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de Alimentos

**Executive Board
First Session (Regular)**

Rome, 22 - 23 January 1996

REPORT OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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DATE AND PLACE OF THE SESSION

1. The First Session of the Executive Board (Board) of the World Food Programme (WFP) was held at WFP Headquarters, Rome, on 22 and 23 January 1996.

ATTENDANCE

2. The following States Members of the Board were represented at the session: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, China, Cuba, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Sweden, Syria, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States of America.
3. Sixteen States, not members of the Board, were represented as observers at the session, as was the European Community.
4. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was also represented.

OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)

5. The meeting was opened by the Executive Director.
6. The members discussed the legality of meeting as the WFP Executive Board, when the electoral process for all 36 members of the Board had not yet been completed. The Legal Counsel advised the Board of precedents in the United Nations system to the effect that failure to elect all 36 members did not constitute a legal impediment to it conducting its business.
7. The last Chairman of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA), Mr. John A. Bailey (Australia), was asked by the members of the Executive Board to open the session.
8. The Board approved that the Rules of Procedure of the CFA be applied at the present session and until such time as the Board adopted changes.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (agenda item 2)

9. The Executive Board elected Ambassador Béatrice Damiba (Burkina Faso) by acclamation as its first President until her successor was elected at the first regular session of the Board of 1997.
10. The Executive Board agreed to adopt paragraph 6 entitled "Composition of the Bureau of the Executive Board" of document WFP/ExB.1/96/3 on the methods of work and Rules of Procedure to enable it to elect its Vice-President and the representatives of the other three WFP electoral lists. It elected as Vice-President Mr. Nils Arne Kastberg (Sweden), and the representatives of India, Mr. Atul Sinha (list B); of Cuba, Ambassador Juan Nuiry Sánchez (list C); and of Hungary, Ms. Mariann Kovács (list E), by acclamation until their successors were elected at the first regular session of the Board in 1997.
11. The Executive Board appointed Ambassador Khurshid Hamid (Bangladesh) Rapporteur of the First Session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 3)

12. The provisional agenda, as submitted to the Board in document WFP/ExB.1/96/1, was adopted without change.

STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (agenda item 4)

13. The Executive Director welcomed delegates to the First Session of the Executive Board. She sought comments on WFP's new conference facility which, since it was located at Headquarters, should make the servicing of future meetings more efficient. The Executive Director called for even more dialogue and interaction among Member States, fewer formal statements and an emphasis on clear decisions. She thanked members of the FAO Finance Committee for their hard work on the draft revisions to WFP's Financial Regulations, but indicated that the ACABQ would not be able to provide its advice until February or March. Nonetheless, she encouraged Member States to share their views on the proposed changes to help the Secretariat to finalize the proposals. The Executive Director also announced the availability of the paper on food aid that WFP had prepared for the upcoming World Food Summit.



METHODS OF WORK AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (agenda item 5)

14. The Executive Board agreed to adopt the provisions of document WFP/ExB.1/96/3 *en bloc*. It requested that the documents be reviewed by the Secretariat to ensure that the translations in all languages were brought in line with the language of the original document.

PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR 1996-97 (agenda item 6)

15. The Executive Board also agreed, subject to the inclusion of an item on the revision of WFP's Financial Regulations for the Second Regular Session in 1996, to adopt the provisions of document WFP/ExB.1/96/4 *en bloc*.

REVISION OF WFP'S FINANCIAL REGULATIONS (agenda item 7)

16. The Board had before it document WFP/ExB.1/96/2 and WFP/ExB.1/96/2/Add.1 for this agenda item. The Board was informed that the FAO Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed draft Financial Regulations but that the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) had not been able to give its advice at this time as it was not in session. The Board recognized that it would need the advice of the ACABQ before it could approve the revised Financial Regulations. Moreover, it recognized that the proposed revised Financial Regulations would require detailed discussion to ensure the full and explicit incorporation of the policy decision of the CFA on the new resourcing and long-term financing arrangements.
17. The Board recalled that the CFA at its Fortieth Session had requested the Secretariat to prepare any changes necessary in WFP's General and Financial Regulations and submit them, through its governing body, to the appropriate bodies for consideration and approval. The Board noted that as there would be technical problems in having two sets of Financial Regulations in force within a single financial period, revised Financial Regulations should be applied only from the beginning of the next biennium. There was, therefore, no immediate urgency to complete the process. That would allow time for any required revisions to the General Regulations to be adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and the FAO Conference.
18. The Board:
- a) reaffirmed that the Executive Director should implement the provisions of the new resourcing and long-term financing arrangements on an interim basis to the extent possible under the current Financial Regulations, subject to policy consideration of the proposals by ECOSOC; and



- b) requested the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, to start a process of informal consultation with interested countries and the European Community to form an open-ended working group to review the revised Financial Regulations and the General Regulations, taking into account the advice of the FAO Finance Committee and the ACABQ, when received. The working group should aim at holding its first meeting before the next session of the Board, in order to maintain momentum.

