

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE**

**DEPUTIES FORUM**

**SUMMARY RECORD AND ACTION POINTS**

**28 March 2022**

Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator (DERC) and Chair of the IASC Deputies Forum, convened the meeting to discuss the follow up to the IASC External Review of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and sexual harassment (PSEAH) and the independent Review of the IASC's response to the humanitarian assistance and protection of Internally Displaced Populations (IDPs).

**Session 1: Follow up to the External Review of the IASC's Approach to PSEAH**

The Chair recognized the efforts that the IASC made to prevent sexual misconduct from occurring and, should it occur, prioritize support to victims and hold perpetrators to account. The IASC PSEAH Champions played a critical role leading a collective approach. She thanked UNFPA for commissioning the 2021 IASC External Review of PSEA and Sexual Harassment, which shed light on progress and gaps in addressing sexual misconduct in the system. The Chair noted that sexual exploitation and abuse continued to occur despite individual and collective investments to reinforce protection from sexual abuse and exploitation. Likewise, prevention efforts needed to be in place at the outset of the response with predictable resources allocated to support leadership and respond to allegations. Against this backdrop, the meeting would consider the draft multi-year PSEA/H vision and Strategy for 2022-2026, which was a key recommendation from the external Review, and consider collective actions and commitments to better protect from sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment. Against, this backdrop, the DERC welcomed the multi-year IASC PSEA strategy put forward, thanking the Deputies for their feedback to ensure that the IASC, as a collective, focuses on concrete actions that need to be taken forward to address the gaps identified in the review. She noted that the Strategy represented a high-level strategy with prioritized targets and should be complemented by an annual workplan.

**Introduction**

Mr. Justin Byworth, World Vision International/SCHR, presented their priorities as IASC PSEA Champions for 2022, noting that these were closely aligned with the IASC PSEA multi-year strategy. He expressed support for the proposed IASC PSEA Strategy and underscored the importance of resourcing to enable its implementation. The IASC Champion pledged to effectively address the need for capacity to support operational leadership through a proposal to ensure resourcing for in-country PSEA coordinators. Finally, Mr. Byworth noted the importance of identifying the next PSEA Champion early on to ensure continuity and work together to achieve outcomes.

## Discussion

IASC Deputies expressed broad support to the Strategy noting that it reflected the recommendations of the external Review, was a collaborative effort, and aligned with the current IASC Champion priorities. They appreciated the development of time-bound targets which will be critical to holding the system to account to make progress on PSEA/SH. Likewise, they welcomed references to building an organizational culture that prevents and mitigates risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and that recognizes differences in power as a key driver of sexual misconduct. They noted the importance of maintaining a predictable and sustainable roster of senior PSEA experts, having PSEA capacity to support operational leadership, ensuring systematic funding for PSEA from the outset, developing metrics to hold humanitarian organizations accountable to affected people, especially women and girls, considering a common approach to sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment and ensuring a collective understanding to victim centered approach, further harmonizing investigative practices, and constructively engaging with governments on impunity and supporting national efforts was highlighted. In terms of harmonizing approaches, Deputies agreed that a joint meeting of the UN Chief Executive Board's Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment and the IASC Deputies Group would be useful.

Several IASC Deputies noted that the PSEA Technical Advisory Group should be formalized with clear terms of reference, membership and workplan with a liaison to the IASC Deputies Group. Likewise, further complementarities could be explored with the UN High Level Steering Group and the use of UN human rights screening framework, which could be useful in background checks during recruitment processes. Some IASC Deputies felt that an emphasis on prevention could be made more apparent in the Strategy. In relation to harmonization of efforts on investigations, members noted the importance of ensuring clear entry points for NGOs to feed into at country and global levels.

There were also calls for IASC members to work collectively to develop a proposal for an improved SEA complaint mechanism that will have collective ownership of IASC members. In addition, IASC Deputies stressed the importance of partnerships in tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and noted the importance of dedicating resources to all relevant operations with risk of SEA, cautioning against prioritizing high risk countries only. Some members requested periodical reviews to take stock of progress on the Strategy and adjust the course of action accordingly.

The Chair concluded the discussion by noting that there was convergence to endorse the Strategy, with some requests to sharpen the focus. There was also a request for an IASC workplan to be elaborated that will outline who does what and a periodic review to take stock of where we are and lessons from implementation. There is a need to focus on funding to ensure we have financial and human resources to take forward the Strategy.

## Conclusions and Follow-up Actions:

1. Submit the 2022-2026 PSEA/H Strategy for endorsement by the IASC Principals and implementation **(Deputies Group)**.
2. Develop terms of reference, workplan identifying who will do what and by when to support the implementation of the Strategy and liaison with the IASC Deputies Group **(IASC PSEA Technical Advisory Group)**

3. Organize a joint meeting between the IASC Deputies Group and CEB Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment (**IASC secretariat**)
4. Advocate for and provide dedicated human and financial resources to take forward the Strategy collectively (**Deputies Group**)

## **Session 2: Independent Review of Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement**

The Chair recalled that the IASC Deputies Group previously held two discussions on the follow-up to the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement report. The Deputies Group agreed to commission an independent review of humanitarian response to internal displacement in line with the Panel's recommendations. OCHA was tasked to produce draft Terms of Reference for the planned Review in consultation with IASC members. The decision of the IASC to undertake this Review was featured in the Secretary-General's draft Action Agenda, which is currently being consulted with the Member States. A concept note that reflects the views of the IASC members was circulated ahead of the meeting. The Chair expressed support for the proposed scope of the Review and called for the Deputies' feedback to ensure a sharp focus and manage expectations from the Review. In this respect, it was important for the Review to focus on how the humanitarian system could improve assistance to and protection of internally displaced persons while laying the groundwork for solutions. In terms of the selection of the Review Team, the recent Review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy provided a good template for this exercise with a competitive tender used to select a team. A subset of IASC members would form a group and select a team on the basis of objective and agreed-upon criteria.

