

## **Global Humanitarian Platform, Working Level Group**

**7 May 2007, 03h30-05h00 pm**

**OCHA, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

### Participants:

Kasidis Rochanakorn (OCHA, co-chair), Eva von Oelreich (SCHR, co-chair), Robert Mister (Federation), Johanna Grombach (ICRC), Manisha Thomas (ICVA, on the phone), Robbie Thomson (ICVA, on the phone), Jim Bishop (Interaction, on the phone), Mark Prasopa-Plaizier (Oxfam), Pierrette Vu Thi (UNICEF), Alan Jury (WFP, on the phone), Giammichele de Maio (WFP, on the phone), Jutta Neitzel (WFP, on the phone), Marilena Viviani (IASC Secretariat), Jamie McGoldrick (OCHA), Norwin Schafferer (IASC Secretariat)

Excused: VOICE, HCR, IOM

### 1. Update on field consultations

OCHA/IASC sent out the cover letter on PoP consultations on Friday, May 4. Feedback requested by June 15. All agencies/organisations are now requested to send the letter to their respective constituencies and provide necessary support to the field contexts.

There is still a great deal of confusion in the field about the goal of this process. Some NGOs had a pre-meeting in some of the countries to clarify misunderstandings. The UN will clarify a number of misunderstandings with the respective HCs (during the HC retreat in Geneva this week).

A particularly important clarification is the clear distinction to be made between the GHP and the UN humanitarian reform.

The two focal points in each country (HC for the UN side and NGO convener<sup>1</sup> for the non-UN side) are requested to convey the feedback from each country. Although the cover letter implies this, it seems necessary to clarify it.

Though the feed-back is requested by June 15, the focal points should be encouraged to provide early views.

Feed-back from other sources (other countries) is welcome but must be consolidated by the organization receiving it.

**Action point: OCHA to brief relevant HC; Federation to brief relevant person in El Salvador. OCHA and SCHR to organise conference calls with the focal points in the field.**

### 2. Meeting of the Global Humanitarian Platform, 11-12 July 2007

- i. Feedback from the Steering Committee meeting in New York, 30 April<sup>2</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Care in Zimbabwe, Oxfam in Indonesia, LWF in El Salvador

<sup>2</sup> A draft record was circulated during the meeting to those present in the meeting room

The Steering Committee members reaffirmed the importance that the meeting be mainly about dialogue and avoid too many background papers. They agreed that the main theme of the July meeting shall be "Working through our diversity to achieve a common purpose". They stressed that the meeting must seek ways to overcome the considerable gap between the aspiration and ambition expressed in the PoPs and today's reality in the field. The dialogue shall be genuine and candid, whereby even "strong" ideas can be exchanged.

WFP voiced concern around an agenda that might be weak on substance and outcome. SCHR commented that early input from the field indicates much substance, but flagged the limited time for consolidating and prioritising issues for the detailed agenda in June. OCHA and ICVA agreed to analyse field input to be able to prioritise results-oriented action.

A commonly heard comment on the PoP is that they are too idealistic. Everybody agrees with them. The real issue, however, is how to make them reality. Achieving equality between all humanitarian actors, for example, might seem unrealistic. It could be argued, however, that humanitarian actors are equal in some respects and less or not equal in other respects. The July discussions on this principle should help unpack this.

The July meeting is one step in a three year process that was started last year. It must lay out the work to be done until the meeting in July 2008.

**Action point: IASC Secretariat to circulate record of Steering Committee Meeting as soon as finalised. ICVA and OCHA to consolidate field input for SC meeting 26 June.**

ii. Participation update

Twenty-two organisations/agencies have confirmed participation so far. The 1+1 formula was maintained in that the Federation will provide two rooms, one for the principals and one "salle d'écoute" for the other participant.

**Action Point: A reminder will be sent out by invitation senders to those who have not responded yet.**

iii. Final list of invitations

ICVA has not yet identified the two Islamic NGOs that could be added to the list of invitees.

**Action point: ICVA to submit to WLG co-chairs for endorsement the two additional names by Friday May 11;**

iv. Preliminary agenda

A smaller group should be tasked to work on the agenda. A sub-group comprising ICVA (Manisha), ICRC (Johanna) and OCHA/HRSU (Jamie) will work on an annotated agenda. The feed-back from the field might influence the final agenda. Participants from the field must be given a chance to provide specific field feed-back.

**Action point: Sub-group to send agenda proposal to WLG members by May 25. Preliminary agenda (together with logistics information) will be sent to the participants by May 31. Logistics information to be provided by IASC secretariat by the same dates.**

v. Proposed key note speakers, other speakers, facilitators

A number of keynote speakers were proposed by the Steering Committee. Oxfam will enquire whether Graça Machel would be available. Response expected as soon as possible. Beth Ferris would be an excellent choice as facilitator for the whole day. Richard Blewitt is also a possibility. Antonio Donini was suggested as a speaker to present challenges the GHP might face.

It was pointed out that the principals are not particularly interested in others (outsiders) talking too much.

**Action point: Agenda sub-group to propose final choice of keynote speakers, facilitator etc.**

vi. Overall cost of event and final offers of sharing of costs

OCHA/IASC Secretariat leads on figuring out cost sharing arrangements.

Commitments to date:

- o Reception (July 11) hosted and paid for by ICRC (1+1 participants)
- o Venue (July 12) at Federation
- o Travel etc. (excl. meals) for southern NGO participants paid for by ICVA
- o OCHA will pick up bits and piece such as stationary etc.

Still outstanding:

- o Lunch on July 12 (1+1 only if funding can be secured)
- o Guest speaker (if necessary)

**Action point: OCHA/IASC Secretariat to circulate check-list indicating outstanding cost sharing items to encourage and ensure contributions.**

3. Next WLG meeting

- i. **Next WLG meeting: June 22, 15h30 to 17h00, at Federation (tbc)**
- ii. **Next Steering Committee meeting: June 26 afternoon (venue to be determined)**

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