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OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda item 11

REVIEW OF WFP'S RESOURCE AND LONG-TERM FINANCING POLICIES

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document contains recommendations for review and approval by the Executive Board.

Pursuant to the decisions taken on the methods of work by the Executive Board at its First Regular Session of 1996, the documentation prepared by the Secretariat for the Board has been kept brief and decision-oriented. The meetings of the Executive Board are to be conducted in a business-like manner, with increased dialogue and exchanges between delegations and the Secretariat. Efforts to promote these guiding principles will continue to be pursued by the Secretariat.

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.

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REVIEW OF WFP'S RESOURCE AND LONG-TERM FINANCING POLICIES

1. At the Third Session of the Executive Board in October 1997, the Secretariat outlined its proposals for the conduct of the above-mentioned review, in accordance with the relevant decision of the Fortieth Session of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (CFA). The Board agreed that the review should be undertaken in close consultation with the Members of the Programme and the European Commission.
2. There have been four informal consultations with Members and the European Commission over the period November 1997 to April 1998. The topics covered include the proposed scope of work for the review; the proposed treatment of Direct Operational Costs, Direct Support Costs and Indirect Support Costs; assessment of the impact of the Resource and Long-term Financing (R<F) policies in addressing past constraints; Issues and Options on Resourcing and Operational Matters; and a consolidated report bringing these various topics together in a single document which also incorporates the results of a comparative study of WFP's resourcing and financing mechanisms with those of UNDP, UNICEF and UNHCR.
3. It is now timely to place the review process on a more formal footing by proposing the establishment of a Formal Working Group to review WFP's Resource and Long-term Financing policies. The group would be open to all Members of the Programme and the Observer of the European Commission, and would elect its officers. This arrangement would engage Members more directly and help to move the process forward with a view to bringing recommendations to the Board's Third Regular Session of 1998.
4. It is recommended that the Board establish a Formal Working Group along the lines set out in paragraph 3.

