Decisions and recommendations of the 2021 annual session of the Executive Board

Executive Board Bureau

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(Hungary)

Rapporteur: Ms Chiara Segrado  
(United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
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Decisions and recommendations
The decisions and recommendations in the current report will be implemented by the Secretariat in the light of the Board's deliberations, from which the main comments will be reflected in the summary of the work of the session.

The Board decided that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and consistent with WFP Executive Board rule of procedure I.4, it would hold its annual session of 2021 by digital means from 21 to 25 June 2021.

21 June 2021

Adoption of the agenda
The Board adopted the agenda.

21 June 2021

Appointment of the Rapporteur
In accordance with rule XII of its rules of procedure, the Board appointed Ms Chiara Segrado (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, List D) as Rapporteur for its 2021 annual session.

21 June 2021

Current and future strategic issues

2021/EB.A/1 Opening remarks by the Executive Director
The Board took note of the opening remarks by the Executive Director. The main points of the Executive Director and the Board's comments would be reflected in the summary of the work of the session.

21 June 2021

Other business

2021/EB.A/2 Update on WFP's engagement in the preparations for the 2021 United Nations food systems summit
The Board:

i) took note of the oral update on preparations for the 2021 United Nations food systems summit, particularly on the progress achieved with regard to action track 5 for which WFP is the United Nations anchor agency; and

ii) encouraged WFP to continue its involvement in the pre-summit and summit preparatory process and to build on the momentum generated by the school meals coalition for nutrition, health and education for every child.

On conclusion of the summit, the Board looked forward to an exchange with WFP management on the implications of the summit outcomes.

21 June 2021

Latin America and the Caribbean portfolio

2021/EB.A/3 Country strategic plan – Cuba (2021–2024)
The Board approved the Cuba country strategic plan (2021–2024) (WFP/EB.A/2021/8-A/1) at a total cost to WFP of USD 28,702,009.

22 June 2021
Annual reports

2021/EB.A/4  Annual performance report for 2020
The Board approved the annual performance report for 2020 (WFP/EB.A/2021/4-A), noting that it provided a comprehensive record of WFP performance for the year. In accordance with general regulation VI.3, and pursuant to its decisions 2000/EB.A/2 and 2004/EB.A/11, to resolution E/2013/L.17 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and to the decision adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its 148th Session in 2013, the Board requested that the annual performance report for 2020 be forwarded to the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization, along with the present decision and the Board's decisions and recommendations for 2020.

22 June 2021

2021/EB.A/5  Annual report of the Ethics Office for 2020
The Board took note of the annual report of the Ethics Office for 2020 (WFP/EB.A/2021/4-B).

23 June 2021

2021/EB.A/6  Annual report of the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services for 2020 and management note
The Board took note of the annual report of the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services for 2020 (WFP/EB.A/2021/4-C). The Board also took note of the management note to the annual report of the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services for 2020 (WFP/EB.A/2021/4-C/Add.1).

23 June 2021

Policy issues

2021/EB.A/7  WFP people policy
The Board, having considered document WFP/EB.A/2021/5-A:

➢ approved the WFP people policy and its aim to shape the workforce necessary to accomplish the mission set out in WFP's strategic plans;
➢ noted that the implementation and investment plan set forth in annex V provided indicative estimates of the investments required to achieve the full implementation of the policy;
➢ further noted that initiatives and activities required to implement the WFP people policy in 2021 would be funded through existing budgetary and extrabudgetary funding allocations;
➢ noted that initiatives and activities required to implement the WFP people policy from 2022 onwards would be supported through the management plan, country portfolio budgets or other funding mechanisms, as appropriate; and
➢ requested the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on the progress made in policy implementation through the management plan and the annual performance report.

23 June 2021

2021/EB.A/8  Revised anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy
The Board approved the revised anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy (WFP/EB.A/2021/5-B/1).

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

23 June 2021
2021/EB.A/9 Revised policy for disclosure of oversight reports issued by the Office of the Inspector General

The Board approved the policy for the disclosure of oversight reports issued by the Office of the Inspector General set out in the annex to document WFP/EB.A/2021/5-C/1 and decided that it should come into force with immediate effect and supersede the previous policy set out in documents WFP/EB.2/2012/4-A/1 and WFP/EB.A/2017/6-B/1/Corr.1.

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

23 June 2021

2021/EB.A/10 Update on the implementation plan of the WFP protection and accountability policy

The Board took note of the update on the implementation plan of the WFP protection and accountability policy (WFP/EB.A/2021/5-D).

23 June 2021

2021/EB.A/11 Update on WFP’s role in the collective humanitarian response (2020)

The Board took note of the update on WFP’s role in the collective humanitarian response (2020) (WFP/EB.A/2021/5-E).

