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Summary of the work of the 2018 first regular session of the Executive Board

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Current and future strategic issues

Opening remarks by the Executive Director (2018/EB.1/1)

1. The Executive Director said that WFP had made considerable progress in 2017 thanks to record funding from donors. He noted, however, that conflict continued to contribute to an increase in hunger, and he appealed to donors to maximize their contributions. In recent months, the issues of sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries and harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power among staff had become prominent concerns. WFP had been addressing the issue for more than a year, working to strengthen policies and establishing an environment in which all staff and beneficiaries could feel safe, respected and confident. WFP's newly revised internal directive, along with increased funding for the Office of the Inspector General, were designed to give people confidence that allegations of misconduct would be investigated and that perpetrators would face strong disciplinary action, including dismissal, if allegations were proven. WFP was also participating in an interagency task force examining such issues and was establishing a joint management/Executive Board working group to further consider how to address them within WFP. In view of the need to preserve its reputation for integrity, WFP had suspended any new agreements with Oxfam pending assurances that it had in place appropriate procedures to prevent exploitation and abuse.
2. The Executive Director also said that WFP was committed to achieving gender parity. Every country office would have targets on gender parity and would be reviewed quarterly on its progress in meeting them.
3. Efficiency in the allocation of resources and improved management approaches as well as timely information-sharing were essential to donors. This meant that WFP would rigorously investigate systemic problems, with regional and country directors held accountable.
4. The Executive Director said that he was working with governments and political groups to increase funding and expressed on behalf of WFP his appreciation for the enhanced contributions received to date. New donors needed to be identified, and there was a need for new funding mechanisms such as South-South collaboration to leverage funds and expertise; evidence of the efficiency of WFP's operations would support such approaches.
5. The Executive Director said that in line with General Assembly resolution 70/244 WFP would ask the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Council at its June 2018 meeting to raise the mandatory age of separation for WFP staff to 65. Staff members turning 62 from 1 January 2018 could submit applications for waivers regarding the current mandatory age of separation, which would be considered favourably.
6. Mr Mark Lowcock, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, spoke via recorded video message, which he began by saying that in the modern world it was possible to eliminate famine thanks to advances in agricultural technologies and practices that had made food more readily available and cheaper. Because the schedule for the current session had been compressed because of a delay caused by inclement weather, only the beginning of Mr Lowcock's message was aired. The full message may be viewed on the WFP website.
7. Board members expressed appreciation for the Executive Director's remarks and commended his determination to work with governments to increase funding for WFP's drive towards zero hunger and sustainable solutions to hunger, which would promote long-term international stability. They also expressed appreciation for his focus on gender parity and on the welfare of staff and beneficiaries as part of the development of an inclusive working environment driven by respect for all, observing that relevant management responsibilities must be spelled out clearly. Members stressed that humanitarian assistance must be inclusive and impartial, extending to the most vulnerable, including persons with

disabilities. They also said that the maintenance of human dignity should lie at the heart of WFP's work and thus welcomed the zero tolerance approach to dealing with harassment and abuse, including strong sanctions for offenders. Members also said that beyond improved policies there was a need for a cultural shift in WFP and that prevention and the protection of victims were of great importance. Taxpayers – the true source of WFP's funding – expected efficiency and honesty in the allocation of resources and would not tolerate abusive or fraudulent behaviour among humanitarian personnel. Board members said that WFP should continue to lead in ensuring the highest professional standards among humanitarian personnel. Board members expressed unreserved admiration for the commitment and courage of WFP staff in the challenging situations in which they worked.

8. Board members said that WFP should look at humanitarian relief through a development lens, focusing on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, and that effectiveness in the long term could not be achieved without tackling root causes, including the root causes of the proliferating conflicts that were increasingly sparking the need for humanitarian assistance. Climate change was highlighted as a particular challenge. To that end, new funding sources and mechanisms – particularly those related to the private sector, emerging donors and South-South cooperation – would be indispensable. In that context, members said that they were encouraged by the successes of WFP's centres of excellence and encouraged WFP to extend its work in the realm of innovation, including through its Innovation Accelerator. Several members highlighted their commitment to the Grand Bargain.
9. Members remarked that there was a need to support the United Nations reform process with a view to maximizing collaborative approaches that would lead to optimum efficiency, effectiveness and transparency in programmes in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Increased collaboration among the Rome-based agencies would support that aim. Members applauded the move to increase the mandatory age of separation, saying that experienced staff could be retained for longer.
10. Several Board members highlighted the effectiveness of the Executive Director's fundraising visits to their capitals, and some members called for a major increase in the proportion of multi-year predictable and unearmarked contributions to enable WFP to act rapidly in emergencies and to manage its resources effectively. This was particularly important in view of the need for flexibility in assisting the poorest groups within the humanitarian and development nexus. Board members called for WFP to maintain its results-oriented approach to operations and its work with governments and partners. Board members urged WFP to take every opportunity to optimize the nutritional value of its food baskets by promoting food fortification and modern agricultural, business and information technology practices.
11. Board members said that while famine could be eliminated, political will was the essential factor: humanitarian access had to be achieved and maintained, especially in areas affected by conflict, and international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions had to be respected and effective partnerships put in place to maximize synergies and coordination.
12. Board members said that they were encouraged by the initial successes of the country strategic plans and emphasized the importance of the partnership approach inherent in them. It was becoming evident that more unearmarked funding was needed to support WFP's work and that divisions of labour should be clarified more accurately. The WFP innovation accelerator could be used to promote the establishment of optimum operational and business models, as could enhanced risk management and internal controls.

13. Thanking the Board for its insights, the Executive Director said that he was grateful for its support regarding United Nations reform and that he would strive to ensure that the process did not impair things that had proved their effectiveness. The quest for flexible multi-year funding would continue to be a priority. With the Board's endorsement of the updated directive on sexual abuse and harassment, it would be implemented with immediate effect.

Policy issues

Dialogue and update on the report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda (2018/EB.1/2) *(for consideration)*

14. The Deputy Executive Director outlined the Secretariat's engagement on the proposals put forward in the Secretary-General's report on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. WFP welcomed and was fully engaged in the reform, which would help the United Nations system to assist Member States in delivering on the 2030 Agenda. In general, the Secretariat supported the Secretary-General's recommendations but sought clarification regarding the implementation of some of them.
15. The Secretariat agreed that the United Nations development system should seek to enhance accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness while focusing its work on national development needs and priorities. WFP's new corporate results framework reflected the report's call for greater cohesion among agencies in seeking common results. The Secretariat recognized that a revised resident coordinator system and regeneration of United Nations country teams offered opportunities for increasing the effectiveness and coherence of United Nations agencies and their work in the field, but sufficient flexibility to allow adaptation to various contexts was also needed.
16. The Secretariat also recognized that shared facilities would enable WFP to maintain a presence in a country without establishing a country office but was concerned that WFP resources could be diverted from promoting food security and nutrition to meeting the costs of joint facilities.
17. The Secretariat suggested that implementation of some proposals be piloted prior to full adoption. An internal senior task team had been formed and had been looking at all the proposals, and WFP's New York office sent monthly updates on the change process to all country directors. WFP contributed to the reform process through participation in the United Nations Development Group at the principal and deputy level and in a new joint steering committee working on the humanitarian-development nexus. It was also one of four entities developing a system-wide strategic document, and its zero hunger strategic reviews were seen as a model for other voluntary national reviews focusing on one or more SDGs. Other areas where WFP was engaged included the development of common indicators and results, which would have implications for WFP's strategic planning, and enhancement of the risk prevention and resilience framework of the United Nations system. Much of WFP's work in root causes, crisis response and resilience building already fit well with the new thinking reflected in the Secretary-General's report.
18. Thanking the Secretariat for the briefing, Board members underlined the importance of dialogue between the WFP Secretariat, other United Nations bodies and Member States in guiding the repositioning. Members observed that the proposals built on the existing mandates of United Nations agencies and that implementation would require strong staff capacities. The estimated increase in costs – USD 80 million – represented less than 1 percent of total United Nations operational costs.

