

In the name of God

The most companionate the most merciful

**Executive Board First Regular Session Rome, 8-10 February 2016 :
Agenda Item 6 WFP/EB.1/2016/6/3 Country Programmes**

Country Programme Tajikistan 200813 (2016-2020)

For approval

Thank you Madam President. Iran is presenting this statement on behalf of List B countries.

As has been mentioned in the Country Programme, Tajikistan is a country with a population of 8.2 million, ranked 133rd of 187 countries in the 2014 human development index. Tajikistan relies on food imports to cover more than half of its population's food needs.

70% of the average daily calorie intake of the people is originated from wheat grain based carbohydrate, which is not a balanced diet for people, in particular for young children. In addition, 50% the wheat consumed, is imported.

According to the well prepared country program

This program is :

- 1- In the line with Tajikistan's Mid-Term Development Strategy (2016-2020): especially the two goals of the Mid-Term Development Program**

- 2- Overcoming the critical level of food insecurity and**

3- Provision of equal access to social services is extremely needed.

4- Is In the line of The United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2016-2020 :

5- IS contributing to the WFP's Strategic Objectives 1, 3 and 4

6- Supporting The objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 2, and Zero Hunger Challenge

For the first 5 items, the country program is well prepared, thanks to the secretariat, but regarding the item 6, we don't think the country program sufficiently addresses: the Sustainable Development Goals Which is required for combatting hunger a Midterm and long term period

Madam President!

Appreciating the secretariat for preparing such a detailed, well prepared country program document, there should have been more focus in the program about **Sustainable Development Goals in Tajikistan for production of sufficient, Safe and Nutritious food.**

As previously mentioned in my presentation, there are two serious problems associated with food security of the country:

1-Insufficient food production inside the country, as Just 50% of the food needs produced in the country, resulting disproportionately food price fluctuations which affects the poor people.

2-Use of unbalanced and poor quality food by Tajik people

Seventy Percent of average dairy calories intake of the people originated from carbohydrate of wheat crop which provide food with low nutrition value. Therefore, more emphasis in the country program should have been given to these two serious problems associated with the food security of the country

In the line of increasing food production inside the country and also approving nutrition value of the food consume by Tajik people, we recommend the followings action to be seriously considered for achievement of the Key goal of Tajikistan in the country program:

Supporting the objectives of the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly goal 2, List B countries recommending collaboration between WFP, FAO, UNIDO, IFAD and the kind donor countries for the followings:

1- Increasing wheat production in the country for achievement of the aimed Sustainable Development Goals in the country program. To help the country to move toward self-sufficiency in the main source for daily calorie intake and improvement of food security, we should consider that:

1-1- The total need of Tajikistan to wheat is around 1.5 Million Tons, from which around 800/000 tons produced inside the country.

On the basis of my experience in the region, the current wheat production in Tajikistan could be significantly increased by providing technical support to the farmers. However, as a result of having no technical capacity of WFP, this organization alone cannot provide the required technical supports. But the aimed production improvement could be achieved Collaboration among WFP, FAO, UNIDO, IFAD and donor countries. Without any doubt, without the active collaboration amongst the above mentioned agencies and donor country parties, there won't be a chance to achieve the expected goals addressed in the WFP country program.

The followings actions required for fulfillment of Tajikistan's Mid and Long term Zero Hunger Challenge and the Sustainable Development Goals

- Capacity building for wheat production
- Productivity improvement using Good agriculture practice
- Reducing wheat grain losses during harvest and post-harvest, which should not be less than 20 percent of the products (around 160 000 .000 kilograms. This loss could be eliminated through collaboration of WFP and UNIDO (the specialized UN agency for agroindustry) with extremely valuable experience in reduction of crop losses worldwide.
- Increasing crop yield using high quality seed from stress tolerant wheat cultivars.

2- Collaboration between WFP and FAO the volunteer countries with advanced National sheep growing system for increasing meat production and improving nutrition value of food consumed by Tajik people

Tajikistan has a big number of sheep breeds. Therefore conducting selection based traditional sheep breeding programs and then introduction of new blood to the gene pool, a very significant improvement could be achieved in meat yield, fertility and growth rate.

Furthermore, more meat production could be achieved by introduction of sustainable pasture development programs, and introduction of new stress tolerant high yielding species to follow SDG's in particular SDG2.

In the line of meat production improvement, WFP and FAO and WFP countries with advanced sheep growing system, could collaborate with WFP to produce more nutritious food for Tajikistan.

Regarding my country Iran, Yes we are more than happy to collaborate with WFP, FAO, IFAD and the other countries to provide technical assistant to Tajiki Farmers to produce sufficient, Safe and Nutritious food.

Let me say, this doesn't mean Iran doesn't need technical support of the UN agencies and the other countries, but I we believe: we need each other supports to have happier life for all.

Let's work all together to combat hunger,

No matter in which region mine and your respected countries located:
this would help us to have a Better and Safer World without hunger

Madam President

With these remarks, List B countries endorse the approval of the proposed WFP country programs for Tajikistan, and request serious consideration for implementation of the List B recommendation for achievement of food security in Tajikistan

God Bless you all