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SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE RESUMED SECOND REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1997



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SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE MEETING

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EVALUATION REPORTS

a) Natural resource management projects in Pakistan (1997/EB.2R/1)

1. In considering the Summary Evaluation Report on Sectoral Evaluation for Natural Resource Management in Pakistan (WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.3), the Board expressed concern at the lack of data on beneficiaries. The Secretariat reminded the meeting that the current approach and strategies were completely new and, hence, not yet perfectly understood or monitored by all parties involved. In response to questions on the effectiveness of the food stamps scheme, the Secretariat informed the Board that it is being reviewed and that further WFP support is dependent on the results of that review. To the suggestion that further WFP assistance should be conditional on the Government finalizing new laws on social forestry, the Secretariat stressed that WFP is effecting maximum leverage on the Government through the projects.

b) Use of food aid for the conservation and management of soil and water - WFP projects in Latin America (1997/EB.2R/1)

2. The Board considered the summary thematic evaluation report on the use of food aid for WFP Soil and Water Management and Conservation Projects in Latin America (WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.1). In response to questions on the role of women in the projects reviewed, the Secretariat acknowledged that the original design had not stressed women's central role in those projects, but added that significant efforts had been made to address this deficiency, through the reformulation and redesign of projects.

c) Summary interim evaluation report on project Ethiopia 2488 (Exp.3) - Rehabilitation and development of rural lands and infrastructure (1997/EB.2R/1)

3. In considering the report on project Ethiopia 2488 (Exp.3) - Rehabilitation and development of rural lands and infrastructure (WFP/EB.2R/97/2/Add.2), the Secretariat acknowledged that, despite the project, land and water degradation problems were increasing. However, it pointed out that some of the root causes of the problems, such as a lack of livestock management and local government deficiencies, were beyond the project's control. The lack of technical inputs was recognized and the Secretariat was urged to make further efforts to identify implementation partners capable of helping to solve the technical and institutional problems.

COUNTRY STRATEGY OUTLINES

Country Strategy Outline - Angola (1997/EB.2R/2)

4. The Board generally endorsed the strategy contained in the Country Strategy Outline (CSO) for Angola (WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.1), and commended in particular the emphasis on rehabilitation and resettlement over relief assistance only and the intention to ultimately phase out food assistance, once conditions in Angola permit.

5. Caution must be exercised to ensure that food aid needs for the period covered by the CSO are kept under continuous review in order to meet genuine rehabilitation needs without adversely affecting local food production. In this context, several representatives emphasized the need to encourage the Government of Angola to increasingly assume its responsibilities in the rehabilitation of infrastructure and social services. The Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping Unit (VAM) within the WFP office in Angola should continue to work in an integrated way with the Government and other agencies, to ensure that the targeting of food aid is effective and appropriate. The idea of using cash instead of food, as mentioned in the document, was questioned since this would be outside WFP's Mission Statement. Another issue raised during the discussion was the high cost of logistics.
6. In reply to specific points raised by the representatives, the Secretariat assured that developments affecting agricultural production and food security are continuously being monitored and WFP interventions adapted to changing conditions. Information generated through the VAM unit and participation in various local coordinating bodies, especially the food aid coordination group chaired by WFP, will ensure that food aid operations are appropriate and duplication is avoided. WFP does not intend to use cash instead of food. On the issue of logistics costs, the Country Director assured the Board that WFP will continue to pursue its policy of delivering goods in the most economical manner possible. This includes substantial contributions by the Government through the waiver of taxes and port-handling fees, as well as the provision of subsidized fuel.

Country Strategy Outlines - El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua (1997/EB.2R/3)

7. The Board took note of the Country Strategy Outlines (CSOs) for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua (WFP/EB.2R/97/3/Add.2 to Add. 5) and praised their depth of analysis and transparency. It was felt that the analysis of the four CSOs demonstrated similar food insecurity indicators and that the serious problems of food insecurity needed to be combatted.
8. Some delegates expressed doubts about the appropriateness of WFP undertaking new activities in these countries. The Board emphasized that the resource allocation should be adjusted to match WFP's resource availability in line with WFP's food allocation policies. Resource allocation in these four countries should focus on the most chronically food-insecure areas and prioritize individual projects. It was further recommended that the CSOs should contain details on the status of the country's classification and basic indicators on per capita income and food availability. A table indicating the status of the projects, the status of execution and any pipeline projects should be included in future CSOs. When considering the preparation of Country Programmes, WFP should take into account the availability of resources and the priority needs of the least developing countries (LDCs).
9. Community participation, gender empowerment and local purchases, whenever possible, were encouraged. In light of WFP's long-term financing strategy, monetization should be considered within Country Programmes only on an exceptional basis. It was suggested that UN Inter-Agency cooperation at country level be reinforced and that WFP focus its activities where it has comparative advantages.
10. The Secretariat assured the representatives that the important issues discussed would be taken fully into consideration in the preparation of Country Programmes,



especially with respect to the comparative advantage of food aid in specific projects, the availability of resources in line with WFP allocation policies, and the country's classification utilizing basic indicators on per capita income and food availability. The Country Directors mentioned that special efforts are being made to target food aid to the poorest of the poor, and to incorporate gender analysis and the participatory approach in work.

REPORT ON POST-DELIVERY LOSSES (OCTOBER 1995 - SEPTEMBER 1996) (1997/EB.2R/4)

11. The Board encouraged WFP to: a) implement a comprehensive commodity tracking system; b) give due attention to "repeat offenders", i.e., countries and ports where major commodity losses continue to occur on a regular basis; and c) ensure prompt clearing from port facilities. Several suggestions were made for further analysis by the Secretariat: a) the Secretariat could send written communications regarding the Board's concern to the governments of those countries in which commodity losses were equal to or greater than two percent of the total quantity handled in that country in a given year; and b) the Secretariat could consider including in the performance reviews of WFP Country Directors and Cluster Managers remarks on their effectiveness in addressing losses.