

Annual Report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council – 2007

Introductory Statement by Mr. Allan Jury, Director, Division of External Relations, RER

First Regular Session of the Executive Board, 4-6 February 2008

The “Annual Report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council for 2007”, which you have before you today for approval has taken into consideration a number of comments helpfully provided by a number of delegations during last year's discussion of the 2006 Annual Report.

The Board acknowledged the report's improvement and requested that the 2007 Annual Report provide more extensive information on the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. Among other major themes addressed were the Cluster System; the Central Emergency Response Fund; the Consolidated Appeals Process; more information on the implementation towards the Delivering as One, the Paris Declaration and Joint Programmes. With regard to the Joint Programmes, let me stress that we decided to present them according to themes and we have expanded this section where possible to incorporate the section on collaboration with the other agencies.

Increasing interest was also expressed regarding the cooperation among the Rome-based agencies. In this regard, I draw your attention to the WFP paper which was submitted for consideration to the second regular session of the Executive Board in October last year entitled “Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-Based Agencies” and at the discussion of which most of you were also present. Hence, to avoid duplication, the section on the Rome-based agencies in the report before us is concise and refers to the EB paper on Rome-based collaboration.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your contributions and ideas, which have assisted us in further refining the present report.

This year's report tells a coherent story of WFP's progress in meeting UN system-wide cooperation and partnership objectives. In 2007, WFP continued to support the United Nations reform and inter-agency cooperation to increase the coherence and effectiveness of United Nations development and humanitarian programmes.

Let me point out a few highlights:

In development activities:

WFP supported the **piloting of Delivering as One**, particularly in the four pilot countries where WFP has country offices: Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda and Tanzania and Cape Verde where WFP is part of the UN joint office. In Mozambique, for instance, WFP plays a key role in 6 of the 11 joint programmes.

WFP increased its participation in **joint programmes** from 27 countries in 2006 to 36 countries in 2007. The major areas of programming were HIV/AIDS, education and Millennium Development Goals.

In humanitarian reform:

WFP continued to play a significant role in the **cluster system**. As lead agency for the **logistics cluster**, WFP assumed the lead in four new emergencies in 2007.

WFP was also named the country-level lead for the **emergency telecommunications cluster** in five additional countries in 2007. WFP stands ready for further roll-out of the cluster system in all countries where there is a Humanitarian Coordinator.

Climate change emerged as a major United Nations system-wide cooperation issue to which WFP contributed through active participation in inter-agency and inter-governmental discussions, including the drafting of United Nations Chief Executives Board statements and policies on the subject, and the Secretary-General's high-level event on climate change at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007.

The Report also has an Addendum which answers resolutions from the sixty-first session of the General Assembly which specifically mention WFP as a follow-up agency, as well as the salient points raised at the 132nd session of the FAO Council.

The Secretariat looks forward to your questions, thoughts and ideas not only on the material provided in this Annual Report but on the broader issues of UN reform and partnership and their implications for WFP. These comments will help WFP to continue to improve the quality and relevance of our engagement in UN and NGO partnership activities in 2008.

Thank you Mr. President.