



## Group of Friends of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot

Side event on the margins of the annual session of the Executive Board

Wednesday, 22 June, 13.30-14.30

Hybrid format event (WFP Auditorium + Zoom platform)

**Following the event, a light buffet lunch will welcome all participants in the Peace Garden**

### Context

The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) is an international network of six humanitarian support hubs, managed by WFP, offering supply chain solutions for the broader international humanitarian community. Established 21 years ago, it facilitates the rapid deployment of non-food items and services for an effective response to global emergencies for WFP and its partners.

In 2015, the Italian Government launched an informal group of UNHRD donors and WFP Executive Board members, the Group of Friends of UNHRD, aimed at raising awareness of the role of UNHRD in the global humanitarian architecture, as well as to ensure a sustainable UNHRD network, through *inter alia*, investment in emergency preparedness. The Group of Friends of UNHRD is currently coordinated by the Spanish Government and other Member States are encouraged to join. The handover of chairmanship of the UNHRD Group of Friends from Spain to Panama during this event endeavours to strengthen the inclusive, participative and plural nature of the group.

### Objectives

The biggest global crisis since World War II, the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly changed our operational environment and personal lives, pushing us beyond what anyone could have imagined. During this unprecedented emergency, UNHRD tripled its response efforts over the span of a year, supporting the global health and humanitarian response to COVID-19 and existing humanitarian responses around the world. UNHRD supported partners in their response efforts amidst the pandemic and contributed to WFP's comprehensive platform of free-to-user cargo transport services established for the COVID-19 global response. For this reason, the Permanent Mission of Panama have organized a Group of Friends of UNHRD side event.

The event purports to demonstrate the added value of the network, including its tools and vision. Similarly, it seeks to foster an exchange of views among Members States and further raise awareness, thereby facilitating the establishment of partnerships, to strengthen the network's capacity to fulfil its goals.

In addition, the event will be an opportunity for Panama to present the plan of their presidency and showcase the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance (CLRAH) which aims to facilitate the activities of reception, handling, storage and redistribution of supplies and equipment, as well as the mobilization of human resources for efficient management of humanitarian assistance in the face of national and international emergencies in the countries of the region.

## **Agenda**

Moderator to give a short introduction of the run of the show of ceremony and invite the following speakers to give their remarks:

- Remarks by the Minister of Government of Panama, Janaina Tewaney Mencomo
- Remarks by the Minister or Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama, Ana Luisa Castro
- Remarks by the Ambassador of Spain to Italy, Alfonso María Dastis Quecedo
- Remarks by the Assistant Executive Director, Manoj Juneja
- Remarks by WFP's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Lola Castro
- Remarks by Network Coordinator, Marta Laurienzo

Following the remarks, the moderator will launch the ceremony to handover the coordination from the Permanent Mission of Spain to the Permanent Mission of Panama.