19. Members welcomed the enhanced accountability and transparency; the importance given to partnerships and to country ownership of plans and activities; and the central role that regional organizations would play.
20. Members expressed diverging views on the proposals for reinvigorating the resident coordinator system. Some said that the proposed system was central to repositioning the United Nations at the country level and welcomed the strengthened impartiality, integration, accountability and independence that it would bring. Others said that it was not the best option for coordinating United Nations agencies in the field, citing concerns about the complexity of the system and the role of Member States; the wide-ranging mandate proposed for resident coordinators, which might detract from the system's effectiveness in facilitating development; a lack of clarity regarding the continuing role of humanitarian coordinators and the potential impact on their ability to ensure impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian assistance; and the financial implications. Members recommended that the Rome-based agencies hold a joint seminar on the proposals.
21. Some members also expressed concern that the proposed joint board for New York-based agencies might diminish the role of Member States in individual agencies, and some requested more information on the potential implications for the governing bodies of the Rome-based agencies.
22. While supporting the proposals for common service platforms and other cost-saving options, members warned against taking a "one size fits all" approach, which could result in loss of effectiveness or the need to follow many complicated processes.
23. Other points made by members included that there was a need for sustainable funding to implement the proposals; that partnerships, including through South-South cooperation, were important and should be discussed with Member States; that there was a need to ensure that the needs and rights of persons with disabilities were taken into account in all United Nations activities, programmes and policies; that the renewal of the regional focus was of great importance and that it was necessary to take into account regional differences; that there was a need for clarification of how risk would be managed in moving towards the 2030 Agenda, in particular with regard to WFP's reputational risk; and that there was a need to improve transparency, accountability and oversight in the United Nations development system, with Member States playing a leading role in doing so.
24. As well as regular updates on WFP's participation in the repositioning process, Board members requested more information on how the Secretariat planned to integrate the Secretary-General's proposals into WFP's strategic planning; on WFP's participation in discussions on coordination and collaboration with other agencies in Rome, New York and Geneva; and on how the various strategy documents of the Rome-based agencies linked to the overall United Nations system.
25. Responding to the points raised, the Deputy Executive Director recalled that the inclusion of SDG 2 in the 2030 Agenda was to a large extent the result of joint work and advocacy by the Rome-based agencies, whose executive heads and senior management discussed the repositioning during their meetings in Rome and New York; he would raise the request for a joint Rome-based agencies seminar on the reform at one of those meetings.
26. WFP and its partners, particularly the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), were developing a common position regarding the role of resident coordinators in humanitarian responses, which was likely to vary depending on context. This and many other issues relating to the proposals for the resident coordinator system – including with regard to reporting lines, funding and the need to reconcile national ownership of development activities with the independence of the resident coordinators – were still being debated within the United Nations system and among Member States. In the end, the impact of the reform

measures that were eventually adopted would depend on how they were implemented, including the extent to which implementation was informed by experience in the field and tailored to the particular circumstances in each case.

27. WFP's contributions to United Nations development assistance frameworks would be based on the findings of the zero hunger strategic reviews and other assessments that informed the design of its country strategic plans (CSPs). Regarding the reform's implications for the regional level, WFP's regional directors were members of the United Nations Development Group's regional teams. WFP had different relationships with those teams, as well as the regional commissions, in different regions and planned to review its regional bureaux, in the light of the repositioning in the United Nations system.
28. While the Secretariat had reservations about aspects of the proposal for sharing facilities, it recognized the value of sharing back office and other services as a way of increasing efficiency, and it already had agreements with other agencies for doing so. The need for agencies to recognize each other's standards and systems was of great importance to the sharing of facilities and services, and the Secretariat viewed as ambitious the proposal for having United Nations common premises in 50 percent of countries by 2021.
29. The Secretariat offered to hold informal consultations on aspects of the reform, including the activities of the new joint steering committee on the humanitarian-development nexus. All of WFP was involved in the reform, with various thematic working groups gathering information on concerns and major issues and regular updates that included feedback from country offices and regional bureaux.

West Africa portfolio

30. The Regional Director presented an overview of WFP work in West Africa. The region faced high levels of insecurity, exacerbated by climate shocks and structural and environmental challenges. Instability in the Lake Chad Basin and the Central African Republic was driving food insecurity. Over 3.7 million people were displaced in the region, including over 2.4 million fleeing from the Boko Haram insurgency and over 1.2 million from the Central African Republic. In 2017, WFP had provided food, cash and nutrition support to more than 10 million of the 15 million people estimated to require food assistance.
31. WFP operations in 2017 had helped to avert famine in northeast Nigeria. An L3 emergency declaration was still in place, however, and without sustained food assistance 3.7 million people could face extreme food insecurity during the next lean season.
32. In 2017 WFP had successfully increased the integration of nutrition into its programmes in West Africa, particularly in the case of school feeding. Cash-based transfers had been scaled up from USD 48 million to USD 116 million, and there had been a rise in local procurement. The regional office would continue to focus on empowering women and building partnerships.
33. Food security forecasts for 2018 for the region estimated that over 15 million people would need assistance, including more than 2 million in the Central African Republic. In the Sahel, 4.2 million were expected to face food insecurity during the lean season as poor rainfall curtailed agricultural productivity. This number was expected to increase to 7 million. Together with school meals and national staff, WFP priorities would include immediate response in the Sahel to an early and prolonged lean season; longer-term response for resilience building in the Sahel; scaling up the response in the Central African Republic; and maintaining assistance levels in northeast Nigeria.

Summary evaluation report – Cameroon country portfolio (from 2012 to mid-2017) and management response (2018/EB.1/3) (for consideration)

34. The Director of Evaluation presented the evaluation, which was broadly positive. Opportunities for an integrated approach and synergies among the Rome-based agencies had been missed, however, and context-specific gender analysis and the tailoring of communications to the needs of different users had been limited. The report recommended the consolidation of the shift in nutrition towards an integrated prevention approach; the expansion of cash-based transfers; the deepening of Rome-based agency collaboration; a continued focus on the northern and eastern regions along with a gradual moving towards early recovery; the development of a strategy to integrate gender into programming; the systematization of an effective communication framework; and support for national capacity development in respect of food security monitoring, early warning and response.
35. Management accepted all the recommendations. The implementation of the new CSP would address many of them by scaling up cash-based transfers, taking a strategic approach to communications, strengthening gender analysis, moving gradually towards recovery activities and engaging in national capacity-building at a pace agreed with the Government. A timeline for the work on gender analysis would be drawn up and shared with the Board after consultation with the country office.
36. Board members welcomed the report, praising WFP's well targeted, relevant and timely operations in Cameroon. They noted that funding shortfalls had curtailed school meals programmes and underlined the importance of collaboration with UNICEF in efforts to tackle child malnutrition.
37. Members emphasized the need to increase women's economic empowerment through measurable outcomes and requested a timeline for the integration of gender into programming and linking schools with smallholder farmers to support local livelihoods. Members requested more information on how CSP activities would be integrated with those of partner agencies.
38. Some Board members questioned the timing of the evaluation, noting that the findings could have informed the drafting of the CSP. One member asked why the evaluation had not assessed the country office as well as the portfolio.
39. The Director of Evaluation explained that the evaluation aimed to inform the implementation of the CSP and to assess collaboration with Rome-based agencies. All CSPs would have a country portfolio evaluation in their penultimate years to inform future programming, and in general, she said, country portfolio evaluations should inform the development of CSPs. The evaluation had assessed the quality of country office decision-making and the analysis of the factors driving results.

