

Concept Note
Inter-Agency Standing Committee
and
UN Chief Executives Board Task Force on Addressing Sexual Harassment in
the Organizations of the UN System
Meeting of Investigatory Bodies on Protection from Sexual
Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

Salle XXVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva
26 November 2018

I. Background

The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General has given his highest priority to developing a system-wide approach to addressing both sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment across the global UN system. The implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's comprehensive strategy to transform the system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) outlined in his 2017 report on *Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: a new approach*¹ will improve and strengthen the investigative capacity in SEA cases for the United Nations system. UN system entities and partners are developing principles and guidelines concerning investigations to harmonize standards, align methods, ensure consistency and integrate a victim-centred approach.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee ([IASC](#)) has also committed to accelerate action to improve and scale up investigatory response and capacity in the humanitarian sector. As the primary coordination mechanism related to humanitarian assistance, the IASC is comprised of the main operational UN, NGO and partner agencies and chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Mark Lowcock. On 31 May 2018, IASC Principals iterated their commitment to collectively strengthen the humanitarian sector's approach to preventing SEA and sexual harassment and abuse against aid workers. They agreed on measures to strengthen the investigative capacity of agencies; share good practices on how IASC agencies prevent, investigate and respond to SEA and sexual harassment; and prevent perpetrators from moving through the sector (see [Chair's statement](#) of 1 June 2018). The IASC established a US\$1 million fund, managed by OCHA, to provide rapid grants to IASC entities to support investigations into SEA and sexual harassment allegations and to convene a meeting of the heads of their investigatory bodies to discuss challenges, how to address gaps, and further strengthen investigative capacities across the humanitarian sector.

In the field of sexual harassment in 2017, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board (CEB) for Coordination established a CEB Task Force on addressing sexual harassment within the organisations of the UN system (the 'Task Force'), under the leadership of Ms. Jan Beagle, Under-Secretary-General for Management, as Chair of the CEB's High-Level Committee on

¹ ([A/71/818](#) and [A/71/818/Corr.1](#))

Management. The strengthening of UN system investigative capacity has been identified by CEB as a priority area for action, including through fast track procedures to receive, process and address complaints and by recruiting specialized investigators, especially women (see [CEB Statement of 3 May 2018](#)). The Task Force is working on measures to further enhance UN system-wide investigative capacity and improve the quality of investigations involving sexual harassment.

II. Rationale and objectives

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together the CEB Task Force, representatives of investigatory services and IASC investigative bodies to consider how to work collectively to achieve enhanced capacity, harmonized and complementary approaches and cooperation. The meeting will also build on the ongoing work of the CEB Task Force and the IASC focused on strengthening investigative capacity, and the 8 October 2018 UN Representatives of Investigations Services (UN-RIS) meeting.²

The objectives of the joint meeting are to:

- (1) Foster constructive dialogue and closer coordination between UN, NGO and RC/RC heads of investigatory bodies and explore avenues for progress towards harmonized and complementary approaches to investigations;
- (2) Consider opportunities and challenges to harmonize investigative practices, improve coordination, and strengthen capacities across the humanitarian and other sectors;
- (3) Clarify issues and areas which come under the remit of an individual agency's responsibility and action and those that require coordinated action;
- (4) Agree on next steps towards improving humanitarian and other sector-wide investigation capacity into SEA and sexual harassment allegations, with a view to fostering more victim-centered, effective, efficient and timely investigations.

The meeting is jointly organized by the IASC and the CEB Task Force, with the support of UNHCR, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and UN Representatives of Investigations Services (UNRIS).

Participants: The target audience are the heads of investigatory bodies from CEB Task Force members and IASC. Participation will include representatives of UNRIS, the IASC Champion for Protection from SEA and sexual harassment, representatives from the CEB Task Force, IASC organizations and heads and representatives of investigatory and oversight bodies of CEB and IASC members and standing invitees.

² UN-RIS was established for strengthening investigation practices and professionalism. Its mandate includes: (i) developing and adopting common principles to guide the investigative process; (ii) developing and disseminating recommended guidelines, practices and procedures for voluntary adoption by members; and (iii) collaborating on joint investigations, training; and sharing of information, skills and resources and participating in peer reviews. Many UN IASC members are part of the SEA Task Force of the UN-RIS.

