

Group of Friends of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD)

A second side event hosted by the Italian Mission to the UN

2016 Second Regular Session of the WFP Executive Board

17 November

1. Background - Establishment of the Group of Friends of UNHRD

The Group of Friends of UNHRD was officially launched by the Italian Government in February 2015, bringing together likeminded donors who recognize the need to invest in preparedness and want to help ensure a sustainable UNHRD Network.

The Group of Friends is an informal group of UNHRD donors and WFP Executive Board members who will raise awareness and sensitize other interested parties about the significance of UNHRD's role in the humanitarian community. During the launch at the WFP headquarters, representatives from over 30 countries showed their support for the initiative and asked to be updated on UNHRD progress, activities and events.

The Italian Government, who supported the establishment of the first UNHRD in 2000 and continues to strongly support the Network, is currently coordinating the Group of Friends initiative.

2. Context – Shift towards Integrated Service Provision

Early November 2015, the Executive Director approved the establishment of a Supply Chain Division with the vision to support WFP in fulfilling its mandate and achieving its Strategic Goals, setting the pace for Zero Hunger and driving partnerships to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. To achieve this vision, the supply chain's mission was defined to:

- ✓ Deliver WFP's food assistance to save lives in emergencies and support international efforts to eradicate hunger in all its forms.
- ✓ Leverage our supply chain expertise and purchasing power to strengthen national capacities and stimulate local and regional markets.
- ✓ Serve as supply chain provider and partner of choice for governments, humanitarian and development partners.

Within the WFP Supply Chain Services, UNHRD remains a core actor in service provision. Since its inception in 2000 thanks to the Italian Government, UNHRD has been continuously strengthening partnerships with UN organizations, NGOs, governments and regional bodies to improve preparedness and coordinate response efforts to deliver to people in need. Now as part of WFP's new Supply Chain division, the UNHRD team is focusing on improving the entire process of end-to-end planning, procuring and delivering assistance.

Through a range of common supply chain services, including UNHRD, WFP is reinforcing its support the humanitarian community to deliver assistance in a more coherent, cost and time-effective way. By leveraging economies of scale, WFP reduces expenditures arising from humanitarian needs, including transport services, such as shared cargo flights or consolidated sea freight. In turn, partners benefit from these supply chain efficiencies and operational savings and the dollars of donors are maximized.

3. Proposal – Italy as a key partnership driver

Italy, the current chair of the Group of Friends, represented through the Italian Mission to the UN in Rome, is well positioned to support WFP's efforts to reach the new Supply Chain vision, while ensuring that mandated services, such as UNHRD and UNHAS, will continue to be available to partners.

Therefore this concept note proposes to the Italian Mission to the UN in Rome to invite Friends and Executive Board members to a follow-up side event to share progress, exchange views and discuss the way ahead with key stakeholders.

This event will take place during the Second Regular Session of the WFP Executive Board session on 17 November 2016 at lunch hour offering a light buffet.