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**Executive Board
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RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Agenda item 6

For approval

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**WFP PLEDGING TARGET:
2005–2006**

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

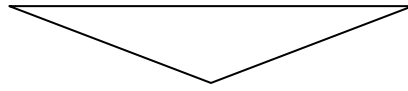
The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Director, Policy and External Affairs Department (PED) and
Director a.i., Donor Relations Division (FRD): Ms D. Spearman tel.: 066513-2600

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DRAFT DECISION*



The Executive Board, having considered the recommendations of the Executive Director in document WFP/EB.A/2004/6-D:

- i) approves a pledging target of US\$5.2 billion for 2005–2006, determined using the needs-based approach on which the current WFP budget is based; and
- ii) recommends to ECOSOC that the next Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review should consider recommending to the General Assembly that annual Pledging Conferences should be discontinued because they no longer have a significant value in resource mobilization for WFP and other United Nations funds and programmes.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.



BACKGROUND

1. In approving the 2003–2004 pledging target, the Executive Board:
 - 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...”; 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.
2. The Report of the Secretary General on pledging mechanisms to fund operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/57/332) referred to the 2000 and 2002 decisions of WFP’s Executive Board. It also indicated (i) that the Pledging Conference has not met the original expectations, (ii) that its format is outdated, (iii) its timing is incompatible with the budgetary cycles of major donors and (iv) that “multi-year financial frameworks and the reformulated resource mobilization strategy for WFP... cast further doubt on the potential usefulness of the annual Pledging Conference”. The report went on to note that the Pledging Conference has lost the support and meaningful participation of most major donors and proposed some alternative approaches to resource mobilization.
3. The report also noted a differing view: “...that the Pledging Conference has a political value, as a potential vehicle through which to draw the attention of policy makers, media and eventually interest groups of both donors and recipient countries through a policy exchange on funding operational activities for development of the United Nations system.”
4. The subsequent decision of the General Assembly was further to review, in the context of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, the pledging mechanisms and resource mobilization for operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

DERIVATION OF THE PLEDGING TARGET

5. In the past, WFP’s Strategic and Financial Plan included high, medium and low scenarios for projected resource flows. The medium scenario provided the basis for the pledging target as well as the budget.
6. In preparing WFP’s first Management Plan, for 2004–2005, a different, needs-based approach was adopted, based on approved programmes and expected extensions of existing operations. Projections of programme needs were developed for the full 2004–2007 Strategic Plan period. On the basis of these projections, a 2004–2005 budget of US\$4.8 billion was proposed and approved by the Executive Board at its October 2003



session. The projected needs for 2005–2006 make up the proposed pledging target of US\$5.2 billion, determined using the needs-based approach on which the current WFP budget is based. It should be noted that this figure does not provide for unexpected requirements for emergency operations.

RECOMMENDATION

7. A 2005–2006 pledging target of US\$5.2 billion is recommended for the approval of the Executive Board.
8. The Executive Board is asked to recommend to ECOSOC that the next Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review should consider discontinuing the annual Pledging Conferences because they no longer have a significant value in resource mobilization for WFP and other United Nations funds and programmes.

