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**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 24–26 May 2004

POLICY ISSUES

Agenda item 5

For approval



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STREAMLINING CORPORATE REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND WFP PARENT BODIES

Issues and options

On 23 April 2004, the Bureau endorsed the recommendations of its Steering Group on Governance on streamlining corporate reporting and forwards it herewith to the Board for approval.

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for approval by the Executive Board.

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 points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

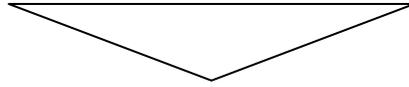
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(PEBT):

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).



DRAFT DECISION*



The Board approves the decision to combine WFP reports to parent bodies into a single report to be submitted to the First Regular Session of the Board, starting in 2005, as well as the interim arrangements proposed for 2004, as described in document WFP/EB.A/2004/5-F.

* 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. Governance Recommendation (i) approved by the Board in 2000 requested the Secretariat to develop an Annual Performance Report (APR) that would report on WFP's achievements. It also intended to streamline most if not all of the reports submitted to the Board into a single annual document, including such matters as post cif losses, follow-up to parent bodies and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). During the course of the following Board sessions, further topics such as evaluation reports were proposed, which further enlarged the scope of the future APR.

ISSUES

2. From the outline of the APR cleared by the Steering Group on Governance, it appeared that this document would focus on WFP's performance in implementing the strategic priorities and management priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan and within the agreed framework of the Management Plan. Consequently, it would not cover the scope initially envisaged by the Working Group, which was for the APR to include information provided in separate reports.
3. The outline did not cover reporting to parent bodies. The current arrangements for such reporting consist of four reports: (i) the Annual Report of the Executive Director (Section II — UNDG Common Format), (ii) the Report on Follow-up to ECOSOC/General Assembly Resolutions, (iii) the Progress Report on General Assembly Resolution A/RES/56/201 — Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review and iv) Annual Report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council. For the sake of simplification and harmonization with other funds and programmes, such reports would need to be streamlined.
4. General Rule VII.2 stipulates that the Executive Director shall submit an Annual Report to the Board each year. The APR, which meets the requirements set out in General Rule VII.2, would therefore replace the Annual Report of the Executive Director, which the governance recommendation proposed to discontinue in its present form.
5. Since the APR presented in 2004 will report on performance in 2003, when the Strategic Plan and Management Plan had not yet been approved, full coverage would only start in 2005. This raises the issue of interim arrangements for 2004, particularly the format of the last Annual Report of the Executive Director, which would have to be given to ECOSOC in 2004 because the item is already in the 2004 ECOSOC agenda.
6. The following recommendation is therefore submitted to the Steering Group on Governance.

RECOMMENDATION

The Annual Performance Report

7. The APR submitted in 2004 will be an interim document; full coverage will be provided in 2005. Considering the necessary transition period, it is recommended that possible gaps and overlaps be reviewed by the Board during its debate on the APR at its Annual Session in 2005 or thereafter.



Reports to Parent Bodies

8. It is proposed to combine the three reports – Section II of the former Annual Report of the Executive Director, the Report on Follow-Up to General Assembly and ECOSOC Resolutions and the Progress Report on General Assembly Resolution A/RES/56/201, Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review – into a single report entitled “Annual Report to ECOSOC and FAO Council”, to be presented at the First Regular Session every year, starting in 2005.
9. If agreed by the Board, the decision taken at EB3/2003 to present the Report on Follow-Up at the Third Regular Session every year would be superseded.
10. The Annual Report of the Executive Board to parent bodies is called for by General Regulation VI.3, any amendment to which would require approval by the General Assembly and the FAO Conference; it should therefore remain unchanged.

Other reports

⇒ *Report on Post-Delivery Losses*

11. This report would be kept separate, because of its nature and of the interest it raises among Board members.

⇒ *JIU Reports*

12. JIU reports would also be kept separate because the format and the timing of submission were the outcome of extensive negotiations with the JIU Secretariat in 2002 (see Board decision 2002/EB.2/17).

⇒ *Other Reports*

13. The Report on the Follow-Up to the Recommendations of the External Auditor will coincide with the Biennial Financial Statement.
14. The Budgetary/Financial Performance Report would be part of the Comprehensive Financial Report submitted annually to the Board.

INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

15. For 2004, the last Annual Report of the Executive Director, which will be forwarded to ECOSOC and the FAO Council, would comprise only the common format agreed by the UNDG agencies — the former Section II of the report — and a follow-up to recommendations from the FAO Conference and Council, if any.

