IASC PRINCIPALS AD HOC MEETING

SOUTH SUDAN

23 May 2014

 **Final Summary and Action Points**

**Summary of Discussions:**

The IASC met to discuss the recommendations by the Emergency Directors and the Humanitarian Country Team for a six-month extension of the L3 in South Sudan in view of the deterioration of the situation. The Chair expressed concern that the IASC was using the L3 to demonstrate seriousness, whereas it should be based on necessity and added value. Comments were invited on the impact of the L3 activation to date and the benefits of extension.

*On the impact of the L3 activation, participants noted three main points:*

* More flexible procedures have enabled UN agencies to fast-track recruitment and procurement and to scale up operations significantly, thus helping the HCT to reach more people.
* The empowered leadership of the HC and the DHC has allowed for quicker decision-making.
* USD 600 million pledged by donors in Oslo.

*On the possible extension of the L3, the following points were raised:*

* Extending the L3 does not necessarily mean that the response will improve unless the challenges around logistics, security, access and funding are addressed. Funding is urgently needed in order to scale up, as capacity and resources are stretched between Syria, CAR and South Sudan. The pledges made in Oslo will not immediately be translated into response on the ground. An extension of the L3 would not lead to an automatic scale up.
* Given the sheer size and numbers affected by the crisis, an extension of the L3 would be the right thing to do in terms of response. The credibility of the IASC with donors would suffer should the L3 not be extended.
* Donors should be encouraged to turn their pledges into commitments. The high cost of doing business in South Sudan, especially outside of Juba, should be highlighted, particularly the conditions and the need for psychosocial support for staff.
* The strong logistics support available under L3 must continue.
* Continuing the empowered leadership model for the HC and ensuring its applicability to the Deputy HC would accelerate decision-making.
* Extension of the L3 would enable the continued deployment of experts, but the need for longer-term staff presence and expanding field presence was raised.
* Concerns were also raised about protection issues; food security (the risk of famine); the upcoming rainy season and the potential spread of diseases – such as cholera – spreading; and the need to prevent a break in the supply pipeline.

It was also suggested to look at the impact on the region overall. In communications, particularly with donors, the rationale for the L3 extension must be clearly articulated and expectations must be managed while explaining that it is an important crisis for the IASC to address. Many organizations are already operating at an L3 level and cannot increase the level of response without the challenges being addressed.

The emerging informal hierarchy of L3s was raised: Syria, South Sudan and – at the very bottom – CAR. Renewed attention from the Principals is required to provide the leadership and resourcing needed in CAR. Issues around leadership in the HCT will be discussed bilaterally by the ERC.

***Action Points:***

*The IASC Principals agreed to:*

1. *Extend the L3 activation in South Sudan for six months.* ***Action by****: IASC immediately.*
2. *Convene an IASC Principals meeting well before the six-month deadline to review operations and what the L3 has achieved.* ***Action by:*** *IASC Secretariat before
November 2014.*

*IASC Secretariat, 29 May 2014*