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Programme
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World
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Programme

Programa
Mundial
de Alimentos

**Executive Board
Annual Session**

Rome, 17 - 20 May 1999

ANNUAL REPORTS

Agenda item 3

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: 1998 (Appendix 1)

**Issues arising from the implementation of
the United Nations Secretary-General's
Reform Programme**

CORRIGENDUM

Please replace pages 21–23, which have been newly formatted, with the attached.



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UNITED NATIONS REFORM

United Nations reform agenda

Key WFP initiatives

Lessons learned and problems encountered

Reform of the United Nations humanitarian sector

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

- A humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has been established.
- WFP contributed to the report and addressed the first humanitarian affairs segment at ECOSOC (New York, July 1998).
- Future humanitarian segments of ECOSOC should allow for more dialogue among the IASC, Humanitarian Coordinators and Member States.

Humanitarian Coordinator

- Efforts to strengthen the role of the Humanitarian Coordinator have been initiated. In December 1998, a consultation was organized by OCHA and UNDP, at which recommendations were made on the role of the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator.
- Although normally the UNDP Resident Representative is designated Resident Coordinator, there are two cases where the WFP Country Director is the Humanitarian Coordinator (Angola and DPRK).
- Future Humanitarian Coordinator consultations could be expanded to include members of the Field Coordination Units. Although the need for OCHA to have a preferential relationship with the Humanitarian Coordinators was well recognized, IASC members should be more involved in the preparations for future consultations.
- The Humanitarian Coordinator must be a person who has expertise and skills in coordinating many agencies in an emergency setting.
- The present arrangements do not respond quickly and adequately to the need for replacement when a Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator is not doing his/her job well.

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Collaboration with the World Bank

- In his reform proposal, the Secretary-General has called for “an appropriate distribution of responsibilities between the World Bank Group and the United Nations for the benefit of programme countries. This should take the form of a functional rationalization on a complementary and cooperative manner between the work of the United Nations and the World Bank”.
 - The UN and the World Bank have identified poverty eradication as a primary objective for development cooperation and attempts to coordinate are currently under way.
 - The UNDG is promoting efforts to strengthen cooperation and achieve greater rationalization and coordination between the UN and the Bretton Woods Institutions in the area of development cooperation. Initiatives to improve UNDG and World Bank cooperation and complementarities in the area of technical assistance and capacity-building are being explored; and discussions are being held between UNDG and the World Bank on possible cooperation in the establishment of a global knowledge network to facilitate information exchange/sharing on key development issues.
 - The World Bank has offered utilization by UN agencies of World Bank teleconference facilities.
 - Following a proposal by WFP, pilot exercises have been undertaken in Mali and Viet Nam to explore possibilities for building an effective interface between the UNDAF and the World Bank’s Country Assistance Strategy (CAS)
- WFP collaborates with the World Bank at the country level in several countries, such as Bangladesh, China, Egypt, India, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Senegal in the areas of community nutrition, household food security, education, agricultural development, rehabilitation of rural lands, and infrastructure and forestry activities.
 - WFP is exploring the possibilities of further strengthening this collaboration for development and post-conflict situations.
- It is expected that collaboration with the World Bank will be enhanced as part of the UNDAF process and as part of the World Bank’s new initiative, the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF).

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projects.

- The World Bank has recently introduced the Comprehensive Development Framework (CDF) which the World Bank will be piloting in 19 Consultative Group countries, in consultation and partnership with the UN. The CDF is intended as a country-level development strategy tool, for the purpose of ensuring an appropriate balance between the macro-economic development of a country on the one side and structural, social and human development on the other.
- Discussion are ongoing on partnerships between the UN and World Bank and linkages between the CCA and UNDAF and the CDF at the field level.

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Human rights

- As part of his reform programme, the Secretary-General has taken a number of initiatives to help realize the UN's mandate to promote and protect human rights in all their dimensions.
- The Geneva-based programmes on human rights have been combined into a single office, headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) has been strengthened.
- The Secretary-General has called for the issue of human rights to cut across each of the four substantive fields of the Secretariat's work programme: peace and security; economic and social affairs, development cooperation, and humanitarian affairs. As such UNHCHR is represented on all four of the Executive Committees;
- The right to development has been identified as a major theme by the undg and a working group has been constituted to examine operational implications and provide guidance to RCs and country teams in this regard.
- The undg Working Group on the Right to Development reviewed the provisional undaf guidelines and made proposals on how to better reflect human rights in the undaf process.
- In November 1998, WFP participated in a two-day Consultation on the Right to Adequate Food and Nutrition, organized by the UNHCHR and hosted by FAO. The objective of the meeting was to better define and propose ways to implement and realize the right to food.
- WFP is a member of the undg Sub-Group on the Right to Development, which has the mandate to provide guidance to RCs and country teams and input to the undaf process for an improved promotion, protection and implementation of the right to development.
- WFP actively participated in a three-day UN/DAC workshop on the subject of A Rights-Based Approach to Women's Empowerment and Advancement and Gender Equality, which was organized by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW). In October 1998, WFP chaired a working group on the subject of Women's Right to Food: Implications for Programming.
- In 1998, WFP's Executive Managers have addressed the issue of human rights in several bodies, including the General Assembly (Third Committee), ECOSOC, and the Commission on Human Rights;
- WFP has contributed a chapter on the Right to Food in Emergencies to an FAO Booklet entitled "The Right to Food in Theory and Practice", which has been published on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- The work WFP has undertaken in the area of gender mainstreaming should be viewed through the lens of mainstreaming human rights.