Evaluation reports

Synthesis report on four evaluations of the impact of WFP programmes on nutrition in humanitarian contexts in the Sahel and management response (2018/EB.1/4) (for consideration)

40. The Director of Evaluation presented the synthesis report, outlining its largely positive findings, including that combined approaches had delivered improved food security and nutrition outcomes in Chad, the Niger, the Sudan and Mali. Success had been influenced by the level of collaboration with partners and the combination of interventions. It was concluded that more reliable, accessible and comparable data were needed to plan effective approaches.

41. The Director of Nutrition welcomed the results, which would help improve the quality of programming and build on the ongoing implementation of the nutrition policy. The lessons contributed to the global evidence for nutrition, demonstrating that with the right formula WFP's treatment and prevention programming were successful. Work was under way to support country offices in applying the findings, focusing on the importance of leveraging partnerships, connecting short and long-term efforts, combining different programmes, bringing services as close as possible to people and collecting and using better monitoring and cost data.
42. Board members expressed appreciation for the report, citing the value of complex evaluations. They said there was a need to improve cost data and monitoring and to work closely with partners on nutrition. Members said that there was a need to focus on women, link with smallholders to provide fresh food, increase attention to nutrition in school meals programmes and enhance behaviour change efforts.
43. Some members said that the recommendations were too generic: future assessments should look at ways to maximize effectiveness – despite financial constraints and instability – within the boundaries of government responsibility. There was a consensus that interventions should be sustainable, measurable and tailored to local context. It was also said that there was a need for greater investment in operational research aimed at prevention rather than treatment and for more evidence of the impact of WFP's interventions as well as the circumstances in which they were made.
44. The Director of Evaluation thanked the members for their comments, which would be helpful for designing future evaluations as there was a need for more evidence of what worked in the Sahel. Each study had its own report, which presented more detailed information. A strategy was being devised to harmonize impact evaluations and tackle cost effectiveness. Although it was difficult to gauge the impact of behaviour change interventions, randomized control-based studies had made it possible to do so.
45. The Director of Nutrition agreed with the members' comments, acknowledging that a combination of approaches tailored to local circumstances was needed to tackle malnutrition. Gender and partnerships remained priorities, and WFP was open to all potential approaches to improving diets, whether through food, cash-based transfers, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) or other interventions. WFP was determined to be an innovative force that sparked the development of new solutions.

Other business

Oral report on the field visit of the WFP Executive Board (2018/EB.1/5)

46. Pending completion of a written report, four of the six list representatives who had participated, including the team leader, briefed the Board on their visit to Mali and three countries affected by the 2014 Ebola crisis in West Africa – Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. During the visit from 18 to 28 November 2017, participants observed the recovery work carried out by governments and WFP since the crisis, including the policies and structures put in place to prevent re-emergence of the virus; implementation of WFP's programmes for achieving zero hunger in the countries; challenges faced by beneficiaries in the region; and the effectiveness of WFP's work with partners.
47. As well as representatives of WFP's government and United Nations partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society and major donors, the Board team met beneficiaries during visits to day treatment centres and mother-and-child centres where WFP had conducted activities and to project sites for food assistance and income-generation programmes. In Mali, the team visited the operation centre of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service, which is led by WFP; the value of the Air Service in reaching populations in remote areas was emphasized by both governments and populations.

48. Team members had been moved by their conversations with beneficiaries, many of whom were women and children who had lost their household breadwinners and who expressed appreciation for WFP's food distributions during the crisis. Lack of funds had brought those distributions to an end, and the Board team appealed to donors to increase their support for resilience building and livelihood strengthening activities for the survivors of crises. There were also calls for continuing school meals programmes in all four countries in order to promote school attendance, particularly among girls.
49. The team observed that in addition to saving lives WFP's food assistance had fostered adoption of improved household health and hygiene practices, helped to prevent the spread of Ebola by enabling people to stay in their home communities and reduced the stigmatization of survivors. Smallholder farmers had benefited from WFP's provision of markets for their products.
50. Following the presentation, the Board adopted a decision expressing its appreciation for the briefing and looking forward to receiving the written report at its 2018 annual session.

Appointment of five Executive Board members to the selection panel for the appointment of three Audit Committee members (2018/EB.1/6) *(for approval)*

51. Further to a decision adopted at its 2017 second regular session, the Board approved the appointment of five Board members – one from each list – to a selection panel to provide recommendations to the Board regarding candidates to fill three vacancies on the Audit Committee arising upon the expiration of the terms of three current members. The panel would begin its work in March 2018 and would report on its recommendations to the Board at its 2018 annual session.

Statement by the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Korea

52. The Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Korea announced that his Government was contributing 50,000 tons of rice to WFP, in what he hoped was a step towards the reduction of hunger and poverty in the world. His country had gone from being a recipient of international aid, including food assistance from WFP, to being a donor with the world's 11th largest economy, thus demonstrating clearly what international assistance could achieve. His Government intended to strengthen its collaboration with WFP and other international organizations and share its agricultural expertise and technology with other countries. The President thanked the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Board for the generous contribution, and the Executive Director noted that it was the country's largest ever, with a value of USD 42.5 million.

Administrative and managerial matters

Update on WFP internal directive on harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power (2018/EB.1/7) *(for consideration)*

53. The agenda item was discussed in a closed meeting.
54. Thanking Board members for their encouragement and support for efforts to address the risk of harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power (HSHAP) in WFP, the Secretariat affirmed that all formal reports of HSHAP were investigated and addressed. Management recognized, however, that HSHAP was probably underreported. The updated draft directive of the Executive Director on protection from HSHAP and discrimination circulated to the Bureau on 23 February represented an important step in achieving a cultural change needed throughout WFP, but there was still much to be done to ensure that victims were protected and perpetrators sanctioned.