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 8)

19. The Executive Board was briefed on the measures that had been taken by the Secretariat to set up a conference room for the Executive Board and on further steps to provide ancillary facilities in time for the Second Regular Session and the Annual Session in May 1996.
20. The participants expressed their appreciation for the new conference room setting, which facilitated a business-like and direct exchange of views, and made some suggestions for further improvements in the set-up.
21. The Board decided to adopt a new system for numbering its sessions. In the future, those sessions should be indicated by the year and the session number.



ANNEX I

Attendance at the First Regular Session of the Executive Board was as follows:

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Albania:	Mr. P. Pasko*
Algeria:	Mr. N. Rimouche*; Ms. H. Yahia-Cherif*
Angola:	Mr. A.A. Ervedosa Abreu*; Mr. P.A. Kanga*
Australia:	Ms. C. Walker; Mr. J.A. Bailey*
Bangladesh:	Mr. K. Hamid*
Brazil:	Mr. A. Gurgel de Alencar*; Mr. M.A. Diniz Brandão*; Mr. F.J. Marroni de Abreu*
Burkina Faso:	Ms. B. Damiba*; Mr. C. Kientore*
Burundi:	Mr. J.-B. Mbonyingingo*
Cameroon:	Mr. M.T. Kima*; Ms. J. Mbida
Canada:	Mr. R.F. Andrigo*; Mr. M.A. Pilote; Ms. G. Saint-Cyr*
China:	Mr. T. Zhengping*; Mr. L. Zheng Dong*; Mr. J. Xu
Cuba:	Mr. J. Nuiry Sánchez*; Ms. A.M. Navarro Arrúe*
El Salvador:	Ms. M.E. Jiménez*; Mr. E. Vides Larin*
Finland:	Ms. G. Kurtén; Ms. P-L. Kyöstilä*
France:	Mr. J. Laureau*; Mr. D. Berthery*; Mr. O. Margueritte*
Germany:	Mr. J. Oestreich*; Mr. K.G. Dilg*; Mr. P. Garaycochea*; Ms. J. Burghardt
Haiti:	Ms. S. Percy*; Mr. J.W. Dorneval*
Hungary:	Ms. Mariann Kovács*
India:	Mr. A. Sinha*
Indonesia:	Mr. T. Wibowo*; Ms. R. Chalid*; Mr. S. Mawardana*
Italy:	Ms. L. de Clementi; Mr. A. Gallotti
Japan:	Mr. H. Kishi*; Mr. Y. Toida; Mr. H. Watanabe*
Netherlands:	Mr. E.J.N. Brouwers*
Nigeria:	Mr. F. Bature*
Norway:	Ms. I. Nordang; Ms. T. Kongsvik*

* Permanent Representative or alternate to FAO.



Pakistan:	Mr. S. Rashid*
Paraguay:	Mr. O. Cabello Sarubbi*; Mr. R.R. Inchausti Valdez*
Philippines:	Mr. S.A. Barrera*; Ms. M.L. Gavino*
Sweden:	Mr. N.A. Kastberg*; Ms. A. Uustalu
Syria:	Mr. H. Khaddour*; Ms. R. Mahfouz*
Uganda:	Mr. J.T. Karugaba*; Mr. W.A. Sakira*
United States of America:	Mr. T.A. Forbord*; Mr. T. Lavelle; Mr. J.E. McAteer*; Ms. M. Legrand

OBSERVERS

Belgium:	Ms. R. De Clercq*
Chad:	Mr. M. Bamanga Abbas*
Dominican Republic:	Mr. A. Lebrón Pumarol*
Ethiopia:	Mr. G. Redai*
Honduras:	Ms. I.M. López Turcios*
Ireland:	Mr. D. Beehan*
Madagascar:	Mr. R. Rabe*
Mauritania:	Mr. M.A. Tourad*
Mexico:	Mr. J. Robles-Aguilar*
Saudi Arabia:	Mr. B. Al-Shalhoob*
Senegal:	Mr. A. Diouf*
Slovak Republic:	Ms. M. Kadlecíková*
Spain:	Mr. J. García y Badías*; Ms. S. Velazquez
Switzerland:	Mr. H.-F. Morand; Mr. I.N. Marincek*
Tunisia:	Mr. S. Hamdi*
Zaire:	Mr. T.A. Samba Moomi*
FAO:	Mr. R.J. Perkins; Mr. B. Baldini
EC:	Mr. G.P. Papa*; Mr. L. Delgado Sancho*



ANNEX II
**DOCUMENTS ISSUED FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Agenda item	Title	Symbol
3	Provisional agenda	ExB.1/96/1
	Annotated provisional agenda	ExB.1/96/1/Add.1
5	Methods of work and Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board	ExB.1/96/3
6	Annual Programme of Work of the Executive Board	ExB.1/96/4
7	Interim Revised Financial Regulations and Comments by the FAO Finance Committee	ExB.1/96/2 ExB.1/96/2/Add.1
9	Draft report of the First Regular Session of the Executive Board	ExB.1/96/5
OTHER DOCUMENTS		
	Information for participants	ExB.1/96/INF/1
	Provisional timetable	ExB.1/96/INF/2
	Provisional check list of documents	ExB.1/96/INF/3
	Provisional list of participants	ExB.1/96/INF/4
	Offices and telephone numbers	ExB.1/96/INF/5



