

UNHCR'S EXPANDED ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE INTER-AGENCY RESPONSE TO
INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT SITUATIONS
Informal Consultative Meeting (12 September 2006)

Chairman's Recap

- Firstly, there was strong continuing support for the cluster approach and UNHCR's involvement in it.
- Secondly, views were expressed that inter-agency cooperation should be more fully explained, and fortified as well.
- Thirdly, need of vision or a long-term projection was stressed in view of the importance, nature and size of the problem.
- ExCom Members would not want to put themselves in any situations without being there consciously. Members need to be kept informed of developments. Recalling Executive Committee and Standing Committee conclusions and discussions, Members always maintained UNHCR's role should be within its mandate and that refugee funding should not be diverted. These requirements remain and it is the responsibility of Members whether to review or revisit these or not. The notion that we should not just let the situation drive us there was shown by Members and UNHCR.
- On the financing issues, if, as some countries say, more than 50 per cent of the people of concern will be internally displaced people, some time in the future such programmes may be mainstreamed. How to come to a conclusion on this issue must, however, be discussed in an open-minded manner. Members need to know what kind of countries will be in the roll-out and how will that be expanded. Members need to know what sort of projects are being considered, rather than just to discuss the budget.
- As this is arguably the most important issue ahead of UNHCR, relating as it does to budget and personnel issues as well as indeed the whole operation of UNHCR, opportunities should be taken to discuss the issue further at the upcoming Standing Committee meeting under the budget item, as well as at the forthcoming Executive Committee meeting.

14 September 2006