



Thank you Mr. President.

Members of the Board, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning (or Afternoon).

I am also pleased that we have also been joined in our deliberations today by The Distinguished Minister from South Sudan. Her Excellency, Madam Awut Deng Acuil, Minister of Gender, Child, Social Welfare, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management.

Before we speak about the main elements of the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation which is before you for your approval, I would like to spend a few minutes this morning to look at the big picture.

This Executive Board session comes at a critical time for the Republic of South Sudan and the future of her people.

The situation today - two years after the birth of this new nation still remains precarious. You have all heard the human and social indicators - you are all also aware of the non-existent road network, the infant and maternal mortality rates, the challenges associated with conflict and violence, protection of civilians, food insecurity, lack of adequate health services, lack of education and general under-development. I will not focus on these today - not because I think them unimportant but because I want to talk about the way forward and how the Government of South Sudan can be supported to achieve the vision of this young nation;

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is strong political will, commitment and determination from the Government of South Sudan to move away from purely relief assistance and dependence on assistance.

I am pleased to report that significant work, by the Government of South Sudan and international actors, to lay the foundations is already well underway. For example:

1. The Inter-Governmental Authority for Development South Sudan Country Programme Paper, which outlines national priorities for strategic interventions to support deliberate action and efforts to end drought emergencies in South Sudan, has been ratified;
2. South Sudan, as a founding member of the “small” g7+ group of fragile states has been the first one to take a bold step to adopt an innovation in international development for fragile states. This is the NEW DEAL

COMPACT. This compact which will be launched on 3 December may become the standard blueprint for development partnership between fragile states and development partners.

This compact engenders mutual commitments towards greater accountability and aid effectiveness and hopes to contribute towards economic stability.

3. The first South Sudan Development Plan (SSDP) and the UNDAF has been extended to 2016 with a revised and updated results framework;

In the past two years, I have also challenged WFP Staff: work with the communities and present ways to break these cycles of dependency. From the bottom up have come transformative ideas.

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The new PRRO 200572 submitted today for your approval – will provide targeted assistance to 3.1 million people from January 2014 until December 2015-**for a total cost of US\$ 626 million.**

The foreseen PRRO activities that I present to you today will complement transition, stabilization and development in the Republic of South Sudan.

PRRO 200572 and our implementation plan was designed with three underlying principles in mind:

First, the realization that the complexity, scale and multi-sectoral nature of the issues that affect food security and nutrition in South Sudan are too great for only WFP to tackle. Therefore, there will be greater programme synergy, integration and alignment by drawing resources, strengths and expertise from a range of partners – in particular – a) FAO, IFAD so that WFP supported projects are linked to GOSS and FAO livelihood programmes; b) with UNICEF to enhance nutrition outcomes, and again with UNICEF and WHO, so our Food for Asset Projects can support their efforts to enhance education and health outcomes; c) Therefore, the first and foremost design consideration has been to seek opportunities of vertical and horizontal integration within WFP activities and also find increasing opportunities to put our inputs alongside other actors, particularly, those involved in the health, education, water and agricultural/livelihood sectors.

Second, the realization that in South Sudan continuation of emergency and relief activities alone in hope for a linear transition and for the situation to stabilize across the board is not possible. While in the foreseeable future relief and emergency assistance will be required in the South Sudan context, windows of opportunity, both seasonal and geographical, where recovery activities can be focused, exist. Through effective targeting, employing conflict and protection sensitive approaches, and sound planning, these opportunities can be leveraged.



Third, putting South Sudan and her people in the driver's seat and finding creative ways to support the priorities of the Government. Even though Government institutions are in their nascent stage, it is an opportunity to engage with, and support the Government to develop its social safety net policies and strategies. Capacity building, from the household level to the national government level, needs to be enshrined in all our activities. Therefore, capacity building is not an activity of its own but is the way we will do business.

Excellencies, before closing, let me thank all our donor partners. I am humbled by your generosity and dedication to the South Sudanese people. I wish to thank you all for standing with the men, women and children we serve and would urge our donors to support us again as we take these important steps towards a transition in South Sudan. Let's remember how far the Government of South Sudan has come in the last few years and how in partnership with the Government, international actors have alleviated the suffering of millions of women and children in this young nation.

Thank you for your wisdom and guidance in giving us the tools necessary to respond to the changing context in South Sudan. Thank you for your unwavering generosity for those whose very lives depend upon us in flood and drought. And thank you for your support as we all work to create a more food secure South Sudan.