to the recommendations of the evaluation.

**Background Paper:**

*Summary of Evaluation*

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS, SUMMARY AND CLOSING**

12:00-13:00

**AOB**

(1 hour)

- ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (Mr Hansjoerg Strohmeyer)
- Brief update on the Protection Review (Ms Louise Aubin by VC)
- Update on the Gender Review of the IASC gender policy
- Update on the revised "Saving Lives Together" framework

**Summary of Decisions and Action Points of Meeting, WG Chair**

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Agreement by the WG on the draft decisions and action points

**CLOSE OF MEETING**