### **Discussion**

The IASC Deputies reiterated their overwhelming support for the independent Review. They agreed that the concept note articulated all relevant issues to be considered in the Review and struck the right balance. They noted the importance of sharpening the focus of the concept note by prioritizing key issues such as leadership, coordination, and financing in particular and ensuring that Review remains within the remit of the IASC. There was also broad support on ensuring that the Review looks at how the IASC system can lay a better groundwork for solutions.

Members discussed the importance of examining current operational aspects and challenges of the humanitarian response to internal displacement and looking at the effectiveness of the current systems in places. They reflected that the humanitarian system had come a long way since the Transformative Agenda, and therefore, a fresh look was necessary by examining both country-level challenges and guidance and tools at the global level. Likewise, there were calls to ensure the Review is based on a robust evidence base with forward-looking recommendations and is not duplicative. Members noted that current systems were often seen as heavy and process-oriented and review recommendations should build upon decades of progress in humanitarian action, instead of reinventing the wheel. Likewise, the importance of engagement with governments and local authorities in displacement settings in a principled approach was highlighted. In addition, several members emphasized that financing and resourcing will be critical to take forward recommendations from the Review and such recommendations had to be feasible and forward looking.

The Chair concluded the discussion by noting that there was broad support for the review and acknowledged the need to ensure a clear focus for the Review and consult IASC members in

selecting a team undertaking the review. The Chair called upon IASC members to collectively advocate for funding in support of the Review.

**Conclusions and Follow-up Action Points:**

1. Endorse the concept note by ensuring a sharpened focus of the Review by prioritizing coordination, leadership and protection. **(Deputies Group)**.
2. Support advocacy efforts with donors to fund the Review **(Deputies Group)**
3. Build upon the model of the Review of the implementation of the IASC Protection Policy in selecting the Consultancy Team. **(Deputies Group)**

**Session 3: AOB**

**International Migration Review Forum**

Ms. Amy Pope, Deputy Director, IOM, briefed members on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the upcoming International Migration Review Forum (IMRF). Ms. Pope noted that the Secretary-General's most recent report on the compact demonstrated migration has remained ubiquitous, as evidenced in the COVID-19 response. The IMRF would provide an opportunity to review the Global Compact on Migration, assess its impact, and make sure that it is relevant, timely, and focused on practical outcomes. IOM was planning a pledging campaign and proposed a common pledge from the IASC in support of IMRF.

**IASC Deputies Group Forward Agenda**

Ms. Mervat Shelbaya, Chief, IASC secretariat, briefed IASC Deputies on the forward agenda. She discussed the recent endorsement of the cash coordination model by IASC Principals and noted that the IASC Deputies would meet in the near future to consider the practical steps to roll out and implement this model. Likewise, the climate crisis was another important priority for the Deputies, as suggested by IASC Principals, particularly in terms of considering what the IASC needs to do around addressing and mitigating the impact of the climate crisis. Finally, other priority areas included increased collaboration with the Grand Bargain around localization, the participation revolution, as well as driving change on findings and recommendations of the IAHE on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

**Conclusions and Follow-up Action Points:**

1. Share a draft pledge in support of IMRF for consideration by the IASC Deputies Group **(IOM)**
2. Circulate forward agenda for IASC Deputies Group **(IASC secretariat)**

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## List of Participants

1. Ms. Joyce Msuya, **Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator**
2. Ms. Jennifer Poidatz, Vice President, Humanitarian Response, **Catholic Relief Services**
3. Mr. Rein Paulsen, Director, Office of Emergencies and Resilience, **FAO**
4. Ms. Filipa Schmitz Guinote, Head of Diplomacy, **ICRC**
5. Ms. Shahin Ashraf, Vice-Chair of ICVA (Head, Global Advocacy, Islamic Relief Worldwide)
6. Ms. Mirela Shuteriqi, Director of Policy, **ICVA**
7. Mr. Julien Schopp, Vice President, Humanitarian Policy and Practice, **InterAction**
8. Ms. Petra Demarin, Senior Advisor, Humanitarian Diplomacy and Interagency Engagement, **IFRC**
9. Ms. Amy E. Pope, Deputy Director General for Management and Reform, **IOM**
10. Mr. Nada Al-Nashif, Deputy High Commissioner, **OHCHR**
11. Mr. Gareth Price Jones, Executive Secretary, **SCHR**
12. Ms. Lydia Zigomo, Global Programs Director, **SCHR - Oxfam International**
13. Mr. Justin Byworth, Global Lead – Disaster Management, **SCHR-World Vision**
14. Ms. Kim Mancini, Legal Adviser to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, **Office of the UN SR on HR of IDPs**
15. Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau, **UNDP**
16. Mr. Ib Petersen, Deputy Executive Director, **UNFPA**
17. Mr. Raf Tuts, Director Global Solutions Division and the Officer-in-Charge, **UN-Habitat**
18. Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, **UNHCR**
19. Mr. Omar Abdi, Deputy Executive Director for Programme, **UNICEF**
20. Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, **WFP**
21. Dr. Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Director General for Emergency Response, **WHO**
22. Ms. Maria Dimitriadou, Special Representative to the UN and WTO for the Geneva Office, **World Bank**
23. Ms. Mervat Shelbaya, Head, IASC secretariat