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de Alimentos

**Executive Board
First Regular Session**

Rome, 10–11 February 2014

OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda item 11

For approval



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SIMPLIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME APPROVAL PROCEDURE

This document is printed in a limited number of copies. Executive Board documents are available on WFP's Website (<http://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

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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Should you have any questions regarding availability of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

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** Policy, Programme and Innovation Division

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review¹ was adopted as a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2012. Its implementation is reviewed annually by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, which adopts a resolution on progress.² Both resolutions include time-bound actions that must be implemented by the funds and programmes of the United Nations, including WFP.

These resolutions included requests for harmonization and simplification of agency-specific programming instruments and processes. After consultations with the other funds and programmes, and following discussions with the Executive Board Bureau and Board members, it is proposed to simplify the approval procedure of WFP country programmes by submitting them to the Board for discussion and approval at a single session, without submitting them for consideration at an earlier session.

DRAFT DECISION*

Having reviewed the “Simplification of the Country Programme Approval Procedure” (WFP/EB.1/2014/11-B), the Board approves the procedure described in the document, under which country programmes are discussed and approved at a single session, and requires the Secretariat to ensure that adequate consultation be implemented at country level with all relevant stakeholders.

¹ General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/226 “Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System”, adopted December 2012.

² ECOSOC Resolution E/2013/L.17 “Progress in the Implementation of the General Assembly Resolution 67/226 on the QCPR of operational activities for development of the United Nations system”, adopted July 2013.

* 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. In resolution 67/226 on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) the General Assembly requested United Nations funds and programmes to simplify and harmonize agency-specific programming instruments and processes in alignment with United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, consulting with their governing bodies by the end of 2013.

ISSUE

2. Following the resolution, the Secretariats of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP agreed to a joint approach to align the formats and timeframes for preparation and approval of country programmes (CPs). Currently, CPs are submitted to the Board for consideration at its Annual Session and are subsequently approved on a non-objection basis during the Second Regular Session of the same year.³
3. It is proposed that CPs be submitted for approval without prior submission for consideration. Single submission will reduce the lead time for document preparation, which allows for inclusion of more recent information, better alignment with United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and national planning processes, and reduced transaction costs. It also provides a harmonized approach with UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, which are presenting similar proposals to their governing bodies at their first sessions in 2014.
4. In conformity with established procedures for Board documents, each CP will be available to Board members four weeks before the session at which it is to be approved. The Biennial Programme of Work of the Executive Board will generally indicate up to two years in advance which CPs are expected to be submitted for approval. The type of information included in CP documents will not change. During the design stage, country offices will ensure full consultation with the host government, donors and other relevant stakeholders at the country level.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE BOARD

5. The Board is requested to approve this change in the submission procedure, which will take effect immediately upon approval. The change will be reflected in the Biennial Programme of Work of the Executive Board, and reported to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Council through the Annual Performance Report.

³ Please see the 2003 Information Note "Country Programme Approval Procedure" (WFP/EB.2/2003/INF/6) — available at <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp016045.pdf>. The Information Note was produced following the CP approval procedures established in 2002. Please see "Review of Programme Harmonization and Programming Processes with Reference to WFP's Programme Cycle" (WFP/EB.3/2002/4-B) — available at <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/eb/wfp010658.pdf>.