

Opening Remarks for Abdirahman Meygag, Senior DCD / CD a.i.

WFP Executive Board, 26 April 2018

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to make some brief introductory remark for the WFP Syria Concept Note

- The Syria operation continues to operate in a volatile context that is characterized by active conflict in some areas with resulting great humanitarian needs, while other areas are observing increasing stability and thus opening up for enhanced livelihood, nutrition and school activities.
- The ICSP concept note seeks to develop a plan for the coming two years, but the reality is that the trajectory of the crisis is uncertain and the concept note has therefore been developed with maximum flexibility in mind.
- The main shift for 2019-2020 compared to 2018 is a further refinement of WFP's interventions, where we will seek to enhance our targeting and prioritization, focusing on the most vulnerable people. This will be achieved through a gradual decrease in our regular food assistance and instead scale-up our livelihood response, enabling people to regain their dignity and become self-sufficient.
- We will increasingly look to cash-based transfers across all of our activities, as markets become more stable. This will address the issue of a lengthy lead time and also afford more flexibility and dignity to our beneficiaries. However, considering the number of people we support this is not done overnight.
- Nutrition interventions will continue to be a key priority for WFP Syria, and will increasingly focus on advocacy and policy efforts through the nutrition sector with a focus on fortification and iodization.
- We will seek to further strengthen our supply chain, particularly with an increase in local procurement and capacity building of the logistics sector. As the agricultural sector slowly recovers, WFP will increasingly shift to buying from the local market thus contributing to the local economy.
- While the future of the Syrian crisis is difficult to predict, WFP is well positioned for providing both a humanitarian response and more livelihood focused activities. WFP has a long history in the country and will also have great relevance in a post-conflict scenario. However, this is also dependent on donors continuing their generous support of the operations in Syria. It will be

essential to maintain a strong response during the post-conflict timeframe to ensure stability across the country.

- We look forward to receiving your questions and comments today. The Syrian context continues to present many challenges, not least due to the highly political nature of the crisis, but there is also ample room for developing and strengthening initiatives and partnerships.