

Executive Board Annual Session

Rome, 118 - 21 May 1998

Executive Board



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Rapporteur:	Mr. Kiala Kia Mateva	(Angola)

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 1998

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DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda

The Executive Board adopted the agenda as proposed (Annex I).

18 May 1998

Appointment of the Rapporteur

In keeping with the established methods of work the Board appointed Mr Kiala Kia Mateva (Angola) Rapporteur of the Annual Session of 1998.

18 May 1998

The decisions and recommendations that form the current report will be implemented by the Secretariat in the light of the Board's deliberations; the main points will be reflected in the Summary of the Work of the Board for the present Session.

ANNUAL REPORTS

1998/EB.A/1 Annual report of the Executive Director for 1997

The Board approved the Annual Report of the Executive Director for 1997 (WFP/EB.A/98/3-A) and recommended that in drafting future annual reports account be taken of the suggestions made during the Board's deliberations on the format and the analysis of constraints and achievements experienced.

The Board underlined the need to sharpen WFP's people-centred approach, on the poorest countries, with special emphasis placed on women and children, and the targeting of resources to these objectives.

It recommended that WFP's collaboration with different multilateral organizations continued to be strengthened, and that WFP take full part in the United Nations Reform process.

The Board commended the Executive Director for the report, as well as for the work carried out by WFP in 1997. It paid homage to the officials who lost their lives in 1997 in their efforts to save those of so many others.

18 May 1998

1998/EB.A/2 Annual report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 1997

The Board approved its annual report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 1997 (WFP/EB.A/98/3-B) It recommended that the report be forwarded to ECOSOC and the FAO Council.

19 May 1998

POLICY ISSUES

1998/EB.A/3 From crisis to recovery

The Board endorsed the report "From crisis to recovery" (WFP/EB.A/98/4-A), and reiterated that WFP, with its dual mandate, was well placed to make the link from relief to development, as the Programme has gained valuable experience in this area.

The Board emphasized the importance of partnerships, definition of agency roles and complementarity of assistance. It reiterated the need for beneficiaries to play a significant role in the recovery strategy, in accordance with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The Board endorsed the following recommendations contained in the report:

The emergency operation (EMOP) programme category will be used to respond only to acute emergency needs and only in exceptional circumstances exceed a period of two years. During the EMOP phase a recovery strategy will be prepared, no later than the eighteenth month of the EMOP. As and where opportunities arise, WFP will begin introducing recovery approaches and activities, even prior to the formulation of a recovery strategy.

WFP support for protracted relief and recovery from crisis will be guided by the recovery strategy which will provide the rationale for operating in protracted relief and recovery situations, will identify the role and justification for food aid, target areas and groups, and define assistance modalities.

The recovery strategy will propose programme activities and include a funding proposal, making adequate provision for non-food items and the preparation of the recovery strategy. It will cover a period of up to three years and be submitted to the Executive Board for approval. Activities will commence immediately upon the termination of the EMOP currently in effect and the availability of funds.

The current protracted relief operation (PRO) programme category will be renamed protracted relief and recovery (PRRO) and become the WFP programme category to respond to protracted relief and recovery needs. The PRRO will be the mechanism through which protracted relief and recovery programme activities, developed in the recovery strategy, will be funded. The PRRO will include a contingency mechanism to respond to possible setbacks, reversals and new emergency/disaster outbreaks. This will be funded through a budget revision using the same delegation of authority as for Country Programmes and development projects.

WFP will work in consultation with partners and through inter-agency mechanisms; participate in and support the formulation and implementation of the United Nations Common Strategic Framework in those situations where a Strategic Framework is being formulated; support the UNDAF process; and participate actively in inter-agency consultations to expand the scope of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). The WFP recovery strategy will be linked with these processes to the extent feasible. In addition, country offices will participate in needs assessments in conjunction with partners to determine which population groups require food assistance, for how long, what type and how much food.

WFP participation in demining will be restricted to: supporting mine clearing in situations where humanitarian food responses are restricted by mines and food cannot reach targeted beneficiaries, and other funds are not available; and using food to assist community-based programmes which are directly linked to demining programmes. WFP's assistance may be provided where food aid supports the work of other agencies and is an appropriate intervention resource.

