

## **Agenda Item 7-A 3**

### **Country Strategic Plan Ethiopia (2026–2030)**

Thank you Ms President

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

*[XXXX, XXXX, XXXX align themselves with this statement.]*

The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the World Food Programme for the presentation of the Ethiopia Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2026–2030. We commend WFP Ethiopia for its comprehensive and forward-looking approach and express our appreciation for the consultation process in the country that has underpinned the development of this CSP.

We recognise WFP's critical role in Ethiopia, a country facing protracted humanitarian needs, internal displacement, climate change and climate shocks, and a challenging food security and nutrition outlook.

We particularly welcome:

- The strong emphasis on integrated programming to address food insecurity and malnutrition, with clear prioritisation of the most vulnerable populations including refugees, IDPs, women, girls and persons with disabilities.
- WFP's assurance measures following the 2023 aid diversion crisis, including operational independence, strengthened needs-based targeting, and the scaling up of digital identity registration and feedback mechanisms to enhance accountability to affected populations.
- The increased use of cash-based transfers (CBTs), where appropriate, and the emphasis on gender-transformative, protection-sensitive and conflict-sensitive programming.

At the same time, we wish to raise a number of important points for WFP's attention during the CSP implementation:

1. **Scenario-Based Planning and Risk Integration:** While the CSP references risk-based and scenario-informed planning, we note that the operationalisation of these elements remains underdeveloped, particularly considering the impact of increased climate shocks and intensified conflict. We encourage WFP to more explicitly integrate downside scenarios and risk mitigation strategies, as per evaluation recommendations and WFP's own management response.
2. **Realistic Resourcing and Prioritisation:** The CSP budget appears optimistic in light of current funding trends and forecasts. We urge WFP to adopt a more conservative and transparent approach to resourcing forecasts and to clarify prioritisation criteria should anticipated funding levels not materialise.
3. **Humanitarian Principles and Operational Independence:** We underscore the importance of WFP safeguarding its operational independence from state authorities, particularly in targeting, registration, and delivery, to ensure principled humanitarian action.
4. **Information Management:** WFP is encouraged to further engage in the development of food security assessments in the country as well as the analysis of priority needs, in coordination with other actors.
5. **Monitoring, Accountability, and PSEA:** We encourage WFP to go beyond corporate baselines and adopt an enhanced, risk-sensitive monitoring framework tailored to the Ethiopian context. This includes full implementation of WFP's Minimum Monitoring Requirements and Community Feedback Mechanism Standards. We also stress the need for strengthened inter-agency engagement on PSEA, particularly given the high contextual risks.
6. **Cash-Based Programming and Coordination:** We welcome the increased attention to CBTs and invite WFP to take a leadership role in promoting cash coordination and to support other humanitarian actors in expanding cash-based assistance, including through its logistics and enabling functions. In this respect, we also invite WFP to develop a roadmap for the scaling up of cash assistance in Ethiopia while complementing CBTs with social and behaviour change communication for better nutrition outcomes.
7. **Climate change and Conflict Linkages:** While resilience and climate adaptation are mentioned, it is essential that the CSP

integrates the impact of climate change into the country context and response rationale. Given Ethiopia's fragility and exposure to climate change and climate-related shocks, conflict sensitivity and climate resilience must be central pillars across CSP outcomes.

8. **Partnerships and SDG Linkages:** We invite WFP to clarify how its contributions link to specific Sustainable Development Goals and to outline how it will strengthen complementarity and joint programming with other UN agencies, especially FAO, UNICEF and UNHCR, as well as the Ethiopian Humanitarian Country Team.

Finally, we note with concern the change of terminology and emphasize the importance of upholding UN-wide agreed language. The EU regrets the absence of references to gender equality and climate change. Climate change is one of the main drivers of food insecurity in the world, and encourages WFP to acknowledge the link between climate change, climate adaptation and resilience-building activities in Ethiopia. The EU also regrets the limited references to shared global objectives, including the Sustainable Development Goals. We expect WFP to fully implement, in all CSPs to be approved this week, the policies that have been adopted in the past.

In closing, the EU and its Member States reiterate our continued support for WFP's work in Ethiopia. We look forward to engaging further on the CSP's implementation and encourage ongoing dialogue with donors at country level, including through a dedicated Addis-based consultation.

Thank you.