Minutes of Ethiopia Logistics Cluster Meeting

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 12 April 2006

Opening Remarks by Mr. Ioannis Katsaros, Head of Logistics, WFP Ethiopia
The Cluster approach, of which Logistics is one among many humanitarian identified, is agreed to at a global level by the Inter Agency Standing Committee, last December 2005. WFP is asked to take the lead in establishing and leading the Logistics Cluster and that is why the Chair is already identified.

For Ethiopia, the Cluster approach would improvise on the previous Logistics and Procurement Coordination meetings and the one of shipping meetings. The focus of the cluster approach is identifying the logistics gaps and jointly finding ways to tackle the gaps. The cluster approach provides a common platform for exchange of information and addressing logistics related problems.

The Chair also highlighted that the **Regional Logistics Cluster Support Cell** has been established based in Nairobi. The overall cluster approach is critical in that it is expected to enhance the overall ability of the Humanitarian Coordination. Central to the approach is the recognition of the need to strengthen our humanitarian response capacity. Effective inter agency logistics responses broad enough to include relevant host Government Departments (such as the DPPA), the UN agencies, International and local NGOs.

Remarks by Participants:
The following points were highlighted by participants:

- The common platform is clearly beneficial to all participants;
- More potential members should be invited for the next meeting;
- The TOR presented is generic and a more specific TOR must be adopted;
- Further discussion on the types and format of data to be compiled for common use;
- Key logistics indicators need to be identified and regularly updated at the common logistics platform;
- Possible source additional funding/support may be identified by participants;

Next Steps:
- Review and updating on the content of the TOR for the next meeting;
- Identification of support staff who would be serving the common resource and status of funding would be updated on the next meeting;
- More agencies will be invited on the next meeting and the ones present are also expected to pass on the message to their respective organizations and commit their respective organizations to the Cluster.

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