

2025 second regular session of the Executive Board

Hybrid session

Opening remarks by the Executive Director

Ms C. McCain, Executive Director: Thank you so much, Madam President, and thank you for those kind words. Excellencies, colleagues, good morning. I am so glad to see all of you, and I am so sorry that I am not there. A little bit longer and I will be able to fly. I sincerely appreciate your patience, and I do look forward to coming back to Rome.

Let me start by thanking everyone who has reached out to me. I have been overwhelmed by your kindness and good wishes. I want to thank you all. Getting back to full strength is taking a little longer than I had hoped, but I am confident I will be back in headquarters before long. Madam President, with your permission, I will keep these remarks brief and then ask Carl to assist with the opening of the Board.

But before I do, I want to acknowledge and pay tribute to WFP's incredible global team. I will be honest, the past few weeks have been frustrating for me. I have had to cancel missions that would have been great opportunities to make the case for WFP's vital work around the globe. But I have also gained huge strength and inspiration from seeing how WFP's dedicated front-line teams are getting on with the job.

Across the world, every day, our women and men transform the lives of vulnerable people who have absolutely lost everything. Like in Gaza, where we have rapidly scaled up to reach over 1 million people since the ceasefire agreement. In Sudan, where our teams are moving heaven and earth to reach communities cut off by the conflict and threatened by starvation.

In the Caribbean, where we are working around the clock with governments to help the islands who were smashed by Hurricane Melissa. In the Philippines, where we have handed out cash payments and food parcels to families caught up in Typhoon Tino. In every corner of the globe WFP brings life-saving food, hope and dignity to people who need the most.

I followed all of these achievements with such pride and admiration. Whatever the risks, whatever the challenges, WFP's dedicated global team never, ever give up. So, I am more determined than ever to meet our duty of care to them and to give them the support, protection and resources they need..

And inspired by their humanitarian spirit, I want you to know that I am not giving up either. I am still committed to leading this amazing organization and working with all of you to deliver for the hungry people we serve everywhere. I look forward to seeing you again in Rome early in the new year.

Until then, thank you all so much for your friendship, your support and the love that you have sent me. It means the world to me. Now, with that, I would love to give it over to Carl. Thank you, and good luck this week. I look forward to hearing all about it.