Demobilization processes in countries emerging from conflict will be conceived and implemented as part of a United Nations strategy. WFP assistance will not include support to armed personnel at any stage of demobilization or reintegration. WFP will assist weapons exchange programmes in selected cases where food is a suitable element within the context of an integrated demobilization programme.

Each recovery strategy will be reviewed periodically to assure its effectiveness.

The experience of implementing the procedures introduced through the Board's decisions will be reviewed after three years to assess their effectiveness.

Guidance for the implementation of these decisions will be set out in operational guidelines.

19 May 1998

1998/EB.A/4 Emerging issues relevant to WFP

The Board considered a report on emerging issues relevant to WFP (WFP/EB.A/98/4-B), namely: WFP development interventions revitalized, the multilateral character of WFP's development activities, and United Nations reform: field-level collaboration in the provision of development assistance. It commented as follows:

a) In discussing the issue of strengthening WFP's development interventions, the Board stressed the importance of WFP's dual



mandate in food aid for emergency and development assistance.

The Board was in general agreement with the consultation process, open to all members of the Programme, and with the timetable proposed by the Secretariat to review the role of food aid for development.

The Board agreed that work to improve WFP's development programmes should proceed while the review was being conducted.

In order to allow Board Members enough time to carry out consultations with their governments regarding a proposal formulated by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), it was recommended that the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, contact Board Members regarding the possibility of carrying out the proposed intergovernmental consultation. The Board agreed that this possibility would not affect the timetable proposed by the Secretariat.

- b) The Board stressed the importance of the multilateral character of WFP, and expressed concern for the decline in multilateral contributions. It urged members to make efforts to increase such multilateral contributions, particularly in respect to development activities.
- c) The Board stressed the importance of common programming, field coordination and joint action, and commended WFP's initiatives and actions in supporting the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

Regarding joint programming in crisis countries, the Board welcomed the information about the recent decision to apply the first Strategic Framework exercise in Afghanistan. The Board supported WFP's participation in this initiative, in full coordination with other partners, and in conformity with WFP's mandate.

19 May 1998

EVALUATIONS

1998/EB.A/5 Evaluation reports: Work Plan for 1998–99

The Board considered WFP's 1998–99 Evaluation Work Plan (WFP/EB.A/98/5).

It reiterated the importance of evaluation activities and the appropriateness of strengthening them, together with the need to strike an adequate balance between the development projects and emergency activities to be evaluated.

The Board requested that in the near future an extended debate be carried out on the principles and methods of monitoring and evaluation, and recommended that baseline indicators be incorporated into project



design to allow future evaluation of the projects' impact.

It noted that evaluations should be carried out with the participation of beneficiary countries.

19 May 1998

OTHER REPORTS

1998/EB.A/6 Report on post-delivery losses (period October 1996-September 1997)

The Board considered the report on post-delivery losses for the period October 1996–September 1997 (WFP/EB.A/98/6), commended WFP's continued efforts to reduce losses and encouraged the Programme to increase endeavours to further reduce losses.

The Board recommended:

- a) the implementation of the commodity tracking system during 1998; and
- b) the review and, where necessary, amendment of all country Basic Agreements to ensure that proper reference to losses is included.

The Board requested the Secretariat to communicate, in writing, the Executive Board's concern to each government of a country where commodity losses are equal to or greater than two percent of the total quantity of donated food handled in that country.

19 May 1998

1998/EB.A7/ Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit

In taking note of the Secretariat's document on the reports by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) (WFP/EB.A/98/7), the Board recommended that the Bureau review future JIU reports and present its observations for the Board's consideration.

19 May 1998

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL MATTERS

1998/EB.A/8 Composition of WFP international staff - personnel statistics report as at 31 January 1998

The Board took note of the personnel statistics report as at 31 January 1998 (WFP/EB.A/98/8-A), and expressed its satisfaction with the information provided. It recommended that efforts continue to be made to improve geographical distribution, and to avoid overrepresentation of certain regions.

Moreover, it recommended that the proportion of women, and that of staff from developing countries, be further increased and requested that information be provided periodically on the results regarding the filling of vacancies. Members were requested to submit their proposals of candidates for inclusion in WFP's rosters and for specific vacancy announcements.

