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**Executive Board  
Third Regular Session**

**Rome, 23 - 26 October 2000**

## **POLICY ISSUES**

### **Agenda item 3**

***For information***



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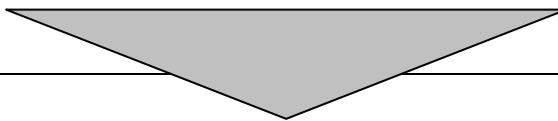
28 September 2000

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## **CHAIRPERSON'S SUMMARY OF THE SECOND CONSULTATION ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES— SITUATIONS OF DISPLACEMENT: ISSUES AND EXPERIENCES**

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# Note to the Executive Board



**This document is submitted for information to 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.

Director, Strategy and Policy Division (SP):	Ms D. Spearman	tel.: 066513-2600
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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).



## Context

1. On 16 March 2000, in response to the Executive Board's request for consultation during policy formulation, WFP held an informal consultation relevant to situations of displacement. At that consultation and a subsequent informal briefing held on 5 May 2000, comments were solicited on Version I of the discussion paper entitled *WFP—Reaching People in Situations of Displacement*, which suggested elements of a WFP policy and strategy framework for situations of displacement and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Subsequently, the Membership requested that the paper be revised and discussed at a second consultation. The revised document, Version III and two annexes, was discussed at the consultation held on 8 September 2000. Seventy-two Members, of whom 32 made interventions, attended the meeting.

## Issues Discussed

2. The Membership acknowledged the efforts made by the Secretariat to revise the paper in accordance with previously expressed views. There was agreement that WFP should continue to improve the efficiency and impact of its activities on behalf of IDPs. The following issues were central to the discussion:
  - **Sovereignty:** It was reiterated that WFP should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. Several Members cited United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 as the basis for providing humanitarian aid.
  - **Protection:** Issues of protection are complex, distinguishing on the one hand those who are responsible for protection and assistance and on the other, the means by which protection and assistance are achieved. The responsibility for the protection of IDPs lies with national governments.
3. The following operational issues were positively received:
  - **Coordination:** The collaborative approach was endorsed as no single agency can fully address the needs of the displaced. Increased cooperation with national and local authorities, NGOs and civil society was also considered essential.
  - **Targeting and food insecurity:** Broad agreement was expressed with regard to targeting primarily on the basis of food insecurity, rather than IDPs as a group.
  - **Children and other vulnerable groups:** Further emphasis on the special needs of children was suggested, to reflect their special dietary and educational requirements.
  - **Case-by-case approach:** Each situation of displacement is unique. The Membership agreed that needs be assessed and approaches developed on a case-by-case basis.
  - **Longer-term focus:** The importance of longer-term solutions to displacement and links with investment institutions was underlined.

## Follow-up

4. The Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) delivered a position statement, which was noted and will be made available to the Membership. Other regional groups were encouraged to submit their views in writing to the Secretariat to assist the Secretariat in preparing the next version of the document.
5. The Membership's thinking on the issue of IDPs is still evolving. A policy paper will be submitted to the Executive Board at some future date.