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PART II

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council
resolution 1995/50: Collaboration with
the Bretton Woods institutions

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1. This document is submitted to the Executive Board for review and comments.
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3. The Secretariat therefore invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document, to contact the WFP staff member(s) listed below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting. This procedure is designed to facilitate the Board's consideration of the document in the plenary.
4. The WFP staff dealing with this document are:

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5. Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Documents Clerk (tel.: 5228-2641).

Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/50: Collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions

INTRODUCTION

1. For a number of years, the World Food Programme (WFP) has been working to build closer relations with the Bretton Woods Institutions. Food insecurity is viewed as a serious development problem by both the World Bank and WFP and collaboration between the two aims at strengthening interventions which address the problem of hunger and malnutrition in poor households. At the policy level, there have been efforts to improve the mutual understanding of food security problems and their solutions. At the field level, collaboration has resulted in shared financing of projects whose purpose is to improve the food security of poor households.

COLLABORATION IN POLICY MATTERS

2. A process of informal inter-agency consultations between IMF, the World Bank, FAO and WFP began in 1995 against a background of deterioration in the world food situation and rising food prices. These consultations have examined the roles that the institutions might play individually and jointly, should the situation worsen markedly.
3. In the context of strengthening United Nations relief and rehabilitation activities, the WFP and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have begun discussions with the World Bank to examine the prospects of the Bank playing a more substantive role in emergency relief operations, particularly in situations where the Bank may not be present but WFP and UNHCR are. There are several activities which may be well suited for Bank support during an emergency period, which also have the prospect of being "pre-investments" for post-emergency rehabilitation and development activities. A major area where the Bank might play a strong role during an emergency is the upgrading of transport infrastructure. As noted below, there have been some instances of Bank support in this area and a vast potential for stronger collaboration exists. For WFP and UNHCR, an improved port, railway and road transport system helps to avoid costly operations such as airlifts of food and other commodities, which otherwise become necessary to ensure timely assistance. For the Bank, subsequent development in this sector in these countries would begin with a "going concern". Environmental protection activities and provision of health and sanitation facilities are examples of other potentialities for Bank assistance during emergencies, which also have strong linkages with future development.



4. WFP and the Bank were active members of the steering committee led by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) that prepared the European Conference on Hunger and Poverty convened in Brussels in November 1995. A draft Programme of Action is being elaborated and WFP will continue to collaborate closely with the Bank and IFAD during this process. In recent years, WFP has also increased its attendance at the Bank-sponsored Consultative Group meetings that discuss the policy framework of assistance to individual developing countries and how the international community can best provide support. Moreover, WFP participates, along with the World Bank, in a number of inter-agency fora, including the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition and the ACC Inter-Agency Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods for all. WFP consults with and/or draws upon World Bank and IMF analyses and data when preparing Country Strategy Outlines (CSOs), as appropriate. CSOs provide the analytical rationale and framework for the set of food-assisted activities supported by WFP in recipient countries.

COLLABORATION IN OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

5. The Bank collaborates in almost all of the major areas of development activity supported by WFP food aid. These include: the management of natural resources, rehabilitation and development of physical infrastructure, development of human resources and increasing employment opportunities. At present, there are 11 projects - five in Africa, three in Latin America and three in Asia - in which WFP collaborates with the Bank. In Senegal, for example, a nutrition project has benefited from extensive collaboration. The World Bank financed not only the preliminary studies and a monitoring/evaluation system, but also a number of health components in the operational phase. And in Bangladesh, for example, one component of the nation-wide food-for-work programme supports the implementation of Bank-assisted projects.
6. WFP also collaborates with the Bank in emergencies. A good example of effective WFP/Bank collaboration in this area was the 10 million dollars of Bank funding provided within the framework of the "100 Days Plan of Action" in Somalia. These funds were used mainly to improve the basic physical and institutional infrastructure needed for relief operations, with smaller amounts allocated to equipment and the airlifting of trucks.
7. Fruitful collaboration with the Bank also exists in the context of post-emergency assistance. For example, in Mozambique, a recently approved project focuses on the rehabilitation of social infrastructure where the reconstruction of health centres is being financed by both cash and food for work. In addition, the World Bank has entrusted WFP with the management of the funds in view of the Programme's extensive presence in the country. These joint activities increase the cost-effectiveness of assistance in the transition phase from emergency to development.

