

ODJ Introductory Statement
Second Regular Session of the Executive Board
14-17 November 2011

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to update you on some of the latest happenings in the Southern Africa Region.

New Trends

1. The sub-continent continues to face numerous climate related shocks such as the recent floods in Namibia and Lesotho. However there are bright spots in the region, and some countries enjoyed three consecutive years of good harvests. In fact, **Malawi and Zambia's two good harvests resulted in surpluses which enabled WFP to procure 109,000 MT of commodities of (USD 40 M)** thereby assisting these governments (and smallholder farmers), while providing vital commodities for our HoA operations.

2. I am pleased to inform you that **our procurement office in Johannesburg is the second largest hub for WFP**, working globally with partners to support agricultural production and market development. **It is also the prime centre for maize and maize based product purchases for our global operations.** So far, this year (until October 24th) WFP procured over 192,000 MTs of assorted food commodities worth USD 72.5 M, of which 30% has been for our operations in southern Africa, and the remainder for WFP operations globally.

3. On a less favourable note, while food availability and access have improved, **weather-related food insecurity still persists in most countries** notably in Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Lesotho and Swaziland.
4. The Southern Africa Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF) did forecast that **much of the southern half of SADC will experience poor rainfall in the last quarter of 2011** particularly in those areas usually prone to drought (southern Mozambique, southern Malawi, southern Zimbabwe, southern Namibia, and most of Botswana and Lesotho). We will continue to monitor this in partnership with OCHA and host governments.
5. At the same time, **heavier rainfall early next year (January to March) may bring water-borne diseases, flooding, severe storms and tropical cyclones**. This could literally result in the submersion of facilities and other infrastructure. Madagascar, Mozambique and the entire Zambezi basin including parts of Zimbabwe and Zambia require close monitoring and we will do so in tandem with OCHA and FAO.
6. WFP, **UNHCR and government partners also assist the refugees hosted in our region. This year, WFP assisted 33,000 refugees and 25,000 IDPs, the latter in Zimbabwe**. WFP is working very closely with HCR on this and our partnership is growing from strength to strength.

Roll- out of the Strategic Plan

Mr. President, the implementation of new tools continues to gather momentum and is a priority for the ODJ region.

7. We believe that successful implementation and scaling up the food assistance tools requires robust partnerships with FAO, IFAD, World Bank, NEPAD and Regional Economic Communities. In this regard, we began to deepen our collaboration with SADC by **preparing an MOU with SADC to set up principles of engagement in several areas of work**, including Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping, procurement and P4P, Nutrition interventions, and Disaster Risk Reduction.
8. Disaster Risk Reduction is a key stone activity in Southern Africa Region. Our work in this area is largely expressed in the joint Road Map prepared by FAO and WFP in 2010. Positive strides have been made in the implementation of this in Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe in 2011 and will be a priority area of focus for the two agencies in 2012 and beyond.
9. Southern Africa is the geographic hub of HIV/AIDS with a total of 5.4 million people living with it. Working with UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF and host governments, we are providing integrated support to patients receiving ART, such as food-by-prescription. This integrated support is providing multiple outcomes.
10. ODJ region has also made excellent progress in the application of Cash for Change modalities. The use of **vouchers to access household staples for people living with HIV** has been replicated in

Zambia, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and the use of **vouchers in Food-by-Prescription based activities** will also be explored in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

11. Purchase for Progress programmes show impressive results: **in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia WFP-procured commodities worth USD 4.9M, which benefitted over 50,000 small holders.** The new Mozambique CP (200286 – which will be discussed on Thursday) brings innovative local procurement models that will engage supply side partners like FAO, IFAD and the Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce.

12. Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, chronic malnutrition rates in Southern Africa region are among the highest in the world. Consequently, advocating with governments and other partners for the implementation of Nutrition Improvement Approach that you approved is accorded a very top priority in the region. In this regard, we are working with UNICEF, hands in gloves, to prepare and implement joint programmes targeting kids below 1,000 days old + their mothers. Side by side with this, we are assisting governments to create the necessary policy and regulatory environment for the fortification of locally produced foods. Scaling up of nutrition activities in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Zambia, Mozambique + Namibia is progressing well.

13. Our partnership with NEPAD is bearing fruit and is growing. WFP is being increasingly called to assist in the design of safety net systems, lead VAM training sessions, etc. We expect this partnership to grow

from strength to strength as we embark on providing support to countries implementing CAADP compacts.

14. Finally, I would like to thank all Delegates for their contributions and generous support to the implementation of operations in the Southern Africa Region.

Thank you, Mr. President.