Tentative Agenda

Time	Session	Speakers
08:30-9:00	Registration/Coffee	
Session 1 09:00-10:15	<p>Executive Session</p> <p>Strengthening investigative capacity to address SEA and sexual harassment</p> <p><i>Scene-setting - Review of objectives and desired outcomes: development of concrete recommendations on strengthening investigative capacity to deliver to CEB Task Force and IASC members for action.</i></p> <p><i>Improving coordination, and harmonization among investigative services: current challenges and possible ways forward.</i></p> <p><i>Strengthening investigative capacity; exploring ways ahead, for example pooling investigative services and resources; new sources of funding; composition and profiles of investigation services.</i></p>	<p>Mr. Mark Lowcock, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA</p> <p>Ms. Jan Beagle, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Management and Chair of the CEB Task Force on Sexual Harassment</p> <p>Ms. Henrietta H. Fore, UNICEF Executive Director and the IASC Champion on Protection from SEA and SH (video)</p> <p>Ms. Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR</p>
10:15-10:30	Coffee Break	
Session 2 10:30-12:00	<p>Survivor/Victim-Centred Approach to Investigations: Protection of Survivors/Victims and Witnesses</p> <p><i>What approaches may need strengthening in policy and in practice to ensure a victim-centred approach to investigations?</i></p> <p><i>What measures are needed to protect survivors/victims and witnesses against physical and psychological harm throughout investigative process?</i></p> <p><i>What measures are needed to ensure respect for rights of victims/survivors to information, privacy, confidentiality and informed consent throughout the investigative process?</i></p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General recommendations on integrating a survivor/victim-centred approach to investigative processes of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in the humanitarian sector. - Specific recommendations on strengthening survivor/victim and witness protection throughout investigative processes. 	<p>Ms. Jane Connors, United Nations Victims' Rights Advocate</p> <p>Ms. Daniela Baro, West and Central Africa Regional Office PSEA Specialist, UNICEF</p> <p>Ms. Francesca Marotta, Chief, Methodology, Education and Training Section, United Nations Human Rights, OHCHR</p> <p>Ms. Sarah Blakemore, Chief Executive, Keeping Children Safe</p>
12:00-13:00	Lunch	
Session 3 13:00-14:30	<p>Harmonizing approaches to define roles, improve coordination and strengthen investigative capacity in the field and across sectors</p>	<p>Mr. Ben Swanson, Director at Investigations Division, Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and Chair, UNRIS</p>

	<p><i>What concrete measures can be taken to strengthen investigative capacity and capability?</i></p> <p><i>How can the harmonization of investigative practices in SEA and sexual harassment investigations improve quality and deliver stronger and more effective investigations and how can the efficiency and effectiveness of these measures be monitored?</i></p> <p><i>How can we promote the use of the newly developed UNRIS guidelines on the investigation of SEA in humanitarian settings?</i></p> <p><i>How NGOs can work together with UN-RIS to develop responses that improve and harmonize investigations into SEA and sexual harassment.</i></p> <p>Deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations on concrete measures that can be taken by CEB Task Force and IASC members to strengthen investigative capacity and improve the quality of investigations and harmonize and standardize their investigative services. - Specific recommendations for application of UN-RIS guidelines in humanitarian settings. 	<p>Ms. Goenke Roscher, <i>Inspector, Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)</i></p> <p>Mr. Anthony Keating, <i>Head of Investigations, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)</i></p> <p>Ms. Mia Helene Neumann, <i>Head of Risk & Compliance Secretariat at Danish Refugee Council (DRC)</i></p>
Session 4 14:30-16:00	<p>Knowledge exchange: A review of good practice between UN system and non-UN humanitarian partners to identify and promote collective action in the field of SEA and sexual harassment investigations</p> <p><i>What are the main constraints for UN/NGO to investigate SEA/sexual harassment allegations and how to address them?</i></p> <p><i>How to manage risks in the conduct of SEA/sexual harassment investigations? How to strengthen and systematize the cooperation between NGO and agencies/entities with dedicated investigation services?</i></p> <p><i>What are the good practices and resources available to conduct SEA and sexual harassment investigations in the humanitarian community?</i></p> <p>Deliverable: Compilation of good practices in addressing SEA and sexual harassment investigation practices in humanitarian settings.</p>	<p>Mr. Henrik Malmquist, <i>Head of Investigation Services, Inspector General's Office, UNHCR</i></p> <p>Mr. Lennart Hernander, <i>Compliance and Accountability Manager, The Lutheran World Federation</i></p> <p>Ms. Latha Caleb, <i>Director for the East and Southern Africa Region, Save the Children</i></p> <p>Ms. Karen Glisson, <i>Membership Services Manager, Core Humanitarian Standard, CHS Alliance</i></p>
16:00-16:15	Coffee Break	
Session 5 16:15-17:30	<p>Part I: Debrief by Session Co-Facilitators</p> <p>Session outcomes and recommendations for concrete actions.</p>	<p>Ms. Jane Connors, <i>United Nations Victims' Rights Advocate</i></p> <p>Mr. Henrik Malmquist, <i>Head of Investigation Services, UNHCR</i></p> <p>Mr. Ben Swanson, <i>Director at Investigations Division, OIOS and Chair, UNRIS</i></p>

	<p>Part II: Forward-Looking Agenda</p> <p><i>What recommendations would be of greatest assistance and support to investigators to improve their delivery for investigations of SEA and sexual harassment?</i></p> <p><i>How can we monitor, review and evaluate progress in strengthening investigative capacity?</i></p> <p>Deliverable: Recommendations for concrete actions, and the corresponding actors to build investigative capacity and improve delivery of all forms of investigation of SEA and sexual harassment.</p>	<p>Mr. Mark Lowcock, <i>United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator</i></p> <p>Ms. Jan Beagle, <i>United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Management and Chair of the CEB Task Force on Sexual Harassment</i></p>
17:30	Optional: continue the conversation and informal networking (own cost) location tbd	