

**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**19<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**27-28 September 2000**

**AGENDA ITEM 5 (COORDINATION)**

**Outline of presentation by**

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**INTRODUCTION**

- Since the last meeting of the Standing Committee on 5-7 July 2000, the Humanitarian Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) took place in New York on 19-21 July. It was preceded by the Operational Activities Segment on 13-18 July. The items of relevance to UNHCR in these Segments were internally displaced persons (IDPs), coordination between humanitarian assistance, and peace-building and development. Due to the divergence of views on IDPs between ECOSOC members, there were no agreed conclusions as in last year's Humanitarian Segment.
- IDP situations figured prominently also in the meeting of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group (WG) held in New York on 14-15 September. The meeting further dealt with country situations, notably Somalia and Indonesia, as well as the drought-affected Horn of Africa and Central Asia. In addition, the schedule for the 2001 CAP launches was approved. The meeting endorsed the NGO-led SPHERE project as an important tool for anyone working with populations affected by disasters.
- The Executive Committee for Peace and Security and that for Humanitarian Affairs have met regularly to discuss individual country situations. Both Committees have also touched upon various aspects of the Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, the so-called Brahimi report (A/55/305-S/2000/809).
- The sub-bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) have held meetings in preparation for the Fall Session to be held in New York on 27 and 28 October.
- ACC will continue to discuss sub-themes within an overall theme "The demands placed on national and international systems by the new global environment". The sub-themes in the Fall Session are: health and other social implications of globalization and financing for development. The agenda will also include the review of ACC mechanisms and a retreat of the ACC membership.
- At its Spring Session, ACC decided to accord continuing high priority to the issue of staff safety and security. In view of the tragic killings of UNHCR staff in Indonesia and Guinea, the High Commissioner is giving priority attention to the enhancement of staff safety and security, including through ACC.

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)**

- The Humanitarian Segment of ECOSOC commenced with a panel discussion on situations of internal displacement on 19 July 2000. The discussion was moderated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator a.i. Its participants were: The High Commissioner for Refugees, Executive Director of UNICEF, Director-General of ICRC, Representative of the Secretary-General for IDPs as well as the Humanitarian Coordinators in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Georgia.
- Major issues touched upon during the panel discussion included coordination mechanisms and options, resourcing and funding of programmes for IDPs, the role of the Consolidated Appeals, responsibilities for IDPs as well as the role and legal status of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.
- The High Commissioner elaborated upon the criteria for UNHCR involvement with IDPs, which spanned over 30 years. As to coordination, she noted that no single agency has the capacity to

deal with IDPs on its own. Inter-agency collaboration and coordination are essential. She expressed support for a collaborative approach and for IASC's efforts to improve the process in implementing such an approach. In her view, the current process is too slow and unpredictable; rapid allocation of responsibilities and accountabilities is needed. She further called for greater international political engagement, clearer guarantees for humanitarian access and security as well as large and sustained commitment of resources.

- During the General Debate, the Emergency Relief Coordinator a.i. announced the appointment of a senior coordinator in OCHA. The terms of reference of this Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement were later approved by the IASC-WG in its meeting in New York on 14-15 September. The meeting further welcomed the appointment of Mr. Dennis McNamara to this position and expressed full support for the establishment of a Senior Network on Internal Displacement, led by Mr. McNamara, with focal points in the agencies.
- The purpose of the Senior Network is to conduct reviews of critical situations of internal displacement and to ensure that the United Nations system has an effective response to the protection and assistance needs of IDPs and a coherent coordination structure in place. Subject to further dialogue within the IASC mechanism, such reviews will initially be carried out in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Angola, Burundi and Colombia. At the initiative of UNHCR, inter-agency missions to these countries will also assess existing coordination mechanisms with a view to recommending any changes for improvements.

#### **COORDINATION; HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, PEACE-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT**

- UNHCR's efforts to catalyze efforts by development and financial institutions to effectively link humanitarian and development aid was demonstrated in the course of the Operational Activities Segment of ECOSOC, held in New York on 13-18 July 2000.
- In the context of a presentation of the activities of the United Nations team in Ghana, a UNHCR field representative elaborated on such linkages: the work of the country team is organized to ensure that integrated responses are provided to respond to the development needs of the country, the civil society and the private sector. The United Nations country team and the Bretton Woods institutions contribute to UNHCR programmes in areas such as education, food, health, sanitation and skills training for refugees.

#### **THE BRAHIMI REPORT**

- The Brahimi Report has sparked off an intensive follow-up in New York. The UN Secretary-General has requested the Deputy Secretary-General to form a Working Group, within which a number of sub-groups are dealing with specific recommendations of the Report. The Implementation Plan of the Report is due in mid-October.
- UNHCR has identified some 10 areas within the Report's recommendations to which it plans to contribute. These include: preventive action; peace-building; peacekeeping doctrine and strategy; establishment of ECPS Information and Strategy Analysis Secretariat (EISAS) and Integrated Mission Task Forces (IMTF); transitional civil administration; and peace operations and information age.
- The focus of ECPS has so far been on establishing a plan to strengthen the United Nations' permanent capacity to develop peace-building strategies and to implement programmes in support of such strategies. ECPS has also considered how to implement the plan to create EISAS and IMTF. It is further considering how to make ECPS a more action-oriented and analytical Committee. The Brahimi Report includes the view that ECPS has not become the decision-making body foreseen in the 1997 reform by the Secretary-General.
- ECHA is being kept informed and is also discussing the implementation of the Brahimi Report. The intention is to also factor in the concerns at the field level to the implementation plans.

## SECURITY

- Safety and security of humanitarian workers and beneficiaries of humanitarian programmes has dominated the proceedings of all inter-agency fora. In the IASC/WG meeting in New York on 14-15 September, UNHCR briefed on the killings of three of its staff in West Timor, Indonesia.
- The presence of agencies at the memorial services and marches for the victims (including UNHCR's staff member in Guinea), has demonstrated joint grave concern for safety and security of staff. The urgency of improvements is underscored by all.
- In the meetings of ECHA, focus has been on field security and funding of security arrangements, notably in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola. Due to the difficulties in cost-sharing arrangements for the provision of security, other mechanisms, such as the use of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund (CERF), have been considered.
- ECHA has also considered the Report of a UNDP-led mission to Kisangani. This mission assessed the destruction of the city as "dramatic" and made specific recommendations ranging from the enhancement of security and support, to infrastructural rehabilitation and micro-finance initiatives.

## CAP 2001 LAUNCHES

- There is a general agreement among the IASC members that the 2001 CAPs will be launched - for the first time – in a decentralized manner in different capitals on 28-29 October. There is also convergence of views that the theme of the launches should touch on women and conflict. The Secretary-General will lead the launch in New York. The High Commissioner for Refugees has accepted to launch the CAPs on 28 November, possibly in Geneva. The plan for other launches is being finalized.