23 June 2021

Resource, financial and budgetary matters

2021/EB.A/12 Annual report of the Audit Committee

The Board took note of the annual report of the Audit Committee (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-C/1).

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

23 June 2021

2021/EB.A/13 Annual report of the Inspector General and note by the Executive Director

The Board took note of the annual report of the Inspector General (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-D/1) and noted that, based on the risk-based oversight work performed and reported in 2020, no material weaknesses were identified in the governance, risk management or control processes in place across WFP that would seriously compromise the overall achievement of WFP’s strategic and operational objectives. The Board encouraged management to take advantage of the opportunities for improvement highlighted in the report.

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

24 June 2021
2021/EB.A/14  Management review of significant risk and control issues, 2020

The Board took note of the management review of significant risk and control issues, 2020 (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-E/1/Rev.1).

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

24 June 2021

2021/EB.A/15  Audited annual accounts, 2020

The Board:

i) approved the 2020 annual financial statements of WFP, together with the report of the External Auditor (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-A/1), pursuant to general regulation XIV.6 (b);

ii) noted the funding from the General Fund of USD 50,109 during 2020 for ex-gratia payments and the write off of cash losses and receivables;

iii) noted losses of commodities during 2020 forming part of operating expenses for the same period.

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

24 June 2021

2021/EB.A/16  Report of the External Auditor on critical corporate initiatives and WFP management response to the External Auditor’s recommendations

The Board took note of the report of the External Auditor on critical corporate initiatives (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-F/1) and management’s response to the External Auditor’s recommendations (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-F/1/Add.1) and encouraged further action on the recommendations, taking into account the considerations raised by the Board during its discussion and links to the ongoing bottom up strategic budgeting exercise.

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

24 June 2021

2021/EB.A/17  Report of the External Auditor on the management of information on beneficiaries and WFP management response to the External Auditor’s recommendations

The Board took note of the report of the External Auditor on the management of information on beneficiaries (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-G/1) and management’s response to the External Auditor’s recommendations (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-G/1/Add.1) and encouraged further action on the recommendations, taking into account the considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

24 June 2021
2021/EB.A/18  Report on the implementation of the External Auditor’s recommendations

The Board took note of the report on the implementation of the External Auditor’s recommendations (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-H/1/Rev.1).

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

24 June 2021

2021/EB.A/19  Report on the utilization of WFP’s advance financing mechanisms (1 January–31 December 2020)

The Board took note of the report on the utilization of WFP’s advance financing mechanisms for the period 1 January–31 December 2020 (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-B/1) and approved an increase in the ceiling of the Global Commodity Management Facility from USD 560 million to USD 660 million.

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

24 June 2021

2021/EB.A/20  Utilization of the self-insurance special account surplus

Having considered the document “Utilization of the self-insurance special account surplus” (WFP/EB.A/2021/6-J/1), the Board approved the transfer of USD 20 million from the self-insurance special account to the Immediate Response Account.

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/2 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/2) and the Finance Committee of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (WFP/EB.A/2021/5(B,C)/3 and WFP/EB.A/2021/6(A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,J)/3).

24 June 2021

Evaluation reports

2021/EB.A/21  Summary report on the peer review of the evaluation function at the World Food Programme and WFP response

The Board took note of the summary report on the peer review of the evaluation function at the World Food Programme (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-D) and WFP response (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-D/Add.1/Rev.1) and encouraged further action on the recommendations set out in the report, taking into account the considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

24 June 2021

2021/EB.A/22  Annual evaluation report for 2020 and management response

The Board took note of the annual evaluation report for 2020 (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-A) and the management response (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-A/Add.1) and encouraged further action, taking into account considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

24 June 2021
2021/EB.A/23  Summary report on the strategic evaluation of the contribution of school feeding activities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and management response

The Board took note of the summary report on the strategic evaluation of the contribution of school feeding activities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-B) and the management’s response (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-B/Add.1) and encouraged further action on the recommendations set out in the report, taking into account the considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

25 June 2021

2021/EB.A/24  Synthesis of evidence and lessons on country capacity strengthening from decentralized evaluations and management response

The Board took note of the synthesis of evidence and lessons on country capacity strengthening from decentralized evaluations (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-C) and management’s response (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-C/Add.1) and encouraged further action on the recommendations set out in the synthesis, taking into account considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

25 June 2021

2021/EB.A/25  Implementation status of evaluation recommendations

The Board took note of the implementation status of evaluation recommendations (WFP/EB.A/2021/7-E).

25 June 2021

Administrative and managerial matters

2021/EB.A/26  Appointment of two members to the Audit Committee

The Board approved the appointments of the following candidates as members of the Audit Committee:

➢ Mr Darshak Shah (Kenya); and
➢ Mr Veerathai Santiprabhob (Thailand).

