

## Concept Note

### Inter-Agency Standing Committee

and

### UN Chief Executives Board Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Organizations of the UN System

### Second Meeting of Investigatory Bodies on Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

4 November 2019, 9h-17h00, Geneva

#### **Background**

In 2018, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agreed on collective actions, endorsing an IASC Strategy proposed by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the IASC Champions, UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

The IASC Strategy, complemented by the IASC Plan for Accelerating Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Response at Country-Level, focuses on three priority areas: safe and accessible reporting, victim and survivor centered assistance and protection, and increased accountability, including investigations. Among others, this entails strengthening the capacity of investigation functions within the IASC and ensure that allegations of sexual misconduct are met with a robust investigative process based on a victim and survivor centered-approach.

On 26 November 2018, the Chief Executives Board (CEB) and the IASC secretariats, with financial support from UNHCR, brought together 80 heads and senior staff of investigatory bodies, from the CEB Task Force and of the IASC, to consider how to work collectively to achieve enhanced capacity, harmonized and complementary approaches and cooperation among investigatory bodies across the United Nations entities and partners.

The meeting resulted in recommendations to strengthen a victims-centered approach to investigations, and to harmonize approaches to define roles, improve coordination and strengthen investigative capacity, 3 recommendations around the exchange of knowledge and three forward-looking recommendations, including to convene a follow-up meeting.

This second meeting will review progress against recommendations from the 2018 meeting and provide an opportunity to highlight and share good practice. In October 2018, the CEB Task Force on Sexual Harassment established an Investigations sub-stream, which has advanced several recommendations.

The follow-up meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual UNRIS meeting, scheduled for November 2019 in Geneva.

## **Rationale and objectives**

The main objectives are to:

- (1) Follow-up on the recommendations proposed in the 26 November 2018 Investigations Meeting;
- (2) Take stock of progress made by the CEB Task Force on Sexual Harassment work on investigations
- (3) Review status of common guidance and initiatives for possible adoption by IASC agencies;

The meeting is jointly organized by the IASC and CEB Secretariats.

## **Participants**

The meeting will include Heads of Investigatory Services or those directly involved with investigations and include representatives of UNRIS, the IASC, the CEB Task Force on Sexual Harassment, heads of the investigatory bodies and oversight of CEB, IASC members and observers, as well as field representatives.