55. The new directive would facilitate action on HSHAP by eliminating the time limit for reporting cases, which could be done even after a claimant had separated from WFP; allowing action based on informal reports of potential HSHAP, including reports by third parties and anonymous reports; adding protection from discrimination to the directive; enhancing protection from retaliation for reporting potential cases; and improving medical and psychological support for victims.
56. An interdivisional standing committee at the director level would oversee implementation of the directive and had power to take immediate protective action, including by temporarily suspending alleged perpetrators while under investigation. The Executive Director was also commissioning a team of external experts to review WFP's response to HSHAP and recommend best practices. Messages on the issue were being disseminated throughout WFP, and all staff were required to repeat mandatory HSHAP training, the completion of which was considered in each staff member's performance evaluation. The Deputy Executive Director was a member of a United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination working group formulating United Nations policy on sexual harassment.
57. A cross-list statement was presented, reaffirming the Board's commitment to ensuring a safe environment for all, commending the Executive Director for resolving to instil a culture of zero tolerance of HSHAP, and urging WFP to be uncompromising in its approach to protecting staff and beneficiaries while also ensuring protection of the rights of persons under investigation. WFP should also ensure that all of its partners and affiliated organizations, including in humanitarian country teams, adhered to the directive.
58. The Board called on the Secretariat to ensure that WFP staff around the world were aware of the requirements of the directive and the preventive measures available and to keep the Board apprised of all developments in respect of HSHAP, including all confirmed cases of such conduct.
59. Board members also requested regular updates on management's implementation of the recommendations by the Ombudsman and the external expert team to be commissioned by the Executive Director. Members cited as topics requiring further consideration at future Board sessions recent reports in the media; the global initiative on the "Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies"; challenges in ensuring that partners in the field adhered to the directive; the role of WFP's Staff Wellness Division in disseminating the directive and overseeing its implementation; and the proposed joint Board/Secretariat working group on HSHAP.
60. Responding to questions raised, the Secretariat outlined its planned actions and communications campaigns for reaching all WFP staff members. Terms of reference for the joint Board/Secretariat working group would be discussed with the Bureau with a view to rapid finalization. To enhance the protection of beneficiaries in the response to the Syrian crisis, in 2017 WFP and partners had set up a hotline for the reporting of incidents.
61. The President welcomed the suggestion of Board members that the Secretariat prepare a press release on the joint commitment of the Board and management to support WFP's efforts to protect against HSHAP.

Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP (2018/EB.1/8)
(for consideration)

62. The Secretariat presented the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) 2017 reports relevant to the work of WFP. The Secretariat noted that in a JIU review of follow-up to JIU reports and recommendations WFP had scored the highest possible rating for the maturity of its follow-up processes; the review had also highlighted WFP best practices, including follow-up on recommendations until they were fully implemented; the appointment of a focal point

reporting to top management; and direct engagement with the Board on JIU recommendations for Board action. The draft decision included the Board's endorsement of the responses to the recommendations to the legislative bodies in the annexes to document WFP/EB.1/2018/8-B. During 2017 the JIU had issued eight new reports and the Secretariat had followed up on 51 recommendations and closed 40 (78 percent), achieving WFP's highest ever completion rate.

63. Board members commended WFP's maturity rating in the JIU review and sought clarification on some responses to recommendations.
64. In response to questions from the Board, the Secretariat noted that the requirement for staff to book air travel at least 14 days in advance applied to travel for prearranged activities and not emergencies. Implementation of the policy would be monitored throughout 2018. WFP managed safety and security issues with host governments through the United Nations security management system. The Secretariat noted that the Office of the Inspector General had received a budget increase for 2018 and confirmed that it was exploring ways of funding audits from project budgets. The Secretariat noted that the decision to make donor reviews public rested with the donors and said that WFP needed to agree with donors on quality assurance mechanisms for donor reviews to be released to the public domain.

East and Central Africa portfolio

65. The Regional Director a.i. drew attention to recent good seasonal rains and harvests, which had increased the availability of food, but warned that 23 million people still faced food insecurity, particularly in Ethiopia and Somalia, and that influxes of refugees were continuing as a result of conflict, drought and economic slowdown.
66. In South Sudan the number of acutely food-insecure people was likely to rise from 5.3 million to 7 million in the July lean season; WFP was scaling up its activities, but immediate funding of USD 340 million was needed to support the pre-positioning of 140,000 mt of food ahead of the coming rainy season. Conflict and insecurity limited humanitarian access and threatened staff safety. Sustained funding would be needed to prevent a deterioration of the situation.
67. Drought in Kenya was causing food prices to rise, with consequent negative effects on food security. WFP was helping to build the capacity of national institutions to enable the Government to develop its food security, nutrition and drought-response programmes, including a cash-based transfer element. In Somalia, 2.2 million people were at crisis level (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) level 3) and 500,000 at emergency level (IPC level 4). High frequency of droughts and low rainfall was becoming the "new normal" in the Greater Horn of Africa. WFP's planned food and nutrition assistance linked emergency relief to long-term resilience – an effort increasingly reflected in the CSPs and interim country strategic plans (ICSPs) in the area covered by the regional bureau. Malnutrition affected 50 percent of children in Burundi, and the number of needy refugees and Burundian returnees requiring assistance continued to rise. There were 5.2 million refugees in the Great Lakes region, with Uganda hosting 50 percent of the refugees. WFP's assistance was constrained by a USD 132 million funding shortfall, with 25 percent ration cuts for refugees causing riots in Rwanda. The Regional Director a.i. thanked donors for their support and urged others to come forward to minimize funding shortfalls.

Interim country strategic plan – Burundi (2018–2020) (2018/EB.1/9) (for approval)

68. Emphasizing that Burundi had become a "forgotten crisis" despite being one of the poorest countries in the world and among the most affected by chronic malnutrition, the Country Director explained that under the ICSP WFP planned to enhance partnerships, increase home-grown school meals, continue to reduce drop-out rates, help children to have at least one meal a day and, with the United Nations Population Fund and UNICEF,

work to change nutrition, family planning and hygiene behaviours, thus addressing some of the root causes of malnutrition. It also planned to increase support for smallholders farmers, the percentage of locally purchased food and the link with asset creation and livelihood activities, in a strengthened partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and FAO, and work on food fortification with the private sector.

69. Board members commended the ICSP as a multi-sector platform for food and nutrition assistance and resilience. The food assistance for assets component would increase livelihood diversification and enhance resilience, but it was asked how possible negative effects on women and children would be addressed. Board members also expressed concern that women lacked social standing and were subject to gender related violence. Other challenges included insecurity, poor roads, limited international assistance, limited access to services, the risk of epidemics, large numbers of vulnerable refugees and returnees, a low level of food production and social and political instability.
70. The Board urged WFP to continue its work with UNICEF and UNHCR to eliminate negative coping strategies and approved cooperation with the Brazil Centre of Excellence on social protection. Support for smallholder farmers was commended, as was the combination of emergency response and resilience and the focus on nutrition and gender.
71. Board members requested clarification regarding the division of work in the ICSP partnerships and requested the country office to focus on capacity development with a view to eventual national ownership of programmes. One member expressed concern that the emergency response budget was insufficient to cover responses to unplanned developments, noting for example the projected rise in the number of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
72. The Country Director and Deputy Executive Director thanked the Board members for their observations, noting that the division of work depended on partners' capacities, resources and added value. The scope of the ICSP was dictated by the amount of funding and could be scaled up if more funds became available, and in the event of an unforeseen crisis the Executive Director could revise the ICSP to respond to it under the authority delegated to him by the Board. Handover plans were in place for school feeding and were being developed with the government and the private sector with regard to a national food fortification strategy, and the food assistance for assets programme had been adapted to ensure that women and children would be able to benefit fully.

Latin America and the Caribbean portfolio

73. The Regional Director said that the core of WFP's work in the Latin America and Caribbean region was social protection, with emergency-response and food and nutrition security components. Evidence of the value added by this combination had been demonstrated in Dominica, where a cash-based transfer programme had maintained food and nutrition security after the recent hurricane even without a WFP presence in the country. WFP was collaborating with FAO to enhance agriculture and fisheries infrastructures, and a partnership with the Ericsson company had been established to develop communications structures and drone-based systems for surveying disaster zones. A multi-donor trust fund had been established to provide technical support to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency on shock responsive social protection, early warning systems, resilience and supply chain and knowledge management, among other things. Gender considerations were central to all programmes in the region, with emphasis on women smallholder farmers and the economic empowerment of rural women promoted in partnership with FAO and IFAD. New agreements had been signed for Rome-based agency cooperation in Colombia, Guatemala and Haiti. Protection of beneficiaries and

vulnerable groups was a component of programmes in areas where violence and conflict were prevalent.