20 May 1998

1998/EB.A/9 Local purchases of food and non-food items

The Board considered a report on local purchases (WFP/EB.A/98/8-B and Corr.1) presented by the Secretariat, and was in general agreement with the recommendations it contained.

In reiterating the importance of local purchases, the Board urged the Secretariat to take into consideration lessons learned in this connection, and to be aware of the possible positive or negative consequences of this type of activity on production, markets and local prices.

The Board requested that the Secretariat present to it a document explaining the analytical process carried out, and detailing how local purchases are carried out in optimal conditions, without giving rise to negative effects.

20 May 1998

OTHER BUSINESS

1998/EB.A/10 Report of the Working Group on the Distribution of Seats

The Board received a briefing on the meetings held by the Working Group on the Distribution of Seats, and recommended that, in the spirit of reaching a successful conclusion of its work, the group resume discussions.

The Board took note that the Working Group would forward its report to ECOSOC and the FAO Council for information.

20 May 1998

1998/EB.A/11 Report of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure

The Board was informed of progress made by the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Board.

It decided that a document containing the proposed new Rules of Procedure be prepared in time to be considered at its Third Regular Session of 1998.

20 May 1998

ANNEX I

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda
- 2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
- 3. Annual reports
 - a) Annual report of the Executive Director
 - b) Annual report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 1997.
- 4. Policy issues
 - a) From crisis to recovery
 - b) Emerging issues relevant to WFP
- 5. Evaluations
 - Evaluation reports: Work Plan for 1998-99
- 6. Report on post-delivery losses (period October 1996-September 1997
- 7. Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit
- 8. Administrative and managerial matters
 - a) Composition of WFP international staff personnel statistics report as at 31 January 1998
 - b) Local purchases of food and non-food items
- 9. Other business
- 10. Verification of adopted decisions and recommendation

ANNEX II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
1	Annotated provisional agenda	WFP/EB.A/98/1
3 a)	Annual report of the Executive Director	WFP/EB.A/98/3-A
3 b)	Annual report of the Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 1997	WFP/EB.A/98/3-B
4 a)	From crisis to recovery	WFP/EB.A/98/4-A
4 b)	Emerging issues relevant to WFP	WFP/EB.A/98/4-B
5	Evaluation reports: work plan 1998-99	WFP/EB.A/98/5
6	Report on post-delivery losses (October 1996 - September 1997)	WFP/EB.A/98/6
7	Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit	WFP/EB.A/98/7
8 a)	Composition of WFP International Staff	WFP/EB.A/98/8-A
8 b)	Local purchases of food and non-food items	WFP/EB.A/98/8-B and Corr.1
10	Decisions and recommendations of the Annual Session of 1998	WFP/EB.A/98/10
	Other documents	
	Information for participants	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/1
	Additional information for participants	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/1/Add.1
	Provisional timetable	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/2
	Provisional list of documents	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/3
	Lists of MOUs and Letters of	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/4 *(reissued for



Agenda item	Title of documents	Document symbol
	agreement signed by WFP and other organizations/entities	technical reasons)
	Guiding principles on internal displacement	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/5
	Offices and telephone numbers	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/6
	Consultation process for a review of development	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/7
	Major highlights of the report to the Executive Board on personnel statistics	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/8
	Provisional list of participants	WFP/EB.A/98/INF/9

