



Brown Bag Lunch with the Group of Friends of the UNHRD co-hosted by Italy, Spain and the UNHRD Network

Tuesday, 29 October 2019, 12:45 - 13:45

Aula Delegatis, WFP Headquarters

A light lunch will welcome all participants

The Permanent Representations of Italy and Spain to the United Nations in Rome are pleased to invite you to the Group of Friends of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) Brown Bag Lunch.

Background

Established 19 years ago in Brindisi, the UNHRD Network now has six depots across the globe in Accra, Brindisi, Dubai, Las Palmas, Panama City and Subang. The Network facilitates the rapid deployment of non-food items and services for an effective response to global emergencies for the World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners by procuring, managing and transporting emergency supplies for the humanitarian community. It is a one-stop shop for partners, offering storage at no cost, procurement, transport, handling, and technical field expertise.

In 2015, the Italian Government launched the Group of Friends of the UNHRD which is comprised of an informal group of UNHRD donors and WFP Executive Board members. The Group of Friends of the UNHRD aim to raise awareness on the role of the network in the global humanitarian architecture, as well as to ensure sustainable support, through *inter alia*, investment in emergency preparedness. In 2018, the chairmanship of the Group of Friends of the UNHRD passed from Italy to Spain.

Objective

In the midst of the worst humanitarian crises since the end of the Second World War, we are reflecting on how to enhance the UNHRD Network and its partners' potential with a view to deliver assistance more efficiently and effectively to humanitarian crises. The purpose of the event is to demonstrate the added value of the Network and to raise awareness among Member States about the important task undertaken by the UNHRD Network, its current and future challenges and encourage more Member States to support the Network.

Agenda

1. Mr Rafael Osorio de Rebellón Villar, Alternate Permanent Representative of Spain, will provide a short introduction on the UNHRD Group of Friends and the purpose of the meeting.
2. Mr Jakob Kern, Director of the WFP Supply Chain Division, will deliver opening remarks.
3. Mr Bekim Mahmuti, UNHRD Network Coordinator, will present both achievements and challenges faced during recent operations and will debrief on the Global Partner Meeting.
4. Discussion will take place on future challenges and potential opportunities for the UNHRD (strengthening partnerships with states, agencies and the private sector among other).
5. Q&A and future steps by the Group of Friends of the UNHRD will follow.