74. Board members expressed satisfaction that food security and nutrition activities would mitigate the effects of crises by strengthening national food and nutrition policies and thus building national resilience. Board members recommended that gender parity be set as a goal in new programmes and urged WFP to address issues of inequality and discrimination, including through the exchange of experiences and best practices with other agencies. Some members expressed concern about increasing evidence of the double burden of undernourishment and obesity, recommending that the issue be addressed in line with the healthy lifestyle goals of the 2030 Agenda through an integrated long-term programme to improve health and nutrition in urban and rural areas. It was also noted that climate events had a profound impact on nutrition, making WFP's role in respect of climate change and its efforts to give communities tools for making sustainable use of natural resources vital.
75. The Regional Director assured Board members that he would take their recommendations into account.

Country strategic plan – Honduras (2018–2021) (2018/EB.1/10) (for approval)

76. The Country Director said that the CSP supported government implementation of national social protection programmes and development strategies aimed at achieving SDG 2. Chronic, seasonal and hidden hunger must be addressed by developing a national food and nutrition security system that embraced gender equality. Strategic outcome 5 constituted an innovative approach to achieving zero hunger through partnerships, communication and advocacy. The CSP's focus on gender, nutrition and protection would prioritize women's empowerment. Implementation of the CSP depended on partnerships with United Nations agencies and national and private-sector actors. The school feeding component would be gradually handed over to the Government and decentralized to ensure that locally produced fresh foods were the basis of school meals.
77. Noting that violence and insecurity had led to high levels of illegal emigration, Board members expressed support for plans to optimize food and nutrition security systems, in which the CSP would play a significant role, including through cash-based transfers, in-kind distributions and food for assets activities. Board members expressed approval of the promotion of ownership of assets and programmes by beneficiary communities, recommending that related activities incorporate gender concerns. Some Board members urged WFP to ensure that activities were coordinated with partners to maximize synergies and avoid duplication. Members endorsed the proposals for increased production by smallholder farmers, nutrition support for children and promotion of behaviour change for healthy lifestyles, as well as the opportunities for South–South cooperation, for example with Chile and Peru and the *Mésoamerica sin Hambre* initiative in Mexico. The proposals for capacity strengthening, with the aim of ensuring handover to the Government, national ownership, programme sustainability, gender equality and the empowerment of women, were warmly endorsed, as were the plans for private sector collaboration, particularly with regard to nutrition, which it was hoped would generate useful lessons for others.
78. The Country Director and the Regional Director thanked the Board members for their observations, which would be taken into account in the implementation of the CSP.

Asia and the Pacific portfolio

79. The Regional Director reported that countries in the region were on schedule for completing the rollout of the IRM by the first quarter of 2019. Eleven strategic reviews had been completed and the first second-generation reviews (for Cambodia and India) were expected in March. A synthesis report on findings and recommendations from strategic reviews would be commissioned in the second quarter and made available to Member States later in the year. WFP was ensuring that its CSPs were coherent with national development plans, United Nations development assistance frameworks and the strategic plans of other agencies.
80. WFP's Level 3 emergency response in Bangladesh reached more than 670,000 refugees with general food distributions; nutrition challenges were addressed through blanket supplementary feeding, while there was initial evidence that the use of cash-based transfers was enhancing dietary diversity. In preparation for the monsoon, WFP and its partners were pooling resources in engineering projects such as improving road connections and establishing new settlements and distribution points. A renewed United Nations joint response plan for addressing the needs of refugees until end of the year would be launched in March.
81. In Afghanistan, challenges include increased displacement due to persistent conflict, the planned repatriation of refugees from Pakistan in the second quarter, and the risk of drought, which could affect up to a million people. The Afghanistan CSP scheduled for presentation at the Board's 2018 annual session would focus on WFP's role in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
82. Board members reiterated their support for WFP's work in this disaster-prone region. They also looked forward to seeing the remaining CSPs during future Board sessions and to having more details on a proposed WFP strategy for small island states in the Pacific.

Comprehensive update on Myanmar country strategic plan (2018–2022) (2018/EB.1/11) (for consideration)

83. As requested by the Board at its 2017 second regular session, the Secretariat provided an update on the Myanmar country strategic plan 2018–2022.
84. The Country Director reported that, while WFP assistance was reaching 40,000–50,000 more people in Rakhine State than in August 2017, population displacements continued, with about 1,000 people entering Bangladesh every week. The repatriation due to begin in January had been postponed because of concerns about the protection, land tenure, freedom of movement and citizenship of returnees, as well as about whether returns would be voluntary. Delayed authorization of WFP's February food distribution had left 50,000 people without life-saving assistance until the first week of March. A joint FAO/WFP crop and food security assessment mission was tentatively planned for the second half of March.
85. Board members thanked WFP for its work in Myanmar but flagged continuing concerns regarding access for carrying out assessments, food distribution and monitoring; the conditions under which refugees were to be repatriated; and delays in finalizing agreements with the Myanmar authorities, including the memorandum of understanding that provided the legal framework for CSP implementation.
86. Commending WFP's coordinated approach, its updating of beneficiary lists, enhancement of feedback mechanisms, disengagement from practices that facilitated potential fraud, and the piloting of electronic vouchers, members said that those mechanisms should have been established earlier and that there were ongoing issues with monitoring and evaluation and continuing reports of fraudulent practices by internally displaced person camp leaders and

- host village authorities. They urged the country office to address those matters and to strengthen its cash working group in preparation for a likely increase in the use of cash-based transfers.
87. Members requested more regular and detailed reports on the situation in Rakhine, including the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, and neighbouring states and on WFP's planned activities for Myanmar, including nutrition programmes and efforts to reach difficult to reach populations. They urged the country office to work with the Government of Myanmar on the preparation of future reports. Members said that they looked forward to seeing the findings of the crop and food security assessment mission, beneficiary needs assessments and targeting exercises. One member said that, despite improvements, issues remained with regard to monitoring and evaluation, including a lack of functioning complaint and feedback systems and a post-distribution monitoring system in northern Rakhine.
 88. Board members called for increased WFP support to Bangladesh while it hosted growing numbers of refugees from Myanmar who were joining the 1 million already in the country.
 89. Responding to comments and questions, the Country Director confirmed that while obtaining visas and travel authorizations did involve protracted approval processes, such processes were similar to those experienced by other United Nations and Member State Missions. UNHCR would ensure that conditions for repatriation were in accordance with humanitarian principles and otherwise acceptable and that returnees were fully informed and returned voluntarily. FAO would lead the crop and food security assessment mission, applying the regular methodology, which included indicators of livelihoods, nutrition status and market access. The nutrition-specific assistance provided under the CSP could not be significantly increased until WFP's nutrition partners had access to the intervention areas. The country office coordinated with humanitarian actors in the north to collect information on food distributions in inaccessible areas, including those made by private-sector entities. It worked with protection actors to address protection concerns related to cash distributions.
 90. The Regional Director added that WFP was working on a joint response plan for Bangladesh.
 91. The Secretariat undertook to brief the Board on the situation in Myanmar during its quarterly emergency operational updates and to provide another formal update at the Board's 2018 annual session. The Country Director's update would be made available to Board members.