ANNEX III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Executive Board

Algeria:	Ms. H. Yahia-Cherif
Angola:	H.E. A. Abreu; Mr. K.K. Mateva
Australia:	Mr. M. Commins; Ms. C. Walker
Bangladesh:	Mr. M. Kabir; H.E.M. Zamir; Mr. A.B. Chowdhury; Mr. M. Mejbahuddin
Belgium:	H.E. J. De Montjoye; Mr. G. Mombaerts; Ms. J. Gentile
Brazil:	Ms. M. Gurgel Valente Da Costa
Burundi:	Mr. F. Nyabenda
Cameroon:	H.E. M. Tabong Kima; Mr. P. Moumié; Mr. E.H. Monono; Mr. T. Ndive Mokake
Canada:	Ms. C. McAskie; Mr. E. Loevinsohn; Mr. M.G. Pilote; Mr. J. Devlin
China:	H.E. L. Qu; Mr. X. Haijing; Mr. L. Zhengdong; Mr. Z. Zhongjun
Cuba:	H.E. J. Nuiry Sánchez
Denmark:	Ms. K. N. Rasmussen; Mr. LH. Worsøe
El Salvador:	Ms. M.E. Jiménez; Ms. N.C. Ramirez
Ethiopia:	Mr. A. Andualem; Mr. G. Redai
Finland:	Ms. R. Jolkkonen; Ms. A. Huhtamäki; Ms. S. Toro
Germany:	H.E. D. Lincke; Mr. K.G. Dilg; Mr. C. Retzlaff
India:	H.E. K.P. Fabian; Ms. N. Gangadharan; Mr. R.K. Vaish
Indonesia:	Mr. I.N. Ardha
Iran, Islamic Republic of:	H.E. H.V.M. Hassanali Ebrahimi; Mr. A. Hadji-Arab; Mr. M. Ebrahimi; Mr. GH. Darzi
Japan:	Mr. S. Fujita; Mr. T. Kikuchi; Mr. T. Ohashi; Mr. Y. Endo
Jordan:	Mr. S.A. Al-Arabiat; Mr. D. Haddad; Mr. A. Arabyat
Mexico:	Ms. M.A. Arriola Aguirre



Netherlands:	Ms. L. Remmelzwaal; Mr. E.J.N. Brouwers; Ms. R. Weiffenbach
Nigeria:	Mr. B.M. Ukpong; Mr. P.C. Okoh
Norway:	Mr. A. Eidhammer; Ms. T. Kongsvik; Mr. T. Grongstad
Pakistan:	Mr. A. Mahmood
Paraguay:	H.E. O. Cabello Sarubbi; Mr. R.R. Inchausti Valdez
Russian Federation:	H.E. V.A. Zvezdin; Mr. N. Ryjov; Mr. A. Pankin
Saudi Arabia:	Mr. B. Al-Shalhoob
Senegal:	Mr. A. Diouf
Slovakia:	Ms. I. Jénezová; Mr. L. Micek
Sweden:	Ms. D. Alopaeus-Stahl; H.E. R. Rasmusson
Switzerland:	Mr. C. Raedersdorf; Mr. T. Erni; Mr. F. Thévénaz; Mr. I.N. Marincek; Mr. R. Heckner
Tunisia:	Mr. A. J. Ben Ajmia; Ms. N. Dridi; Mr. M. Lamti
United States of America:	Mr. D. Sheldon; Mr. T. Torrance; Ms. L. Tracy; Mr. T. Oliver

Observer States

Argentina:	Mr. A. Fernandez
Austria:	Mr. E. Zimmerl; Ms. F. Veschi
Burkina Faso:	H.E. B. Damiba; Mr. A.A. Yameogo
Cape Verde:	Mr. E. Silva
Chile:	H.E. P. Medrano Rojas
Costa Rica:	Ms. Y. Gago
Côte d'Ivoire:	Mr. S.B. Sei
Cyprus:	Mr. A. Roushias
Czech Republic:	Mr. J. Novák
Democratic People's Republic of Korea:	H.E. K. Hung Rim; H.E. S.C. Yun
Ecuador:	Mr. C. Larrea Dávila
Egypt:	Mr. M. Khalifa; Ms. N. El Achry

Eritrea:	Mr. Y. Tensue
France:	H.E. L. Dominici; Mr. JL. Rysto; Mr. P. Pruvot
Ghana:	H.E. A.N. Enin; Mr. M.I. Seidu
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Guatemala:	Ms. R. Claverie de Sciolli
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Hungary:	Ms. M. Kovács
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Italy:	Mr. A. Treggiari; Mr. F. Ginocchio
Kazakhstan:	Mr. B. Sadykov
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Sri Lanka:	Mr. D. Kulatilleke
Sudan:	Mr. M.S.M. Ali Harbi
Thailand:	Mr. C. Tiantong; Mr. K. Prasutsangchan
Turkey:	Mr. Ö. Gücük
United Kingdom:	Mr. R. Fox; Mr. A. Beattie; Ms. S. Dunn
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Zimbabwe:	Mr. B. Mugobogobo

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UNHCR	Mr. F. Karim

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