

برنامج
الأغذية
العالمي



Programme
Alimentaire
Mondial

World
Food
Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 24–26 May 2004

POLICY ISSUES

Agenda item 5

For approval



Distribution: GENERAL
WFP/EB.A/2004/5-E
21 April 2004
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF BOARD SESSIONS

Implementation of Governance Recommendation (q)

On 23 April 2004, the Bureau endorsed the recommendations of its Steering Group on Governance regarding the reduction of the number of Board sessions, and forwards it herewith to the Board for approval.

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for approval by 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.

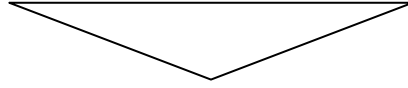
Secretary to the Executive Board: Mr T. Yanga tel.: 066513-2603

Head, Translation and Documentation Unit Ms M-F. Perez Simon tel.: 066513-2638
(PEBT):

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).



DRAFT DECISION*



The Board approves the reduction of the number of its sessions from four to three per year, as set in out in document WFP/EB.A/2004/5-E.

* 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. On 14 January 1994, the General Assembly adopted resolution 48/162¹ dealing among other things with the governing bodies of the United Nations development funds and programmes. The resolution stipulated that each Board should meet in an annual session at such time as it determines and in regular sessions, to be held between the annual sessions.
2. In 1996, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA) decided at its fortieth session that a regular (organizational) session would be held in January 1996. The annual session, in April or May, was to be immediately followed or preceded by a regular session. A third regular session would be held in October or November.
3. In 2000, the Working Group on Governance recommended in its Report to the Annual Session of the Executive Board that Board sessions be reduced from four to three each year — original recommendation (q)² — by combining the second regular and annual sessions; together, these two sessions were to last no more than a week. However, it was agreed that this would be possible only after implementation of related governance recommendations, especially recommendation (g) on programming principles.
4. At its Third Regular Session in 2002, the Board reviewed its programming processes and harmonized them with those of other funds and programmes. It also decided that the current schedule of the Annual and Second Regular sessions, normally held in May, would be changed to make it consistent with that of other Funds and Programmes, and that the Second regular session of the Board would be held in June immediately after the Annual Session (decision 2002/EB.3/3). It should be noted that funds and programmes in New York have reduced the number of their sessions to three since 2000.

ISSUE

5. Regarding the timing of the Annual Session, it should be borne in mind that WFP has been requested not to programme a meeting of the Board on 2 June, which is a national holiday in Italy. It is therefore inadvisable to programme a full Board session during the first week of June. The option would be to schedule the new Annual Session either in the last week of May or the week following 2 June. If the Annual session is held in June, its timing will need to be coordinated with FAO, to avoid overlapping with the FAO Council session held in June on odd years.

RECOMMENDATION

6. Now that most of the governance recommendations have been implemented, and to harmonize Board session schedules with other United Nations funds and programmes, it is recommended that recommendation (q) of the Working Group on Governance be implemented and that WFP Board sessions be reduced from four to three, starting in 2005,

¹ GA resolution 48/162: Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

² Recommendation (q) reads: “Board sessions should be reduced from four to three each year and the total number of meeting days from 14 to 11. Informal consultations should normally be included within this allotment of time.”



by combining the Annual Session and the Second Regular Session into one single Annual Session, to take place in May/June.

7. The timing of Board sessions would be flexible, to take into account the meeting requirements of the other Rome-based organizations, but would generally follow the schedule below:
 - First Regular Session: February
 - Annual Session: May/June
 - Second Regular Session: October

Agendas of the Board Sessions

8. Agendas would remain unchanged, except for the Annual Session, where agendas of the former Annual and Second Regular sessions would be combined in order to be consistent with the Board decision on harmonization mentioned above.

Number of Days

9. Based on the average duration of Board sessions in previous years — approximately 14 days per year — it is proposed that the Board set itself an objective of 15 days per year, with a maximum duration of five days per session. The Board may keep this in mind when discussing its Biennial Programme of Work in October each year.