Summary evaluation report – Cambodia country portfolio (2011–2017) and management response (2018/EB.1/12) (for consideration)

92. The Director of the Office of Evaluation presented the summary evaluation, which highlighted WFP's close and successful collaboration with the Government and the effectiveness and efficiency of its operations. The country office was moving away from direct implementation towards the development of national partner capacity to establish and manage programmes autonomously. Recommendations included developing information products and knowledge management strategies, strengthening support for decentralization and reviewing country office resources and capacity in the light of WFP's new role in Cambodia.
93. Management welcomed the evaluation results, which were a vital input to the design of the forthcoming CSP. WFP would strive to share lessons learned, document research and work towards decentralization in line with the recommendations. The CSP would be presented to the Board in 2019.

94. Board members expressed appreciation for the systematic, results-based approach of the evaluation. Members praised WFP's success in liaising with the Government, increasing government ownership of activities and achieving gender balance in its interventions in Cambodia. They stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluation. Some members urged WFP to use the report to improve its approach to decentralization and to hand over responsibility for school meals programmes to the Government.
95. The Director of the Office of Evaluation thanked the Board members for their comments and praised the high level of collaboration by the country office and regional bureau throughout the evaluation process.

Country strategic plan – Pakistan (2018–2022) (2018/EB.1/13) (for approval)

96. The Country Director for Pakistan presented the CSP, which outlined WFP's transition from implementing relief interventions to providing technical assistance. Activities would focus on nutrition, stunting and health, as well as strengthening the supply chain, disaster preparedness and social protection systems. WFP would undertake these activities in partnership with provincial and federal authorities in order to improve access to balanced diets for women, children and the disabled in particular.
97. Board members expressed appreciation for the high quality and focus of the CSP, particularly its emphasis on increasing government ownership of interventions, its gender-sensitive approach and support for integrated risk management systems. They urged WFP to increase the use of cash-based transfers and to foster South-South cooperation. Closer collaboration with United Nations agencies and other partners would be vital to the success of the CSP.
98. Some members suggested that in order to facilitate donor engagement, greater detail was needed on some aspects of the CSP such as breakdowns of spending and beneficiaries by province and distinguishing between emergency and preventive malnutrition interventions. One member asked how WFP would prioritize interventions in the event of funding shortfalls; another requested details on the future twinning of government and donor contributions.
99. The Country Director thanked the members, particularly for their input during the informal consultations. The CSP was a high-level strategic document, but the country office would be happy to provide details on matters such as the number and distribution of planned beneficiaries and the collaboration between WFP and partners.
100. WFP was examining how to twin the cost of delivering government donated food, and talks were under way with the Government to explore a potential increase in its contribution. Local and federal authorities were also being encouraged to invest; with a little more investment, zero hunger was a realistic prospect in Pakistan. South-South cooperation was on the agenda, particularly as part of WFP's future role in Pakistan. WFP was studying the implementation of cash-based transfers, conscious of their security implications and the potential for their misuse.
101. The Deputy Executive Director added that WFP understood the need to strengthen the link between strategic outcomes and activities to make them clearer for donors. Work was under way to achieve that.

Country strategic plan – Timor-Leste (2018–2020) (2018/EB.1/14) (for approval)

102. The Country Director introduced the CSP, which was aligned with the Government's strategic priorities. The plan prioritized tackling malnutrition and strengthening agriculture in collaboration with partners.

103. Board members praised the quality and focus of the CSP, particularly its emphasis on building national capacity in school feeding programmes. They urged WFP to consider local purchasing for school meals, to assist smallholder farmers. They expressed concern at the high rates of malnutrition in the country, which had social as well as financial implications for communities.
104. Members expressed appreciation for the focus on women and girls in the CSP, and they praised efforts to set targets for government ownership of interventions, asking how WFP would report on them. One member recalled that past food fortification projects had encountered quality and commercial viability challenges. Other members raised concerns over Timor-Leste's political instability and its heavy economic reliance on petroleum. One member asked why cash-based transfers were not included in the CSP.
105. The Country Director thanked the Board members for their comments. While the Government wanted to use local produce in the school meals programme, current agricultural output met just 40 percent of national needs. WFP was working closely with FAO and other partners on efforts to boost agricultural productivity.
106. Cash-based transfers were not currently viable given the rudimentary nature of the banking system. WFP and the Government were, however, examining the feasibility of introducing them into the school meals programme, allowing schools to purchase locally. That would not happen during the current CSP but perhaps during the next one.
107. While Timor-Leste was currently dependent on petroleum for income, the Government was exploring other sources such as agriculture and tourism. The country was preparing for an election, but WFP had held talks with political leaders as well as the Government and there was a general consensus that malnutrition was a major issue for all political parties.
108. The Regional Director added that future reporting on the CSP would be done through annual country reports, within the corporate results framework. The regional bureau would be happy to provide the Board with additional information on results reporting should it wish.

Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia portfolio

109. The Deputy Regional Director gave an overview of the region, where crises continued to cause intense human suffering. WFP was delivering life-saving assistance to millions in Yemen, Iraq, Syrian Arab Republic and neighbouring countries. The planned caseload for 2018 was over 26 million people, with a budget representing 45 percent of WFP's programme of work. As well as emergency response, WFP was striving to build resilience, stability and social cohesion.
110. In Yemen WFP was reaching 7 million people with food assistance, and 2.5 million women and children with nutrition support. Nonetheless, food insecurity had risen 24 percent in 2017, and WFP continued to advocate for full access and donor support. In the Syrian Arab Republic, WFP was assisting 400,000 people in Idlib and stood ready to help the population in eastern Ghouta as soon as it could gain access to the area.
111. Despite the protracted nature of the crises, WFP was committed to building the conditions for early recovery and seeking innovative solutions to food security challenges through means such as support for community assets in Iraq, livelihood interventions in stable areas of the Syrian Arab Republic and school meals programmes in Yemen. Innovative e-card approaches were improving the lives of refugees and vulnerable host populations in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.
112. Board members welcomed the update and requested further details of WFP operations in eastern Ghouta and on planned activities in Iraq following the Kuwait conference. They also asked for an update on the preparation of the CSPs for Yemen and the Syrian Arab Republic.

One member urged WFP to investigate reports of the irregular use of relief supplies stored in private warehouses in Yemen.

113. The Deputy Regional Director said that WFP had convoys ready to enter eastern Ghouta as soon as the ceasefire, called for by the Security Council, came into effect. The first convoy would carry medicine and nutritional items, with subsequent convoys bringing food assistance.
114. In Iraq, WFP was seeking to rebuild livelihoods through income-generating activities. Rehabilitating canals was a top priority, as was close collaboration with the Government to strengthen the public distribution system. The Deputy Regional Director could not currently comment on reports regarding Yemen but assured the Board that WFP would investigate them thoroughly. Work was under way on the CSPs for Yemen and the Syria Arab Republic, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies and partners, for submission to the Executive Board at its 2018 second regular session.

