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WFP PLEDGING TARGET (2009–2010)



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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Director, REG:*

Ms T. Toyota

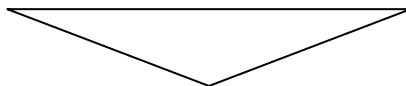
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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

* Government Donor Relations Division



DRAFT DECISION*



The Board, having considered the recommendations of the Executive Director in “WFP Pledging Target (2009–2010)” (WFP/EB.A/2008/6-B/1):

- i) approves a pledging target of US\$7.8 billion for 2009–2010; and
- ii) reiterates its proposal to ECOSOC that the Council consider discontinuing the Pledging Conferences because they no longer play a significant role in WFP’s resource mobilization.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document (WFP/EB.A/2008/16) issued at the end of the session.



BACKGROUND

1. In approving WFP's 2007–2008 pledging target, the Board recommended to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) that the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) consider recommending to the General Assembly that pledging conferences be discontinued because they no longer have a significant value in WFP's resource mobilization.
2. In previous discussions, the Board had:
 - i) recalled a 2000 decision that "...Pledging Conferences have outlived their usefulness and should not be convened..." and requested that this decision be conveyed to the General Assembly;
 - ii) recognized that the United Nations General Assembly is responsible for convening Pledging Conferences and that the General Assembly had asked the Secretary-General to submit a "report presenting alternative options to the current modality of the annual United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, including a regular pledging event, taking into account the funding sessions convened under the multi-year funding frameworks, the needs of other United Nations system agencies, appropriate time and options to enhance public support for the United Nations operational activities for development...";¹ and
 - iii) recognized that until such time as the General Assembly decides to cease convening pledging conferences, WFP is required to set a pledging target and participate in the conference.
3. Despite the Board's decision, and support from several donors, the 2007 TCPR resolution approved by the General Assembly did not include a recommendation to discontinue the Pledging Conferences. As a result, WFP continues to be required to set a pledging target and to participate in the Pledging Conference.

DERIVATION OF THE PLEDGING TARGET

4. The Management Plan for 2008–2009 outlined WFP's expected requirements for the biennium on the basis of projected requirements for approved operations and programmes and conservative estimates of logical extensions of those operations and programmes. On the basis of these projections, at its 2007 Second Regular Session the Board approved a budget of US\$5.8 billion for the 2008–2009 biennium.
5. In February 2008, the Board took note of an update to the Management Plan that reflected a re-costing of the Programme of Work in view of increased food and transport costs and some new operational requirements. The operational budget for 2008–2009 in the update to the Management Plan was revised to US\$6.8 billion.
6. At its 2008 Annual Session in June, the Board will be presented with the second "Update on the Management Plan (2008–2009)" to address the funding gap in WFP's programmes created by rising food and fuel prices. The operational budget for 2008–2009 in the second update of the Management Plan is revised to US\$7.8 billion.

¹ United Nations General Assembly A/RES/56/201, 21 December 2001.



7. The pledging target for 2009–2010 is based on this projected need for US\$7.8 billion. It should be noted that the figure does not provide for increased or unforeseen requirements for new activities.

RECOMMENDATION

8. A 2009–2010 pledging target of US\$7.8 billion is recommended for the Board's approval.
9. The Board is asked to reiterate its recommendation to ECOSOC that it consider discontinuing the Pledging Conferences because they no longer play a significant role in WFP's resource mobilization.