Organisational Aspects

The IASC Informal Forum on Humanitarian Civil-Military Relations will be composed of IASC members and standing invitees involved in humanitarian civil-military coordination. Additional attendees or external participants may be invited, as agreed.

The IASC Forum will be jointly chaired by OCHA/CMCS and InterAction.

The IASC Informal Forum will meet at least twice a year, at OCHA/CMCS Geneva offices, or at the co-chair’s premises.

The co-chairs of the IASC Informal Forum will report back to the IASC Working Group at its annual meeting in November.

In accordance with the Action Points of the 75th IASC WG meeting, the IASC Informal Forum will consider the possibility of a formal structure in future, if agreed by the IASC Working Group.

Terms of Reference

The IASC Informal Forum on Humanitarian Civil-Military Relations will:

- Identify linkages and common issues of interest with other IASC bodies, including the Core Group on Humanitarian Space, the Steering Group on Security and the Focal Point Group on Integration and ensure such issues under consideration are coordinated.
- Work towards improved communication, dialogue and information sharing related to humanitarian civil-military coordination within the humanitarian community.
- Share respective organisational issues, views and approaches, in operational and policy issues, in order to gain a common understanding of various positions within the IASC framework.
- Contribute to improved coordination of humanitarian activities with the military in humanitarian emergency operations, including preparedness through contingency planning, training and participation in military exercises.
- Share, identify and review issues related to humanitarian civil-military coordination in field operations, including staff deployments and asset utilisation, thereby ensuring added operational cohesion in emergencies.
- Share views and information on the development of various documents related to humanitarian civil-military coordination, as well as other related documents.
- Share views and information on the various extant documents related to humanitarian civil-military coordination and consider issues for amendment, as applicable.
- Share views and/or develop input to civil-military related extant or developing doctrines and practices by military entities or member states.
- Share best practice and draw on / refer to related standards and guidelines on humanitarian civil-military coordination.
- Raise awareness and advocate for the use of principled frameworks of action in regard to military ‘CIMIC’ doctrine and practice, ‘Quick Impact Projects’; and other involvement in relief/rehabilitation work.

- Identify and pursue a strategy to influence the doctrines and rules of engagement of military forces and their governments in the context of issues such as protection of civilians, humanitarian space and peacekeeping missions.

- Mainstream a coherent approach to Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in the field.

- Identify policy issues and gaps; prepare options for submission to and consideration by the IASC Working Group.