Their first three-year term will begin on 15 November 2021 and expire on 14 November 2024.

25 June 2021

2021/EB.A/27  Appointment of the Inspector General and Director of Oversight Office

Following the recommendation by the Executive Director, the Board approved the appointment of Ms Fabienne Lambert (France) as Inspector General and Director of the Oversight Office for a term of four years, from July 2021 to June 2025.

25 June 2021


The Board took note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit: Multilingualism in the United Nations system (WFP/EB.A/2021/10-C).

25 June 2021
Summary of the work of the Executive Board

2021/EB.A/29 Summary of the work of the 2021 first regular session of the Executive Board

The Board approved the draft summary of the work of its 2021 first regular session, the final version of which would be embodied in document WFP/EB.1/2021/13.

25 June 2021
ANNEX I

Agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda** *(for approval)*
2. **Appointment of the Rapporteur**
3. **Opening remarks by the Executive Director**
4. **Annual reports**
   a) Annual performance report for 2020 *(for approval)*
   b) Annual report of the Ethics Office for 2020 *(for consideration)*
   c) Annual report of the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services for 2020 and management note *(for consideration)*
5. **Policy issues**
   a) WFP people policy *(for approval)*
   b) Revised anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy *(for approval)*
   c) Revised policy for disclosure of oversight reports issued by the Office of the Inspector General *(for approval)*
   d) Update on the implementation plan of the WFP protection and accountability policy *(for consideration)*
   e) Update on WFP’s role in the collective humanitarian response (2020) *(for consideration)*
   f) Update on the elaboration of the WFP Strategic Plan (2022–2026) *(for information)*¹
   g) Update on WFP’s response to HIV and AIDS *(for information)*
   h) Update on WFP’s implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279 (repositioning the United Nations development system) *(for information)*¹
6. **Resource, financial and budgetary matters**
   a) Audited annual accounts, 2020 *(for approval)*
   b) Report on the utilization of WFP’s advance financing mechanisms (1 January–31 December 2020) *(for approval)*
   c) Annual report of the Audit Committee *(for consideration)*
   d) Annual report of the Inspector General *(for consideration)* and note by the Executive Director *(for consideration)*
   e) Management review of significant risk and control issues, 2020 *(for consideration)*
   f) Report of the External Auditor on critical corporate initiatives *(for consideration)* and WFP management response to the External Auditor’s recommendations *(for consideration)*
   g) Report of the External Auditor on the management of information on beneficiaries *(for consideration)* and WFP management response to the External Auditor’s recommendations *(for consideration)*
   h) Report on the implementation of the External Auditor’s recommendations *(for consideration)*
   i) Report of the Executive Director on contributions, reductions and waivers of costs under General Rule XIII.4 (f) in 2020 *(for information)*
   j) Utilization of the self-insurance special account surplus *(for approval)*

¹ To be discussed at the session.
7. **Evaluation reports** *(for consideration)*
   a) Annual evaluation report for 2020 and management response
   b) Summary report on the strategic evaluation of the contribution of school feeding activities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and management response
   c) Synthesis of evidence and lessons on country capacity strengthening from decentralized evaluations and management response
   d) Summary report on the peer review of the evaluation function at the World Food Programme and WFP response
   e) Implementation status of evaluation recommendations

8. **Operational matters**
   a) Country strategic plans *(for approval)*
      1. Cuba (2021–2024)
   b) Revisions of country strategic plans and corresponding budget increases, approved by the Board by vote by correspondence *(for information)*

9. **Organizational and procedural matters**
   a) Biennial programme of work of the Executive Board (2021–2022) *(for information)*

10. **Administrative and managerial matters**
    a) Appointment of two members to the Audit Committee *(for approval)*
    b) Appointment of the Inspector General and Director of Oversight Office *(for approval)*
    c) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit: Multilingualism in the United Nations system *(for consideration)*
    d) Address by staff representative bodies to the Board
    e) Report on global losses for the period 1 January–31 December 2020 *(for information)*
    f) Update on food procurement *(for information)*
    g) Statistical report on international professional staff and higher categories at 31 December 2020 *(for information)*
    h) Security report *(for information)*

11. **Summary of the work of the 2021 first regular session of the Executive Board** *(for approval)*

12. **Other business**
    a) Update on WFP’s engagement in the preparations for the 2021 United Nations food systems summit *(for consideration)*
    b) Oral global overview on humanitarian needs and operational concerns and priorities *(for information)*
    c) Oral report on the joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS, UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP *(for information)*
    d) Update on United Nations Humanitarian Air Service *(for information)*

13. **Verification of adopted decisions and recommendations**
## List of documents

