

**Report of the Consultative meeting of the Crisis Response  
Executive Advisory Team for the ITCM Project and the OMG C4I Task Force  
*Helsinki, 1 October 2002***

The consultative meeting was convened from the invitation of President Martti Ahtisaari and Dr. Richard Soley, CEO and Chairman of the OMG. The meeting was organised to explore the feasibility and the interest of invited international organisations (see the list of participants attached) in establishing and joining the Crisis Response Executive Advisory Team (CREATE) for the Information Technology and Crisis Management– Project (ITCM) and the Object Management Group C4I Domain Task Force (OMG C4I). The meeting was held immediately after the completion of the OMG Board of Directors meeting with OMG's Board in attendance as a direct display of support for the concept and execution of the formation of the CREATE group.

### **Objective**

Dr. Soley opened the meeting noting that the objective of the proposed Executive Advisory Team would be the development of a more structured co-operation between international organisations and ICT-vendors. The Team would foster both the ITCM programme and OMG's C4I Task Force and ensure that needs and priorities are set correctly for both bodies. Dr. Soley referred to the conclusions of the Crisis Management and Information Technology seminar and noted that business processes are very similar across governmental and inter-governmental organisations, as well as other ICT end user organisations. When organisations do share processes they can actually share standards for ICT. When the vendors see that the market is large enough they are likely to develop software and hardware for communication solutions. This keeps the price of the ICT down and makes it a valuable marketplace for vendors. The Executive Advisory Team would give the political and commercial weight and momentum to this process.

### **Work and future plans of the OMG C4I DTF**

Mr. Brian Wood presented the work and future plans of the OMG C4I DTF. The Object Management Group (OMG) is an open-membership, not-for-profit consortium that produces and maintains computer industry specifications for interoperable enterprise applications and the tools to develop them. OMG C4I (Consultation, Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence) Domain Task Force works for the enhancement of collaboration and critical information sharing among multi-national and non-government organizations operating in response to crisis situations through the adoption of consensus-based interoperability standards. OMG C4I is also promoting the creation of the International Partnership for Collaborative Operations (IPCO) initiative, to allow, encourage and direct joint international prototype research & development (ITCM is in fact an example of a national body already carrying out IPCO-style prototype development).

### **ITCM-project's work plan and timetable**

President Ahtisaari briefly presented the ITCM-project's work plan and timetable. The objective of the ITCM programme is to develop a decision-making support and knowledge management system tailored for the use of international crisis management missions. The ITCM product will unify information and communications technology (ICT) systems used in the field operation into a single, standardised solution. The system will be based on open, commercially available components. ITCM-project is a Finnish national laboratory for implementing agreed OMG C4I standards, along the lines of the envisaged IPCO program.

The ITCM programme comprises of a four main tracks: 1) Systems Development, 2) International Dialogue, 3) Turn-Key Delivery Capability, and 4) Research. The technological development is proceeding as planned. Based on an ethnographic study in Kosovo an initial system design and functional specification was developed during the latter part of 2001. The first prototype covering the Intranet services was completed in July 2002. The rest of the system, including the communication, command, and control services, will be developed during the remainder of 2002, and first part of 2003.

The objective is to have full delivery capability for the system, support services, and customer organisation in place during 2004. The importance of a turnkey delivery capability has become clear during initial discussions with crisis management organisations. The ITCM programme is studying ways and prerequisites for setting up an international crisis management telecom operator that could set up and run a dedicated wireless telecom network in the crisis area.

The programme is supported by field research to make sure that the solutions are relevant for the end users. ITCM is working together with the London School of Economics on a research project on the operational requirements, deployability and added value of the ITCM in different crisis environments.

### **Discussion on the terms of reference for the Executive Advisory Team**

Dr. Soley presented the concept paper for the terms of reference for the Executive Advisory Team. The Team would give the input of international organisations to the development of the ITCM-system and to the work of the C4I DTF to ensure that they remain relevant that their priorities are set properly. Among other things the Team would advise on strategic vision for the coming years in developing ICT-systems and standards for crisis response. It would also create a forum to communicate the developments and changes in the needs and requirements of the crisis response and management organisations regarding the information and communications technology they use to vendors to help them to deliver interoperability solutions and standards suited to modern crisis management. Furthermore, the Team would advice in areas for research and standardisation.

In the discussion on the draft it was noted the need to amend the first paragraph of the draft with direct reference to communications specialists and communications technology. The draft should also recognize more clearly the role of the humanitarian organisations in crisis response. It was noted that the language used in the C4I Domain Task Force is heavily influenced by the military language. Mr. Wood noted that this is due to the fact that so far only military organisations have actively engaged themselves in the work of the Domain Task Force. One aim of the Executive Advisory Team is to get the civilian and humanitarian organisations involved and make sure that their requirements are understood by the vendors. It was pointed out that the responsibility of the Team to advice the ITCM and OMG C4I DTF in funding their operations should not endanger the tendering processes of international organisations.

### **Conclusions**

The United Nations Department for Peacekeeping, the United Nations Secretariat, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), NATO, the NATO C3A and the London School of Economics announced their willingness to join the Executive Advisory Team. The European Commission and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) representatives will recommend the joining to their organisations.

President Ahtisaari proposed to have the first meeting of the Executive Advisory Team in March or April in New York City. His office will circulate the revised draft terms of reference to all participants of the consultative meeting. Both the ITCM and OMG Board will elect three representatives for the Executive Advisory Team. ITCM and C4I Task Force members will attend the meetings ex officio. It was proposed to have the second meeting of the Team in the context of the demonstration of the ITCM system that will take place within the Co-operative Knowledge 2003 and Nordic Peace 2003 exercises in September 2003 in Finland.