Country strategic plan – Tunisia (2018–2022) (2018/EB.1/15) (for approval)

115. The Officer in Charge of the Tunisia country office presented the CSP, which focused on school meals programmes as a tool for strengthening access to food and community resilience.
116. Schools had become hubs for other activities that provided nutrition education, supported smallholder farmers, fostered the empowerment of women smallholders and generated employment, particularly for young people. The school meals programme also promoted attendance in school, especially for girls, and social cohesion by enabling children to eat together.
117. The Government was implementing WFP's recommendations, including the establishment of a pilot central kitchen that prepared school meals in a central location for distribution to schools in the vicinity.
118. The Board welcomed the CSP as a good approach to fostering development in the region.
119. Members commended the focus on school meals as a valuable component of national social protection programmes and a good use of the CSP's modest budget. WFP's technical assistance and capacity building for national institutions was essential, and home-grown school meals had excellent potential for contributing to community-wide results.
120. Noting the progress made in addressing undernutrition, members observed that Tunisia currently faced the double burden of increasing overweight and obesity combined with micronutrient deficiencies; responses to that challenge in other countries included food labelling to promote behaviour change and the biofortification of staple grains. Partnerships with the private sector and civil society and through South–South cooperation and Brazil's Centre of Excellence against Hunger had much potential in this area.
121. In a country at risk of political instability and economic crisis, members commended the country office for its regular assessments of the situation in order to facilitate rapid response to changing conditions. In view of the high gender disparity in Tunisia, they also welcomed the activities for promoting the empowerment of women and girls, which accounted for 15 percent of the CSP's resources.
122. The Officer in Charge thanked the Board for its support and added that the CSP built on lessons learned and the regional bureau's work to enhance the quality and multiply the impact of school meals programmes as a crucial social protection instrument in support of vulnerable children and communities.

Revision of transitional interim country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase – Turkey (January–December 2018) (2018/EB.1/16) (for approval)

123. The Country Director presented the first revision of WFP's transitional interim country strategic plan (T-ICSP), through which WFP would assist up to 1.65 million of the 3.9 million refugees hosted by the Government of Turkey. The purpose of the revision was to enhance the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme by assisting an additional 500,000 refugees, increasing transfer values and providing supplementary assistance to refugees with disabilities.
124. Board members commended WFP's partnership approach, its technical assistance to the Government and its assistance to persons with disabilities. They encouraged WFP to continue to enhance national capacities and to capture lessons learned during implementation of the T-ICSP. Members requested more information on the technical assistance provided, barriers to refugee registration, the ability of the bank handling the cash transfers to continue services and the funding situation for camps.
125. The Country Director highlighted the technical assistance provided in vulnerability analysis and mapping and in the reconciliation of cash-based transfers. To reduce inclusion and exclusion errors, all targeted households would be visited and local offices of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy would provide allowances to households in need that did not meet demographic criteria. WFP was concerned with the situation of refugees who had moved without permission or were seasonal workers and was working with authorities to assist those vulnerable groups. It had been assessed that the bank handling cash transfers would be able to continue its services. Funding levels were 100 percent for technical assistance and the ESSN and 58 percent for activities in camps.

Southern Africa portfolio

126. The Regional Director outlined WFP's work in Southern Africa, which focused on fostering resilience building, preparedness and early action while responding to protracted and acute needs in the face of shocks.
127. Rather than the expected recovery from the effects of El Niño, the region had experienced an atypical La Niña causing further dry conditions and high temperatures, while fall armyworm had infested all but three countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Cyclones had exacerbated the situation, reducing food security and increasing food prices. Government responses included the banning of cereal exports.
128. Recognizing that early and coordinated regional action was essential, WFP and its partners were supporting governments and the Southern African Development Community in assessing the extent of the damage. WFP was pre-positioning maize in preparation for future supply shocks.
129. Political instability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was increasing population displacement and humanitarian needs. Using advance financing from the Immediate Response Account and support from donor countries, WFP had been able to save lives and reduce losses but lacked funding for 68 percent of its planned activities in the country; the Regional Director appealed to Board members to raise awareness of the situation in their capitals.
130. With more than 1 million refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo already in the region and many more arriving, WFP's resource shortfalls had resulted in reduced rations and suspended distributions. WFP was developing long-term approaches to promote self-reliance, integration into host communities and return opportunities for refugees, most of whom were women and girls.

131. Resilience building activities included reinforcing local and national social protection systems; supporting communities and governments in tackling the root causes of hunger, food security and HIV/AIDs; and leveraging technology to assist smallholder farmers, including through the public-private Farm to Market Alliance.
132. The Deputy Executive Director added that the impending second allocation from the Immediate Response Account to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, together with other allocations that were likely to be needed, would bring the account to dangerously low levels.

ANNEX I**Decisions and recommendations****Adoption of the agenda**

The Board adopted the agenda.

27 February 2018

Election of the Bureau and appointment of the Rapporteur

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Board, the Board elected Mr Zoltán Kálmán (Hungary, List E) as President for a one-year term. Mr Evgeny Vakulenko (Russian Federation, List E) was elected as Alternate.

The Board elected H.E. Hisham Mohamed Badr (Egypt, List A) as Vice-President. Mr Herman Constant Dazan (Benin, List A) was elected as Alternate.

The Board elected as members of the Bureau, representing the other three WFP electoral lists, for a one-year term: Ms Wajiha Khan (Pakistan, List B); Ms María Fernanda Silva (Argentina, List C) and Mr Thomas Duffy (United States of America, List D). Elected as Alternates were: Mr Jishun CUI (China, List B); Ms Mónica Fonseca Jaramillo (Colombia, List C); and Ms Hannah Laubenthal (Germany, List D).

In accordance with Rule XII of its Rules of Procedure, the Board appointed Ms Hannah Laubenthal (Germany, List D) Rapporteur of the 2018 first regular session.

27 February 2018

The decisions and recommendations in the current report will be implemented by the Secretariat in the light of the Board's deliberations, from which the main comments will be reflected in the summary of the work of the session.

Current and future strategic issues

2018/EB.1/1

Opening remarks by the Executive Director

The Board took note of the presentation by the Executive Director. The main points of the presentation and the Board's comments would be contained in the summary of the work of the session.

27 February 2018

Policy issues

2018/EB.1/2

Dialogue and update on the Report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda

The Board welcomed the exchange of views on, and the additional information provided with regard to, the United Nations reform proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. The Board looked forward to receiving regular updates.

1 March 2018

West Africa Portfolio

2018/EB.1/3

Summary evaluation report - Cameroon country portfolio (from 2012 to mid-2017) and management response

The Board took note of the summary report on the evaluation of the Cameroon country portfolio (from 2012 to mid-2017) set out in document WFP/EB.1/2018/5-A and the management response set out in document WFP/EB.1/2018/5-A/Add.1/Rev.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations presented in the report, taking into account the considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

27 February 2018

Evaluation reports

2018/EB.1/4

Synthesis report on four evaluations of the impact of WFP programmes on nutrition in humanitarian contexts in the Sahel and management response

The Board took note of the synthesis report on four evaluations of the impact of WFP programmes on nutrition in humanitarian contexts in the Sahel set out in document WFP/EB.1/2018/5-C and the management response set out in document WFP/EB.1/2018/5-C/Add.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations presented in the report, taking into account the considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

27 February 2018

Other business

2018/EB.1/5

Oral report on the field visit of the WFP Executive Board

The Board took note of the findings presented by the participants in the field visit of the WFP Executive Board to West Africa and looked forward to receiving their report at its 2018 annual session.