### Adoption of the agenda

1. Provisional agenda
   
   Annotated provisional agenda

### Annual reports

4 a) Annual performance report for 2020

4 b) Annual report of the Ethics Office for 2020

4 c) Annual report of the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services for 2020

   Management note to the annual report of the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services for 2020

### Policy issues

5 a) WFP people policy

5 b) Revised anti-fraud and anti-corruption policy

5 c) Revised policy for the disclosure of oversight reports issued by the Office of the Inspector General

5 d) Update on the implementation plan of the WFP protection and accountability policy

5 e) Update on WFP’s role in the collective humanitarian response (2020)

5 f) Update on the elaboration of the WFP Strategic Plan (2022–2026)

5 g) Update on WFP’s response to HIV and AIDS

5 h) Update on WFP’s implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/279 (repositioning the United Nations development system)

### Resource, financial and budgetary matters

6 a) Audited annual accounts, 2020

   Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

   Report of the FAO Finance Committee

6 b) Report on the utilization of WFP’s advance financing mechanisms (1 January–31 December 2020)

6 c) Annual Report of the Audit Committee

6 d) Annual report of the Inspector General

   Note by the Executive Director on the annual report of the Inspector General

6 e) Management review of significant risk and control issues, 2020
6 f) Report of the External Auditor on critical corporate initiatives
   WFP management response to the recommendations in the report
   of the External Auditor on critical corporate initiatives

6 g) Report of the External Auditor on the management of information
   on beneficiaries
   WFP management response to the recommendations in the report
   of the External Auditor on the management of information on
   beneficiaries

6 h) Report on the implementation of the External Auditor’s
   recommendations
   WFP/EB.A/2021/6-H/1/Rev.1

6 i) Report of the Executive Director on contributions, reductions and
   waivers of costs under General Rule XIII.4 (f) in 2020
   WFP/EB.A/2021/6-I/1

6 j) Utilization of the self-insurance special account surplus
   WFP/EB.A/2021/6-J/1

**Evaluation reports**

7 a) Annual evaluation report for 2020
   Management response to the annual evaluation report for 2020
   WFP/EB.A/2021/7-A

7 b) Summary report on the strategic evaluation of the contribution of
   school feeding activities to the achievement of the Sustainable
   Development Goals
   Management response to the recommendations in the summary
   report on the strategic evaluation of the contribution of school
   feeding activities to the achievement of the Sustainable Development
   Goals
   WFP/EB.A/2021/7-B/Add.1

7 c) Synthesis of evidence and lessons on country capacity strengthening
   from decentralized evaluations
   Management response to the recommendations from the synthesis
   of evidence and lessons on country capacity strengthening from
   decentralized evaluations
   WFP/EB.A/2021/7-C/Add.1

7 d) Summary report on the peer review of the evaluation function at the
   World Food Programme
   WFP response to the recommendations in the summary report on
   the peer review of the evaluation function at the World Food
   Programme
   WFP/EB.A/2021/7-D/Add.1/Rev.1

7 e) Implementation status of evaluation recommendations
   WFP/EB.A/2021/7-E

**Operational matters**

8 a) Cuba country strategic plan (2021–2024)
   WFP/EB.A/2021/8-A/1

8 b) Revision of the Congo country strategic plan (2019–2023) and
    corresponding budget increase
   WFP/EB.A/2021/8-B/1

**Organizational and procedural matters**

9 a) Biennial programme of work of the Executive Board (2021–2022)
   WFP/EB.A/2021/9-A
Administrative and managerial matters

10 a) Appointment of two members to the Audit Committee  WFP/EB.A/2021/10-A
10 b) Appointment of the Inspector General and Director of Oversight Office  WFP/EB.A/2021/10-B
10 c) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit: Multilingualism in the United Nations system  WFP/EB.A/2021/10-C
10 e) Report on global losses for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2020  WFP/EB.A/2021/10-E
10 f) Update on food procurement  WFP/EB.A/2021/10-F
10 g) Statistical report on international professional staff and higher categories at 31 December 2020  WFP/EB.A/2021/10-G
10 h) Security report  WFP/EB.A/2021/10-H

Other business

12 d) Update on the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service  WFP/EB.A/2021/12-D/Rev.1

Verification of adopted decisions and recommendations

13 Decisions and recommendations of the 2021 annual session of the Executive Board  WFP/EB.A/2021/13
14 Summary of the work of the 2021 annual regular session of the Executive Board  WFP/EB.A/2021/14*

Information notes

- Provisional list of participants  WFP/EB.A/2021/INF/1
- Provisional timetable  WFP/EB.A/2021/INF/2/Rev.1
- Report by the Executive Director on recent senior staff movements  WFP/EB.A/2021/INF/3

* To be issued after approval by the Executive Board at its second regular session in November 2021.