

Item 7a6 - Ireland

Statement by Ireland

Item 7a) 6) - World Food Programme Executive Board

Sierra Leone CSP- 19 November 2025

Madam President, Excellencies, colleagues,

Ireland welcomes the Sierra Leone Country Strategic Plan for 2026 to 2030 and thanks WFP for the clarity of the analysis. The plan reflects the realities we know from Ireland's long partnership with Sierra Leone across nutrition, livelihoods, girl's education, governance and gender equality.

Sierra Leone continues to face deep structural challenges. It remains one of the poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, with high food insecurity, low life expectancy and very high maternal mortality. Inflation, currency pressures and limited fiscal space add further strain. At the same time, the Government has set out a strong vision through the Medium-Term National Development Plan and the Feed Salone Strategy, and Sierra Leone's regional and global roles are growing as Chair of ECOWAS and as a member of the UN Security Council.

Ireland supports the CSP's focus on three integrated outcomes: crisis response, home grown school feeding and nutrition, and resilient livelihoods for women and young people. The emphasis on a food systems approach is welcome, particularly the expansion of home-grown school feeding and its links to local farmers. This is a practical way to strengthen human capital and rural markets while improving children's diets. We also welcome the strong attention to early warning, disaster preparedness and shock responsive systems, which are essential in a country exposed to recurrent flooding and climate shocks.

We recognise, however, that the operating environment is difficult. Weak district capacities continued inflation, and tight public finances will test delivery. Ireland would value further clarity on three points. First, the milestones required for a sustainable transition of school feeding to national ownership. Second, how procurement and payment systems will be improved to support smallholder farmers, many of them women. Third, how WFP will prioritise activities if funding falls short, while protecting the most food-insecure districts.

Ireland encourages close collaboration with FAO, IFAD, UNDP, UNICEF and the multilateral development banks so that the CSP is fully connected to wider work on agriculture, education, social protection and climate resilience.

Ireland supports the approval of this CSP and remains committed to working with WFP, the Government of Sierra Leone and partners to strengthen food security, nutrition and resilience for the people who need it most.

Thank you, Madam President.