27 February 2018

2018/EB.1/6

Appointment of five Executive Board members to the selection panel for the appointment of three Audit Committee members

The Board approved the establishment of a selection panel in relation to the appointment of three Audit Committee members. The Board also approved the appointment to the panel of the following members of the Executive Board:

- H.E. Lineo Irene Molise-Mabusela, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lesotho, as representative of List A
- Mr Yousef Juhail, Counsellor and Permanent Representative of Kuwait, as representative of List B
- Ms Mónica Fonseca Jaramillo, Minister Counsellor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Colombia, as representative of List C
- Ms Elizabeth Petrovski, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States of America, as representative of List D
- Mr Evgeny Vakulenko, First Secretary and Alternate Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, as representative of List E

The Board requested the selection panel to convene and to report its recommendations to the Executive Board in accordance with the terms of reference of the Audit Committee.

27 February 2018

Administrative and managerial matters**2018/EB.1/7 Update on WFP internal directive on harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power**

The Board took note of the update of the internal directive on protection from harassment, sexual harassment, abuse of power and discrimination and of related measures taken by WFP and looked forward to receiving regular updates on their implementation. The Board also looked forward to the establishment of a dedicated joint body on harassment, sexual harassment, abuse of power and discrimination consisting of representatives of Board Members and WFP management with the mandate to review and report to the Board on measures and actions implemented in those areas both for staff members and for beneficiaries.

28 February 2018

2018/EB.1/8 Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP

The Board took note of the information and recommendations in the document entitled "Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP" (WFP/EB.1/2018/8-B) and endorsed the responses to the Joint Inspection Unit's recommendations to the legislative bodies included in the annexes to the document.

28 February 2018

East and Central Africa portfolio**2018/EB.1/9 Interim country strategic plans – Burundi (2018–2020)**

The Board approved the Burundi interim country strategic plan (2018–2020) (WFP/EB.1/2018/6-B/Rev.1) at a total cost to WFP of USD 163,562,181.

28 February 2018

Latin America and the Caribbean portfolio**2018/EB.1/10 Country strategic plans – Honduras (2018–2021)**

The Board approved the Honduras country strategic plan (2018–2021) (WFP/EB.1/2018/6-A/4) at a total cost to WFP of USD 115,656,368.

28 February 2018

Asia and the Pacific portfolio**2018/EB.1/11 Comprehensive update on Myanmar country strategic plan (2018–2022)**

The Board took note of the comprehensive update on the Myanmar country strategic plan (2018–2022) (WFP/EB.1/2018/6-D) in view of recent developments and looked forward to receiving regular oral updates in quarterly operational briefings as well as a comprehensive update at its annual session in June 2018.

28 February 2018

- 2018/EB.1/12 **Summary evaluation report – Cambodia country portfolio (2011–2017) and management response**
- The Board took note of the summary report on the evaluation of the Cambodia country portfolio for the years 2011–2017 set out in document WFP/EB.1/2018/5-B and the management response set out in document WFP/EB.1/2018/5-B/Add.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations presented in the report, taking into account the considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.
- 28 February 2018*
- 2018/EB.1/13 **Country strategic plans – Pakistan (2018–2022)**
- The Board approved the Pakistan country strategic plan (2018–2022) (WFP/EB.1/2018/6-A/1) at a total cost to WFP of USD 447,488,070.
- 28 February 2018*
- 2018/EB.1/14 **Country strategic plans – Timor-Leste (2018–2020)**
- The Board approved the Timor-Leste country strategic plan (2018–2020) (WFP/EB.1/2018/6-A/3) at a total cost to WFP of USD 16,972,701.
- 28 February 2018*
- Middle East, North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia portfolio**
- 2018/EB.1/15 **Country strategic plans – Tunisia (2018–2022)**
- The Board approved the Tunisia country strategic plan (2018–2022) (WFP/EB.1/2018/6-A/2) at a total cost to WFP of USD 4,327,356.
- 1 March 2018*
- 2018/EB.1/16 **Revisions of transitional interim country strategic plans and corresponding budget increases – Turkey (January–December 2018)**
- The Board approved the revision of the Turkey transitional interim country strategic plan and corresponding budget increase for 2018 as outlined in document WFP/EB.1/2018/6-C.
- 1 March 2018*
- Summary of the work of the Executive Board**
- 2018/EB.1/17 **Summary of the work of the 2017 second regular session of the Executive Board**
- The Board approved the draft summary of the work of the 2017 second regular session of the Executive Board, the final version of which would be embodied in document WFP/EB.2/2017/12.
- 1 March 2018*

ANNEX II**Agenda**

1. **Adoption of the agenda** *(for approval)*
2. **Election of the Bureau and appointment of the Rapporteur**
3. **Opening remarks by the Executive Director**
Statement by Mr Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Emergency Relief Coordinator
4. **Policy issues**
 - a) Dialogue and update on the Report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda *(for consideration)*
 - b) Compendium of policies relating to the Strategic Plan *(for information)*
5. **Evaluation reports** *(for consideration)*
 - a) Summary evaluation report — Cameroon country portfolio (from 2012 to mid-2017) and management response
 - b) Summary evaluation report — Cambodia country portfolio (2011–2017) and management response
 - c) Synthesis report on four evaluations of the impact of WFP programmes on nutrition in humanitarian contexts in the Sahel and management response
6. **Operational matters**
 - a) Country strategic plans *(for approval)*
 - Honduras (2018–2021)
 - Pakistan (2018–2022)
 - Timor-Leste (2018–2020)
 - Tunisia (2018–2022)
 - b) Interim country strategic plans *(for approval)*
 - Burundi (2018–2020)
 - c) Revisions of transitional interim country strategic plans and corresponding budget increases *(for approval)*
 - Turkey (January–December 2018)
 - d) Comprehensive update on Myanmar country strategic plan (2018–2022) *(for consideration)*
 - e) Projects approved by vote by correspondence *(for information)*
 - Honduras (1 January–31 March 2018)
 - Pakistan (1 January–31 March 2018)
 - Timor-Leste (1 January–31 March 2018)

- f) Projects approved by correspondence (*for information*)
 - Somalia PRRO 200844
- g) Reports of the Executive Director on operational matters (*for information*)
 - 1) Budget increases to protracted relief and recovery operations approved by the Executive Director (1 July–31 December 2017)
 - 2) Budget increases to development activities approved by the Executive Director (1 January–31 December 2017)
 - 3) Revisions of country strategic plans and interim country strategic plans and corresponding budget increases approved by the Executive Director or by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO (1 January–31 December 2017)
 - 4) Emergency operations approved by the Executive Director or by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO (1 July–31 December 2017)
- 7. **Organizational and procedural matters**
 - Biennial programme of work of the Executive Board (2018–2019) (*for information*)
- 8. **Administrative and managerial matters**
 - a) Update on WFP internal directive on harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power (*for consideration*)
 - b) Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit relevant to the work of WFP (*for consideration*)
- 9. **Summary of the work of the second regular session of the Executive Board, 2017**
(*for approval*)
- 10. **Other business**
 - a) Appointment of five Executive Board members to the selection panel for the appointment of three Audit Committee members (*for approval*)
 - b) Oral report on the field visit of the WFP Executive Board (*for consideration*)
- 11. **Verification of adopted decisions and recommendations**

Acronyms used in the document

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|--------|---|
| CSP | country strategic plan |
| ESSN | Emergency Social Safety Net |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| HSHAP | harassment, sexual harassment and abuse of power |
| ICSP | interim country strategic plan |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IPC | Integrated Food Security Phase Classification |
| JIU | Joint Inspection Unit |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goal |
| T-ICSP | transitional interim country strategic plan |
| UNHCR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |