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SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, 2010

In accordance with the methods of work of the Executive Board, the present document reflects the main points of its deliberations to be taken into account by the Secretariat in the implementation of the Board's decisions and recommendations. In accordance with a request by the Board at EB.A/2010, the decisions and recommendations from the session are contained as Annex I of this document.

This document is printed in a limited number of copies. Executive Board documents are available on WFP's Website (<http://www.wfp.org/eb>).

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CURRENT AND FUTURE STRATEGIC ISSUES

Current and Future Strategic Issues (2010/EB.1/1)

1. The outgoing President of the Board welcomed all participants, particularly new members of the Board and new colleagues, and recalled that the year had been marked with such successes as the launch of the WFP Information Network and Global System (WINGS II) but also by the tragic events such as the fatal bombing of WFP premises in Pakistan and the Haiti crisis. The Executive Director thanked the outgoing President for his service to WFP and welcomed the incoming President and all present. She remarked that while the new year and decade had commenced with complex emergencies in several parts of the world, WFP was in a strong position to confront them. The recent earthquake in Haiti had caused large-scale destruction and loss of life; during her visit there, the Executive Director had witnessed at first hand the selfless commitment of WFP staff, all of whom had lost people dear to them. A minute of silence was observed for those who had lost their lives.
2. The Executive Director thanked all donors, public and private, for their support in Haiti, where WFP had established fixed food distribution points and initiated a voucher system in spite of difficulties related to the severely degraded infrastructure: US\$242 million had been raised and 2 million people were being assisted. WFP was also taking the lead in the telecommunications cluster (the Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team (FITTEST)) had set up a communications system within 48 hours), the food cluster, the logistics cluster and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which provided transport for emergency response organizations. She underlined that WFP would continue to contribute to the relief and recovery efforts in Haiti and support the re-establishment of food security systems. She also observed that lessons would be learned from the Haiti crisis with a view to developing replicable models for emergency interventions, particularly in urban environments.
3. Within WFP, work was ongoing to improve management and accounting procedures: WINGS II and International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) were operational; internal management controls and risk management were being reviewed and improved; the financial framework review was moving forward, with members of the Board participating in the fast-track working group review of United Nations coherence on key definitions, from “relief” to “development”. In what had been a bad year in terms of keeping staff out of harm’s way, security remained a high priority: improved security procedures were being introduced along with training in risk minimization, first aid, fire safety and hostage incident management. Increased coordination among United Nations agencies, particularly by the Rome-based agencies and in the cluster system, also remained a priority. The Executive Director thanked donors for their support to WFP, especially in the form of flexible funding, and concluded by expressing the view that a more efficient, effective and transparent WFP would emerge from the current reforms.
4. The Board welcomed the Executive Director’s observations, commending in particular WFP’s rapid and effective response in Haiti in spite of major impediments such as damaged infrastructure and the effects of previous disasters; Board members were unanimous in their condolences for those who had lost their lives. WFP was urged to continue to work with the Government in providing emergency assistance and supporting subsequent recovery and development programmes, and to develop local capacities in disaster preparedness and management, safety nets and long-term solutions to hunger and

poverty, particularly in urban situations, using all the resources available, private and public. Essential requirements included preventing aid dependency and helping Haiti to develop more robust governance and administrative systems; in doing this, it would be essential to communicate with the people to ensure that their needs were recognized and met. Some Board members regretted the critical media coverage, especially at the start of operations, which failed to reflect the extraordinary achievements of humanitarian organizations: WFP should consider ways of publicizing its work more positively. Board members commended WFP's highly effective coordination with civil and military bodies in spite of the difficult circumstances and its leadership in the humanitarian clusters system in Haiti and elsewhere, which was fundamental in enabling other agencies to carry out their work. Some Board members warned that the operations in Haiti should not be allowed to overshadow WFP's significant commitments in problem areas such as the Horn of Africa or to divert attention from its urgent work in enhancing staff security.

5. The Board encouraged the Secretariat to continue to seek improved operational and funding mechanisms and to complete and report on the financial framework review by the end of 2010: commending the implementation of IPSAS and WINGS II, Board members looked forward to greater effectiveness and accountability and enhanced capacity to meet unforeseen needs. Some Board Members emphasized the importance for WFP of contributing, in partnership and coordination with other agencies, to long-term food security solutions in Haiti and worldwide. The year could also be an opportunity for stock-taking with regard to issues such as commitments to women 15 years after the Beijing conference and the state of progress towards the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs). Board members supported WFP's commitment to enhancing risk management and disaster prevention strategies.
6. Board members urged the Secretariat to ensure a holistic approach in the development of WFP as a food-assistance organization, noting the extent of food insecurity worldwide and stressing the need for predictable, flexible multi-year funding, which would help to reduce WFP costs. The Board also noted the need for increased operational efficiency, prioritization of operations, further development of innovative approaches such as voucher programmes and Purchase for Progress (P4P) based on lessons learned from the pilots, cooperation with agencies and stakeholders at all levels, and maximization of potentials such as support from recipient governments and the reformed Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as the intergovernmental platform dealing with food security. The Board commended WFP's work on the new operational and management concepts, but some members warned that issues such as changes to the programme categories and the move from the tonnage-based funding approach should not be rushed. Board members also recommended a review of partnership agreements, particularly with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to ensure that WFP principles and standards were universally applied by partners.
7. It was noted that several documents had been distributed late. The Secretariat was urged to ensure that documents were prepared in due time.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Report for 2009 to ECOSOC and FAO Council (2010/EB.1/2) *(for approval)*

8. The Secretariat presented the report, which followed the 2004 General Assembly resolution on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review and had taken into account comments made by the Board at previous sessions. Collaboration between WFP and its partners in humanitarian and food security responses had expanded in 2009. WFP was involved, with the Rome-based and other United Nations agencies and NGOs, in the G8 L'Aquila initiative, the reform process of the CFS and within the framework of the High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. This included WFP's active engagement in other multilateral processes such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) with African countries. WFP would be building on this and working together with United Nations partners in the United Nations Development Group, Chief Executives Board, the High-Level Committee on Programmes and the High-Level Committee on Management leading up to the High-Level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs to be held in New York during 2010.
9. The Board commended the Secretariat for its work throughout 2009. Members acknowledged WFP's increased collaboration efforts with other food security and nutrition stakeholders, including with the Rome-based agencies. They encouraged WFP to continue its efforts with other actors, including private partners, NGOs and regional organizations such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and the governments of African and other countries. Members noted WFP's involvement in increasing numbers of joint programmes, and looked forward to its continued engagement in the Delivering as One initiative. Members requested that future reports to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Council include more examples of results in relation to the Strategic Objectives and to the MDGs. Some members called on WFP to focus on its comparative advantage as a food assistance agency.
10. Members would welcome more information on WFP's role in the clusters it did not lead; on joint analyses and assessments, such as vulnerability analysis and mapping and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET); and on progress with and the results of innovative tools such as drought insurance and the use of cash and vouchers. Specific questions related to how the US\$6 million raised for joint projects to harmonize business practices among United Nations agencies was being used, and prospects for the US\$20 billion promised during the L'Aquila summit.

POLICY ISSUES

Resourcing for a Changing Environment (2010/EB.1/3) *(for consideration)*

11. Introducing the document, the Secretariat noted that comments made in the informal consultation had been incorporated; the paper was a roadmap for resourcing, and its provisions would be adjusted to reflect changing requirements and circumstances, as required. In 2009, US\$4 billion had been raised from 79 countries: the Secretariat thanked all donors for their generosity. The main aim of the resourcing roadmap or framework was to maximize the predictability, flexibility and growth of funding, bearing in mind donors'

requirements. To achieve this, a range of options would be explored such as local fundraising through WFP and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) teams, developing relationships with countries that had been recipients and with private-sector bodies, and continuing use of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and other funds. All countries were seen as potential donors, whether in cash, in kind, in terms of human resources or other means of support.

12. The Board welcomed the document and expressed appreciation for the attention given to members' inputs at the informal consultation. Some members cautioned against allocating funds to development activities in view of the focus of WFP on emergency response, suggesting that development work – which was acknowledged to have an impact on emergency responses – could be funded through the new country strategies. The overriding need was for coherence, to which WFP's review of its programme categories would contribute. Several members stressed the need for more flexible funding to maximize WFP's effectiveness in addressing the many and various calls made upon it; this should be supported by work to improve the forecasting of financial needs and by ensuring that governments were involved in joint programming so that national and local needs were fully understood. It was also important to coordinate WFP's messages from Headquarters and the field concerning funding and to make sure that information was available to all parties in the appropriate languages.
13. Board members encouraged WFP to continue to cultivate new donors and funding mechanisms, and to study the potential advantages of innovative contributions in forms such as human resources. A funding approach based on traditional methods would lead back to the tonnage-based accounting that WFP wished to change. Some Board members suggested a move away from the traditional perception of countries as either recipients or donors and adoption of a more pragmatic, needs-driven approach; this would also increase national ownership of funding and development processes. Board members emphasized the need for accurate prioritization in allocating limited resources, and asked for clarification of the staffing implications of the proposed capacity-building for fundraising in recipient countries. Some members recommended further attention to concomitant changes in WFP's business model and to opportunities for enhanced cooperation with other actors.
14. The Secretariat was grateful for the Board's constructive comments, and noted the usefulness of preparatory meetings to discuss policy documents. The Secretariat reassured the Board that there would be no additional Programme Support and Administrative (PSA) costs in using WFP staff in local fundraising initiatives, and that the danger of development projects eroding emergency response capability was not borne out by the facts: indeed, in Haiti the protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) ongoing at the time of the earthquake had been a springboard that enabled WFP to start its response within six hours. South–South funding opportunities were being recognized and effectively explored, and capacity-building was welcomed in many countries. Board members were also reassured that fundraising plans would be adjusted as necessary in the light of the finalized financial framework. Training for regional and country directors in building relationships and partnerships for raising resources was ongoing, and improvements were being made to the website to enhance WFP's visibility and transparency.

**Sir John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary General for
Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator
WFP's Role in the Humanitarian Assistance System (2010/EB.1/4)**

15. The Executive Director introduced Sir John Holmes, thanking him for his lead in coordinating the humanitarian system in the Haiti earthquake response. She announced the recent establishment of a global food security cluster, to be co-led by WFP and FAO based in WFP Headquarters.
16. Sir John outlined progress in the Humanitarian Response Review commissioned in 2005 to assess capacity to respond collectively to complex emergencies. The reform focused on improving response capacity and predictability through the cluster approach; ensuring timely, adequate and flexible humanitarian financing; and strengthening humanitarian coordination through the appointment of humanitarian coordinators. The cluster approach was now routine in most large-scale emergencies, and evaluations had made recommendations on how the system could be further improved as well as identifying its achievements: i) fewer response sectors being missed; ii) the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) being addressed; iii) better coordination within and among sectors to avoid duplication and use resources effectively; iv) Humanitarian Coordinator oversight; and v) more equal partnerships between the United Nations and NGOs. However, challenges remaining included: i) mainstreaming the approach within cluster lead agencies; ii) increasing accountability within the humanitarian response system and to donors and beneficiaries; iii) improving inter-cluster coordination; iv) ensuring a more methodical approach to needs assessments and reporting, to which WFP was already contributing with new assessment tools; and v) developing processes and mechanisms for a smooth transition from the cluster approach as countries move towards recovery.
17. The Haiti earthquake had been the most strenuous test of the cluster approach so far. Sir John outlined WFP's major contributions to this response, in both the clusters it led and others. He commended WFP's clear commitment to strengthening humanitarian response in emergencies through applying the principles of the reform in the field. He also noted successful engagement of the CERF in the Haiti crisis as an effective response in emergencies.
18. The Secretariat then presented its paper on WFP's role in the humanitarian assistance system, which the Board had requested. Highlights were WFP's co-leadership with FAO in food clusters in emergencies, its development of new assessment tools, and its work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and other partners to develop a "humanitarian dashboard". WFP had become a leader in needs assessment, thanks to donors and their investments.
19. The Board welcomed the formation of a new global food security cluster; it encouraged the Secretariat to continue discussions with partners, in particular other Rome-based agencies, on roles and responsibilities within the cluster, and on coordination among the cluster, the High-Level Task Force and the Committee on Global Food Security. Members acknowledged WFP's valuable contributions to humanitarian response, and noted how the cluster system helped reduce costs and the duplication of work, while increasing accountability and encouraging use of each agency's comparative advantages. It recognized the progress in needs assessments, but reminded the Secretariat that much remained to be done. The Board looked forward to seeing the OCHA-led Phase Two Cluster Evaluation, due in March 2010. One member suggested that the topic of humanitarian assistance could be an opportune theme to take up for the next Joint Meeting

of the Executive Boards of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP in New York. The President concurred, and promised to take up the matter with the new Bureau.

20. Many members noted the importance of media coverage of WFP's work and its humanitarian activities; one member suggested also using non-traditional communication tools. They also emphasized the need for an information system on global food security to provide cross-cutting information. Board members asked for more information on progress with cash, voucher and P4P initiatives; on the building of government and partner capacity to carry out assessments; and on the CERF, other humanitarian financing mechanisms and how they work together. They encouraged WFP to establish an evidence-based system for using these funds, and to clarify distribution procedures to NGOs and civil society organizations. There was also need for more sustainable funding of the UNHAS. Many members expressed concern about staff and beneficiary security and the shrinking of humanitarian space. The views and preferences of beneficiaries should be sought and respected; beneficiaries needed clear information about how and where to obtain the assistance they required, and in emergencies governments were not always able to provide this. The Board recalled that fundamental humanitarian principles must be respected at all times.
21. The Board requested the Secretariat to provide annual updates on its role in humanitarian assistance and the progress of humanitarian reform, with a more quantified and analytical account of WFP's experience in a number of areas.
22. Responding to the Board's questions and points, Sir John reported that protection, particularly of children, was a major issue in Haiti. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had recently assumed responsibility for protection in natural disasters. The choice of agencies to lead clusters was determined by the relevant capacity available; in an emergency, if the global lead lacked capacity on the ground, another agency could take up leadership. Governments participated in the cluster system, and the system left the Government in charge of leading and coordinating an emergency response. Sir John confirmed that in the Haiti emergency, strategies were devised with the Government and took account of the needs and preferences of both the Government and the recipients. Regarding the improvement of needs assessments, he clarified that efforts now focused on bringing various strong systems together and developing common assessments; good needs assessments should reflect what beneficiaries wanted. OCHA would welcome WFP's increased involvement in addressing the issues of humanitarian space and principles. He thanked the Board for its suggestions on increasing worldwide awareness of United Nations and WFP activities.
23. The Secretariat confirmed that WFP was committed to protection issues; in Haiti it had two protection officers and was using all the expertise available, including from the Government. The payment of NGO partners in the field was improving; WFP could now make advance payments for up to three months.

Steps Forward: Implementation of WFP Strategic Results Framework (2008–2013) (2010/EB.1/5) (for information)

24. The Secretariat outlined the main issues in the document before the Board, noting that 75 percent of WFP projects were now aligned with the Strategic Results Framework; projects closing in 2009 had not been adjusted. The Annual Performance Report (APR) for

2009 would be the main channel for outcome-level reporting: it would also include detailed accounts from 31 priority reporting countries chosen on the basis of the scale and duration of operations to serve as a performance sample in WFP as a whole. Training was planned to increase data collection and analysis capacities among WFP and government staff; connectivity and automation of processes would be enhanced and feedback loops would be established across WFP to ensure the robustness of data.

25. The Board welcomed the paper and approved the actions completed and those proposed. The particular importance of Standardized Project Reports (SPRs) was stressed: Board members urged the Secretariat to review the SPR format with a view to providing a higher-quality product and preparing more precise analysis of data, and to report back to the Board at a future session. Board members also looked forward to the reformatted APR, which was a core component of outcome performance measurement and management. Some members emphasized the need to ensure that all country offices were aware of the implications of the changes in data handling methods and the significance of outcome-level indicators.
26. The Secretariat noted that it had anticipated the need to adjust its assessment and reporting methods, much as Board members had suggested, and work was already underway.

RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

Revised Fee for the External Auditor for the Biennium 2008–2009

(2010/EB.1/6) (*for approval*)

27. Introducing the item, the President reminded the Board that the External Auditor had undertaken significant extra work, especially in relation to WFP's adoption of IPSAS; this had incurred charges to WFP that were in excess of the fee originally agreed by the Board when the External Auditor was appointed in 2006. There was an increase both in the number of hours and the per-hour fee, which had been adjusted for inflation. The revised fee had been presented to the Board at its Second Regular Session of 2009, but the membership had requested more time to consult before making its decision.
28. While the Board acknowledged that the work performed should be paid for, several members observed that the increase was nearly 30 percent of the original figure, and questioned the use of a higher hourly rate for the entire number of hours, rather than applying it only to the extra hours. The President therefore proposed that the Board request the Bureau to meet with the External Auditor to clarify how the charges were calculated; some members suggested that the Bureau negotiate a decrease in the revised fee. The Board urged that lessons learned should be taken into account in order to avoid such situations in future when appointing an External Auditor; any future amendments to the External Auditor contract would require Board approval.
29. The President reminded the Board that in 2008 the Secretariat had submitted a paper to the Board informing them of the additional hours to be worked, although not seeking its approval, and that the issue had remained with the Bureau. He suggested that the Board defer its decision on the revised fee until later in the Session.
30. The Board resumed discussion on the issue after it had received the outcome of the meeting between the Bureau and the External Auditor. The total additional fee was set and approved by the Board at 104,000 pounds sterling.

Update on the Financial Framework Review: Programme Categories (2010/EB.1/7) (*for consideration*)

31. The Secretariat presented the update in the context of the financial framework review, a process that originated with a request by the Board in 2008 to ensure that WFP's financial framework would support full implementation of the Strategic Plan. In May 2009, several members had asked WFP to give priority to a review of programme categories, with special attention to PRROs and their relation to donors' funding windows. Feedback during initial informal consultations where various options were presented had implied that the Board would prefer a more consistent and disciplined application of the existing categories, rather than the introduction of a new category. Linked to programme categories, a fast-track working group with Board participation had been formed to focus on definitions of key operational contexts in which WFP works; the document under consideration focused on progress made in that area and outlined a four-pronged approach to completing the programme category component of the financial framework review.
32. Other components of the financial framework review included the tonnage-based funding model; PSA budget stability; and advance financing and advance purchasing modalities. The Secretariat would hold at least two informal consultations before submitting a paper presenting potential solutions to the complete package of financial framework review issues for Board consideration at its 2010 Annual Session. Following further informal consultations a document was to be submitted for approval to the 2010 Second Regular Session.
33. The Board welcomed the update and looked forward to future consultations and the outputs of the fast-track working group. Members emphasized the importance of addressing these issues quickly to optimize the effectiveness of WFP's work: alternatives to the tonnage-based funding model were essential for ensuring more predictable and stable funding. It was important that programme categories be clarified and linked to the Strategic Objectives, but members urged the Secretariat not to allow these discussions to delay work on other financial framework issues. Members also cited the need to ensure transparency in the use of programme categories and funding modalities. The financial framework must enable effective responses, monitoring and quality review, all of which were in beneficiaries' interests. Some members looked forward to seeing a final proposal for the new financial framework at the Second Regular Session of 2010, but others underlined that complete work and consensus were more important than speedy results.
34. Although they generally supported greater United Nations coherence, some members also suggested that WFP's definitions of operational contexts such as emergency, relief and recovery should reflect the needs of WFP and the countries in which it worked, and not be restricted by overzealous application of definitions established elsewhere; the main aims should be increased effectiveness, including through flexible use of categories, and more opportunities for getting funding through increased donor confidence. However, other members supported WFP's alignment with the best practices used in the United Nations system and emphasized that United Nations coherence was as important in this as in other issues, recalling the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. Several members noted that in recovery contexts, emphasis should be on gradual hand-over of responsibilities as government capacity permitted. Some members recalled that preventing hunger and investing in disaster preparedness and capacity development were also Strategic Objectives that should not be forgotten. Members would welcome an opportunity to assess whether any proposed changes help WFP to work better on behalf of beneficiaries.

35. Specific to the PRRO category, several Board members stated that development activities should not be included in PRROs, and should be moved to country programmes or strategies. One member indicated that PRROs at times contained activities whose planning, funding and appraisal required a longer-term perspective than was possible for this category. In addition, it was unclear how difficult choices within a PRRO were made when funds did not materialize; it was suggested that priorities for the various components be set during the design and approval of a new PRRO. Another concern was that different components were relevant at different stages of recovery; under the existing PRRO structure, there was a risk that components may be implemented when they were no longer the most efficient options.
36. The Executive Director thanked the Board for its constructive comments and assured members that effectively concluding the financial framework review was a top priority for the Secretariat. The review had to take into account the very diverse contexts and needs of the countries where WFP worked, and country office work with governments and the United Nations country teams. The main goals were to enable proper oversight, implementation of the Strategic Plan and country-level decision-making and flexibility.

Report of the External Auditor on the Strategic Planning and Reporting at a WFP Country Office – Uganda (2010/EB.1/8) (*for consideration*)

37. The External Auditor reminded the Board that its previous reporting had focused on financial management, while this report considered the effectiveness of a field operation in meeting WFP's Strategic Objectives, satisfying vulnerable groups' needs, and monitoring its own progress. The Uganda country office was the first to develop a country strategy that linked project activities to the Strategic Objectives, and the External Auditor urged the Secretariat to accelerate its implementation of country strategies, especially for large countries; it also suggested that the Board consider focusing on country strategies rather than country programmes, to avoid duplication. The External Auditor observed that the costs of planned projects were not allocated to priority areas for the Strategic Objectives; while acknowledging that this would be difficult to achieve, he recommended that the Secretariat make efforts to do so. He welcomed the strategy's risk management and use of a risk register, and recommended using country statistics to develop risk awareness and demonstrate how risks were being managed. Appropriate data were being collected for monitoring, but WFP normal monitoring procedures were not always followed, and the External Auditor found some incorrectly reported numbers. Not all beneficiaries were being counted and there was need to define clearer and more consistent methods for capturing both food and non-food beneficiaries in reporting. The Secretariat should also look at ways of verifying data.
38. The Secretariat thanked the External Auditor for its report and recommendations. The country strategy was a new concept, which seemed to be improving coherence and focus among WFP activities at the country level. It expressed its commitment to accelerating the implementation of country strategies in larger countries, and would use size and programme cycle as criteria for deciding which countries to prioritize. It asked the Board to consider whether the country strategy rather than the country programme should be the focus.
39. The Board welcomed the report and commended Uganda on being the first country to design a strategy and realign its country and other programmes. Before considering the question of focusing on country strategies rather than programmes, the Board would need more information about the relative cost-effectiveness of the various tools used by WFP

and time to review other country strategies. It looked forward to the evaluation of the country strategy process.

40. The Secretariat expressed its willingness to organize an informal consultation on these issues if requested.

Report of the External Auditor on the IPSAS Dividend: Strengthening Financial Management (2010/EB.1/9) (for consideration)

41. The External Auditor had examined the benefits of applying IPSAS and how WFP was using these to improve its financial management. IPSAS increased transparency and provided the building blocks for sound financial programming; it was now important that this financial information be used to support senior management and help decision-making. The External Auditor had found that this was happening more effectively in some areas than in others and had identified five areas of achievement: i) values could be calculated for food inventories, making it easier to match food availability to anticipated needs; ii) more up-to-date information about pledges and contributions was available; iii) managers could see what was being spent and consumed month by month; iv) management now had better tools to develop an investment management framework, especially valuable in an uncertain investment environment; and v) disclosure requirements gave a clearer picture of WFP's obligations for employee benefit liabilities. The External Auditor reported that the Secretariat was already acting on its recommendations, which included providing managers more regularly with both information and analysis for use in establishing priorities and strengthening financial management.
42. The Secretariat confirmed that the implementation of IPSAS from 2008 had already provided dividends, especially in the transparency and comprehensiveness of the 2008 annual financial statements presented to the Board in June 2009. It was working towards providing senior management with monthly financial management reports, supported with more detailed analysis. Reporting of expense by Strategic Objective would not be appropriate within the annual or monthly Financial Statements, and was more appropriately reported through WFP's APR.
43. The Board appreciated the External Auditor's report and commended WFP's successful implementation of IPSAS and readiness of the Secretariat to implement the recommendations of this report which would allow WFP to improve the quality of financial management as a result.
44. The External Auditor suggested that the Board should decide the most appropriate frequency of reporting of financial results, based on what it needed to fulfil its oversight role. The Board should also consider whether or not it could use the FAO Finance Committee, the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) or the Audit Committee to provide assurances of how well the Secretariat was implementing these recommendations, details of which would be presented to the Board session in June by the Secretariat.

Update on the WFP Biennial Management Plan (2010–2011) (2010/EB.1/10) (for information)

45. The Secretariat summarized the figures in the paper before the Board, detailing increased operational requirements amounting to US\$594.6 million. The amounts approved since the document was completed for response to the crisis in Haiti were US\$246 million for food assistance, US\$22 million for a special operation for

telecommunications and logistic clusters coordination and US\$11 million for aviation services.

46. The Board welcomed the paper, but in the interest of transparency asked for additional details of the reasons for some of the budget increases. Board members were concerned that contributions in 2009 had covered only 60 percent of foreseen requirements: the question was what prioritization criteria WFP proposed to apply to determine which operations received full funding, and which operations would be affected. Board members suggested that WFP's business model and resource strategy be reviewed, given that the Management Plan was formulated by aggregating needs identified mainly at the country level without clear prioritization. The type and relevance of the information included in the Management Plan should also be reviewed, with a view to focusing more on changing priorities.
47. Several Board members commended WFP on the favourable responses received from the FAO Finance Committee and the ACABQ on the update and on its efforts to contain costs and enhance predictability. Board members appreciated clarification as to the prioritization of additional PSA funding and an account of the impacts of arrangements to hedge euro costs. Members stressed the importance of trying to forecast some of the "unforeseen" needs in part with a view to avoiding further large budget increases in 2010.
48. In response to the Board's observations, the Executive Director noted that the figures in the Management Plan were derived some months before it was presented, and that unlike other United Nations organizations WFP had no core funding: it had to budget for a programme of work that was determined on the basis of requests from governments for assistance. The Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC) could allocate multilateral resources to urgent cases, but these were a small proportion of the whole. WFP's operating environment was constantly evolving and issues such as food prices and logistics costs were being reviewed much more frequently than in the past.
49. The Secretariat then outlined some of the issues leading to the increases: in Pakistan, IDP numbers and security costs had increased; food and transport needs in the Sudan were greater than foreseen; and in Afghanistan the Government had made requests for additional activities, while security costs were increasing there as well. The Secretariat stressed that all approval processes had been adhered to.

EVALUATION REPORTS

Summary Report of the Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security (2010/EB.1/11) *(for consideration)*

50. Introducing the document, the Director of the Office of Evaluation (OE) stressed that the joint evaluation with FAO was the first of its kind; present at the meeting were FAO's Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department, and the Director of the FAO Office of Evaluation, all of whom agreed that conducting the evaluation together had several benefits.
51. The evaluation findings showed that WFP and FAO collaborated on Information Systems for Food Security (ISFS) to a greater extent than was apparent, and that the two agencies' support to the ISFS provided a holistic view of food security issues. The evaluation recommendations were being implemented both singularly and jointly, and a

joint strategy for future action would be presented to the Board in due course. The recommendations of the evaluation focused on development strategies, leadership issues, technical support and – significantly – sustainability in partner countries.

52. The Secretariat presented a joint management response with FAO. The response recognized the need to develop capacities in partner countries on the basis of improved understanding of users' requirements; differentiated products would be developed to meet such needs, and data gaps would be identified and filled. The aim was to further integrate the information system into decision-making processes in governments, FAO, WFP and stakeholder organizations and to improve the capacity of ISFS in predicting and pre-empting food crisis situations.
53. The Board expressed its approval of the work done, the management responses to the recommendations and the proposed plans of action. Board members commended both agencies on their collaboration, which was a major step towards improved coordination of action. Building on recommendation 2, several Board members argued in favour of the establishment of an informal stakeholder group with a view to developing a global ISFS stakeholder network that also incorporated such organizations as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), international financial institutions and non-United Nations bodies to monitor food insecurity; some members observed that such a group as an official structure already existed in the reformed CFS, and that it was developing a mapping system for food security interventions. The Board encouraged WFP to work in the CFS with FAO and other stakeholders to sustain collaboration.
54. Board members cautioned that various stakeholders had different information needs, and that WFP and FAO should take care to ensure that the information system was accessible to the whole range of users. Special attention should also be given to the language aspects of the system; work on developing the system should concentrate on the national level with special attention to sustainability.
55. Board members called attention to the evaluation's finding that the ISFS were weaker in nutrition, gender and urban dimensions. They recalled the importance of differentiating the future roles of FAO and WFP on the basis of their comparative advantages. The potential of ISFS as an early-warning system for food insecurity was noted by several members; collaboration with stakeholders would be a fundamental aspect of this. Some Board members asked for costing estimates for the recommendations.
56. The Executive Director remarked that the collaborative information system had shown its worth in Haiti in providing data on immediate food needs, access and sources. She endorsed the aim of building national and community-level capacities to predict and manage crisis situations, and recognized the need to ensure that concepts were clearly defined so that users of the system could have confidence in basing decisions on the information they received.
57. The Secretariat thanked the Board for its observations and suggestions. The various successful joint ISFS projects that were under way would provide lessons for helping to define the roles of FAO and WFP. With regard to costing of the evaluation recommendations, the Director of OE pointed out that each agency had to determine costing within its budget. She also reminded the Board that the full-length evaluation reports were available on the OE website.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

Summary Evaluation Report Guatemala PRRO 104570 (2010/EB.1/13) (for consideration)

58. The Regional Director outlined the situation in the region. An additional 39 million people were expected to fall below the poverty line by the end of 2010; the number of food-insecure people was forecast to increase from 45 to 53 million. Owing to the global economic crisis, remittances – the most significant source of social protection in the region – had decreased dramatically. A survey of four countries had concluded that the costs of hunger were worth 3 percent of gross domestic product, and 40 million people throughout the region had been affected by natural disasters, which would continue to occur.
59. A hunger crisis in Guatemala had been exacerbated by drought and the global crisis, which had caused a severe drop in remittances, and drought had resulted in smallholder farmers losing between 50 and 100 percent of their staple bean and maize crops. An assessment at the end of 2009 had found that almost 36 percent of people in the dry corridor were food-insecure and depleting their food stocks; 11 percent of children suffered acute malnutrition. Combating child malnutrition was a national priority in Central America, but national social and nutritional safety nets did not adequately cover children under 2, indigenous people and people living with HIV.
60. Thanks to WFP interventions in Haiti in 2008, WFP had been able to move quickly in the aftermath of the recent earthquake. Emergency food had been sent from depots in El Salvador and Ecuador, and five humanitarian corridors had been established via land, air and sea. As well as its NGO and other implementation partners, WFP was working with local military and other authorities. Nordic countries had provided a camp for humanitarian personnel to live and work, and more accommodation was to be provided on a ship. Emergency response was only the first step; the challenge now was to decide how best to help Haiti move into recovery and on to development. This was an opportunity for helping to strengthen government social networks with United Nations and other partners. WFP and FAO were working on a joint programme for smallholders to help Haiti increase its production. WFP also aimed to start local purchases as soon as possible, and had the Government's strong support in this.
61. The Director of OE then presented the evaluation of the Guatemala PRRO. The operation had put most resources into a recovery component to halt the increase of undernutrition. The evaluation found that it was consistent with WFP's Strategic Objectives and government strategy, and based on an analysis of needs and the available capacity to deal with undernutrition. The PRRO used a new nutrition product developed by WFP – Vitacereal – which was commended by the evaluation as appropriate for the two target populations. However, distributions were limited because the PRRO was only 43 percent funded and partners lacked capacity. The evaluation had been unable to assess the PRRO's effectiveness because effects on chronic undernutrition can be measured only after several years, and the evaluation had no data for comparisons. Evaluation staff observed that sharing of rations within households was likely to have reduced the effectiveness of Vitacereal but increased use of health centres and better nutrition education were positive PRRO outcomes.
62. The Secretariat reported that the Guatemala country office would maintain its needs assessment capacity and was strengthening its monitoring and evaluation system. However, the country office felt that handing over responsibility for Vitacereal to the

Government as proposed by the evaluation team was premature and proposed a more gradual exit strategy.

63. In response to the presentations, the Board congratulated the country director, international and national WFP staff and WFP's implementing partners in Haiti who had been working so heroically since the earthquake. It emphasized the need to move quickly in ensuring sufficient seeds and other inputs for the next growing season, to help Haiti on the road to recovery, and to increase WFP's opportunities for local purchases. Members were concerned about the coming hurricane season, particularly given the numbers of people living precariously and highlighted the importance of shortening the response period in case of new disasters. It recommended that WFP find ways of using the mass media to keep the world's attention on the Haiti emergency. Members commented that the massive task of rebuilding Haiti provided an opportunity for tackling long-term challenges in the country.
64. The Board also welcomed the Guatemala PRRO evaluation, but commented that the members had had too little time to study what was an important document for the planning of future interventions. It suggested that the evaluation could have been delayed until more data from the national survey were available. Members commended the local purchases and new nutrition product being used; some felt that the management of Vitacereal should be handed over to the Government as soon as possible, in line with the evaluation's recommendation. Some members wanted more information about the country office's plans for strengthening needs assessment capacity and addressing the lack of baseline data. The Board was concerned that only 43.6 percent of target beneficiaries had been reached, and that the relief component had had such a low uptake rate; it was suggested that future evaluation teams include wider expertise to be able to assess socio-cultural aspects affecting beneficiary participation.
65. The Secretariat acknowledged that it had learned lessons from the Haiti emergency response and was meeting with representatives of the Government to decide the next steps; planting had to be under way within six weeks. The country director outlined some of the main issues faced in the earthquake's aftermath and noted that the structures established after the 2008 hurricane had made it possible to undertake distributions almost immediately. It was important to support local agriculture and markets as much as possible, and donors were requested to waive the usual condition that local purchases be made only when prices were competitive with international ones. WFP would be assisting host communities through the PRRO approved in November 2009. With the Government, it would mobilize a system of community workers to provide support and advice in neighbourhoods. WFP and its partners would also be expanding school feeding, food- and cash-for-work and disaster risk-reduction activities. WFP's national counterpart in Haiti was the Department of Civil Protection; it was working with the Ministry of Agriculture to establish priority areas for seed and input distributions.
66. The Guatemala country director clarified that the country office had baseline data, but lacked up-to-date national data for comparisons. Optimum use of Vitacereal had been hampered by high illiteracy levels, making it difficult to communicate messages aimed at changing behaviours. OE explained that the evaluation had been scheduled in advance, when government data was expected to be available by late 2009. It would explore the use of socio-cultural expertise in future evaluations.

ASIA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

Summary Evaluation Report Afghanistan PRRO 104270 (2010/EB.1/14) (for consideration)

PRROs for Executive Board Approval – Afghanistan 200063 (2010/EB.1/15) (for approval)

67. The Regional Director focused his remarks on certain issues in the Asia region. In Sri Lanka IDPs were returning to their homes, but 100,000 were still in camps and dependent on food assistance; conflict had resulted in serious damage to WFP premises in the Vanni region. In Pakistan, security concerns had obliged WFP to relocate some staff to Bangkok, but all operations were ongoing: IDPs were being assisted, WFP's immediate-response capacity was intact and early-recovery programmes were being implemented. In the Philippines, the flood relief operation had been a success, but 200,000 IDPs in Mindanao still awaited resettlement. WFP's continued presence in Timor-Leste was in doubt: the Regional Director had proposed to the Government that the joint school feeding and mother-and-child health and nutrition (MCHN) programmes be continued for three years to build local capacity with a view to hand-over, but WFP might have to exit well before that. The Asia regional bureau was broadening the use of ready-to-eat and micronutrient-fortified foods, and was looking to develop more options. The Regional Director thanked donors for their generous support.
68. Presenting the evaluation of Afghanistan PRRO 104270, the Director of OE noted that it addressed all five Strategic Objectives with 16 kinds of activity; the strategy was relevant to the situation in Afghanistan and to international development agendas. Some design weaknesses had been identified such as the large number of components and inadequate definition of underlying risks and assumptions, but the PRRO had reached 70 percent of the intended 8.7 million beneficiaries. Geographical targeting had been sound and WFP had operated flexibly to deal with security constraints; its food-for-work (FFW) programmes had been successful. There had been negative effects resulting from the diversity of activities and delivery shortfalls because of pipeline breaks and severe weather.
69. Management had accepted and was addressing the recommendations of the evaluation, which had provided valuable insights for the preparation of a new PRRO.
70. Afghanistan PRRO 200063 built on lessons from the evaluation in addressing immediate humanitarian needs and enhancing resilience in all 34 provinces. It was designed to build government and community ability to survive emergencies, and included investments in warehouses, and supporting the Government's strategic results as well as local food production with cash and voucher programmes. The need to improve monitoring and evaluation (M&E) was recognized, and the number of offices was being increased in spite of insecurity; in unsafe areas, monitoring would be outsourced to private companies trained by WFP. Helicopters would be leased to transport staff for M&E purposes: the option was expensive but justified in terms of safety and improved operational capability.
71. The Board welcomed the presentations and documents. With regard to PRRO 200063, Board members recommended that WFP increase the food stocks, outsource beneficiary needs assessment and monitoring activities to reliable partners, ensure transparency in post-distribution monitoring and maximize coordination with other actors. Some members

cautioned that food production in Afghanistan varied with circumstances such as changes in the area under irrigation and asked what alternatives were being considered. The need to ensure government ownership of processes was noted with a view to enhancing the sustainability of operations such as school feeding; more attention to raise health awareness in the schools and capacity-building was recommended. Some members were concerned at the high cost of operating helicopters and asked for further details of the reasons for using them; the manageability of the PRRO was also questioned in view of the diversity of components. WFP was urged to cooperate with expert agencies in implementing the cash-based projects and to ensure that processes were in place to address possible manipulation of food prices. Board members expressed approval of the gender aspects of the PRRO components and the fact that the operation was well aligned with national priorities and strategies. The importance of working with communities and using nutritious food products was stressed; Board members also recommended that resources be shifted from relief to recovery in line with the changing situation. A question was raised as to the expected effects on food production of illicit cultivation of poppies for narcotics.

72. Regarding the summary evaluation report of the previous PRRO, Board members urged greater prioritization of activities in such large and complex operations and asked for clarification as to the proportion of food costs in relation to overall costs. Concern was expressed about diversions of food aid and clarification was sought as to measures to address them. Board members noted the need to enhance staff capacities, which should be reflected in the new PRRO. Several Board members noted the advantages of having evaluations that supported the planning of new operations: 14 of the 21 evaluation recommendations had been addressed in developing the next PRRO.
73. The Regional Director thanked Board members for their observations. He acknowledged that the cost of PRRO 200063 was high, but drew attention to the large cash component and the support for the national grain reserve, which involved the building of warehouses and small food stores, and the establishment of several new sub-offices; the use of helicopters was fully justified in terms of staff safety and improved monitoring and targeting.
74. In response to specific comments from Board members, the Secretariat noted that increased food storage capability and field presence resulted in improved preparedness and beneficiary assessments as well as enhanced monitoring to prevent diversions of food. Post-distribution monitoring would be systematic, but the very large number of distribution points was acknowledged to be a challenge. Coordination with the Government and other actors was a fundamental element of PRRO 200063; it would be supported by the already established joint WFP/Government of Afghanistan steering committee. Harvest permitting, WFP planned to buy 150,000 mt of wheat over five years, which was well within national capabilities; P4P and other forms of collaboration with farmers would be combined with watershed management in partnership with development agencies; Afghanistan's extreme weather had been taken into account. The range of activities was dictated by the varied needs of the 8 million beneficiaries. Illicit poppy cultivation was being addressed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with whom WFP continued to cooperate.

MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

PRROs for Executive Board Approval – Iraq 200035 (2010/EB.1/16) (for approval)

75. The Regional Director reported that WFP focused on ensuring that its interventions in the region had long-term effects on target populations, especially through the building of government capacity in social safety net programmes. However, although governments were doing a lot, they could not meet all the needs of the most vulnerable, for which WFP was still needed. Over the coming months, WFP and the World Bank would be studying food supply challenges in the Arab world, where countries imported 50 percent of their food needs. During 2010, the numbers of hungry people were expected to increase by 2 million in Yemen – the region’s most vulnerable country, which was also threatened by increased conflict and health risks. Central Asia still faced food security challenges, in spite of improvements, and people in Tajikistan spent more than 70 percent of their incomes on food, and needed WFP for school feeding, nutrition support and food for work and training. Innovative cash projects were being implemented in Georgia (first-ever joint United Nations cash project) and Armenia (pilot cash-for-work project). A review of the use of vouchers in urban areas of the West Bank and Gaza found positive effects on morale, and the Syrian Arab Republic’s electronic voucher system was being expanded.
76. The new Iraq PRRO focused on helping the Government to design and implement good social safety nets that ensured access to food, health care and education for the most vulnerable people, in line with the new WFP country strategy and national development strategy plans. Although the situation was precarious, Iraq was on the road to stability, and the elections in March 2010 would indicate whether this was likely to continue. A survey in 2008 had found that 25 percent of the population was vulnerable to food insecurity, and 7 million people lived below the poverty line of US\$2 per day, many of them lacking access to education and health. This situation could lead to further instability. The PRRO would support 1,760,000 people, in collaboration with partners. Iraq’s operational environment had changed over the previous year; the country office was still based in Jordan, but there were four international staff members in Baghdad and local staff in area offices throughout the country. The Government had recently requested a two-year development programme from WFP to strengthen management of the supply chain for the public distribution system and social safety nets. The Government would fund a large part of this programme; funds were also available from previous WFP operations in Iraq.
77. The Board welcomed the PRRO, reiterating its value in promoting greater stability in Iraq after many years of sanctions and war. Poverty and hunger in Iraq, Yemen or other countries could trigger conflict, with repercussions throughout the region and beyond. The Board commended the PRRO’s targeting based on vulnerability, and recalled the particular needs of returnees. Members also emphasized the importance of re-establishing agriculture to promote economic sustainability. Food distributions should be limited to minimize any adverse effects on local markets, and WFP should purchase as much as possible locally. Members requested regular updates on PRRO performance indicators. Some members also encouraged WFP to move rapidly with its development programme, citing the need for urgent reform of Iraq’s public distribution system.

78. The Secretariat took note of the Board's comments. The Iraq development programme would be carried out in three stages: i) assessment of needs; ii) streamlining of tools and transfer of technology; and iii) training and hand-over. The country director reported that the PRRO had a framework for responding to short-term needs as they arose, including those of refugees and returnees, for which WFP would work with the UNHCR.

Report on the Executive Board Bureau's Field Visit to Egypt

79. The former President of the Board gave a brief report on the Bureau's recent visit to Egypt. The country faced such challenges as a rise in food prices, increasing soil salination and declining water availability. The Government had assumed responsibility for most of the implementation and funding of food operations, often replicating WFP's activities at a wider level. WFP was focusing on national capacity development; WFP food-for-education activities aimed to reduce gender disparity and combat use of child labour. The former President encouraged WFP to expand its technical assistance under the next Egypt country programme, especially for food fortification and food supply chain management reform. Commenting that resource restrictions risked reducing WFP's capacity to work in lower-middle income countries, he reported that more than US\$25 million of funding had been raised locally, including from the private sector, and emphasized Egypt's potential as an emerging donor and partner in South-South cooperation.

SOUTHERN, EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

Summary Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Country Programme Ethiopia 104300 (2007–2011) (2010/EB.1/17) (for consideration)

80. The Regional Director expressed appreciation for donors' support in a region where WFP's work in 2010 would focus on 30 million people. WFP was also supporting governments with regard to the long-term sustainability of food assistance. In the Horn of Africa, increases in food production, mainly in southern Somalia and southeastern Kenya, only partly offset the effects of high food and fuel prices, reduced trade and weather-related shocks. In southern Somalia, WFP had recently suspended relief operations because of insecurity and intolerable demands from insurgents. Contingency plans were in place with neighbouring governments and the UNHCR to handle expected population movements. In Ethiopia food assistance needs would remain high in 2010: preliminary results of a Government-led, multi-agency assessment indicated that 5.2 million people would not be able to meet their basic food needs. As requested by the Board, an explanation was provided on improvements in food management accountability, reporting and targeting mechanisms. In Kenya, numbers of beneficiaries were declining as a result of good rains and increased food production in the southeast; however, food assistance needs remained high in the arid areas.
81. The situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remained challenging. A new conflict in Equateur Province had displaced 50,000 people in DRC and driven 100,000 to become refugees in the Republic of Congo. In Zimbabwe better rains and changed government policies had resulted in greater food availability, but food insecurity persisted in rural areas; WFP was increasing its food-for-assets (FFA) and child nutrition interventions and was working closely with FAO.

82. Strengthening partnerships with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and others was a key aspect of WFP's operations in support of government programmes. Programmes to support people living with HIV focused on livelihood opportunities and back-to-work projects. Undernutrition was as great a challenge as hunger in the region, especially among children: WFP was supporting programmes to provide micronutrient or fortified foods that could be produced locally. Plans were under way to implement the Renewed Effort Against Child Hunger initiative. Cash and voucher programmes were being planned in response to high food prices and economic recession. Partnerships with the Millennium Villages project were being developed in some countries. P4P was promoting, in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and FAO, local food purchases and processing in ten countries. Local and regional procurement, valued at US\$223 million in 2009, helped farmers across the region and also reduced delivery times.
83. With regard to the evaluation of the Ethiopia country programme (CP), the Director of OE noted a number of positive outcomes of the CP such as improved watershed management, increased availability of water, enhanced earnings, reduced food deficits and greater resistance to drought under Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transitions to More Sustainable Livelihoods (MERET). School feeding was reaching 100 percent of intended beneficiaries with only 47 percent of the food commodities; there had been positive effects on attendance rates and the gender balance. The main recommendations were to extend MERET to different livelihood zones and to co-locate it with the child-support component to promote positive synergies.
84. The WFP management response accepted the recommendations and was promoting enhanced social protection, capacity development and training for *woreda* officials; plans to extend MERET and study with partners the sustainability of watershed management projects were being prepared.
85. The Board welcomed the remarks and the evaluation document. Several members made strong appeals for international commitment to raise more funding and humanitarian support for the region, noting that problems in areas such as the Horn of Africa had significant knock-on effects in other countries. A vivid description of the reality of hunger prompted calls by several Board members for increased international efforts to raise the resources needed in the region. In the same spirit, Board members regretted that lack of resources and pipeline delays had had negative effects on WFP's operations in Ethiopia and urged the Secretariat to implement the evaluation recommendations as soon as practicable and to ensure that operations were coordinated to maximize the benefits of synergy. Board members recommended improvements to targeting methods and logistics approaches and more dialogue with governments to promote scaling up of successful interventions. Questions were raised as to the sustainability of MERET and the arrangements for hand-over, particularly the issue of capacity-building. Board members debated the advantages of maintaining MERET as a separate entity or combining MERET and Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) operations. Analysis of the cost/benefit and social impacts of MERET was recommended. Members also recommended a study of the effects of school feeding in different areas to determine the actual outcomes of the intervention. The Secretariat was requested to avoid the use of the subjective phrase "one of the poorest countries in the world" in documents, particularly with reference to Ethiopia, which experienced high gross domestic product (GDP) growth in recent years. It was suggested that an official United Nations classification such as "least-developed country" would be more acceptable and accurate.

86. In reply, the country director acknowledged the need to develop the hand-over strategy in Ethiopia and to ensure that capacity for it was in place. He also noted that the impact of watershed management programmes took longer than the five years of a CP to emerge. On the question of MERET and the PSNP, the Regional Director noted that they were to a considerable extent complementary: MERET focused on sustainable land management to achieve specific outcomes; PSNP was a mechanism for ongoing social support that transferred resources to protect the poor. In areas where both were in operation, the impact was high, and WFP was integrating lessons from MERET into PSNP and other activities, but MERET was a participatory programme that was not replicable on the scale of PSNP. Implementation bottlenecks in Ethiopia were what might be expected in so vast and least developed country: work was ongoing to improve transport tendering and train government counterpart staff with a view to enhancing the logistics element. The Regional Director thanked the Board for its support and gave his assurance that the evaluation recommendations would be implemented.

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL BUREAU PORTFOLIO

87. The Regional Director updated the Board on the latest harvests in the region; overall agricultural and pastoral conditions in coastal and western Sahelian countries were reasonable but the situation in the eastern Sahel was worrisome. There was strong evidence that a major food crisis was emerging in Niger, Chad and north Cameroon: after two years of bad harvests, pastoral movements were starting early, more animals were dying, undernutrition was increasing and early onset of the lean season was likely to result in people having to resort to negative coping strategies. WFP and its partners were stepping up their support to vulnerable populations. In Niger, the Government's mitigation plan stated that 3.4 million people were in need of assistance. Within the framework of this plan, and without a formal government request or declaration of a state of disaster, WFP had scaled up its ongoing PRRO to address the needs of 850,000 additional needy people. It was highly likely that a budget increase would be required in the near future. Chad had reported 2 million food-insecure people and had requested an EMOP for 750,000 people, targeting children and pregnant and lactating women. Given the time required for food to reach Chad and Niger, early donor commitments were encouraged. In Guinea, a transition government was leading the country towards elections in six months; WFP had built the emergency preparedness and rapid response capacity of its staff and partners. In the Central African Republic, WFP's capacity to respond rapidly to an influx of refugees from DRC had helped save lives and reduce tension between refugees and host communities.

88. The Board thanked the Regional Director for his presentation. Several members expressed their dismay that the international community was not reacting to alarming warning signs, especially in Niger, and seemed to have not learned the lessons from 2005. They urged donors to scale up their support to the region so as to take advantage of the opportunity for avoiding a future disaster, and encouraged WFP to be innovative in its partnerships and responses. The increasing use of West Africa as a route for illegal drugs to Europe was mentioned, with the massive poverty in the region attributed as a primary cause.

89. The Secretariat thanked the Board for its comments and for its appeal for timely and adequate funding. Given that ensured financing avoided raising unfounded hopes and expectations, WFP was planning to include expected funding levels as part of its

programme planning and approval process. A budget increase for PRRO Niger might be presented to the Board for approval by correspondence.

THE SUDAN REGIONAL BUREAU PORTFOLIO

90. The Regional Director reported that five years after the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the food security situation in the Sudan had not improved. Although banditry and incidences against humanitarian workers had continued throughout 2009, the political situation seemed to be stabilizing, with the first elections since 1986 scheduled for 2010, as well as a referendum on unity with Southern Sudan. However, poverty was putting these advances at risk, and Darfur and Southern Sudan were particularly vulnerable. A WFP/FAO crop and food security assessment mission in late 2009 had reported a 30 percent drop in production levels since 2008, rising to 40 percent in parts of the south. Local prices were very high; it was cheaper to buy wheat on international markets than sorghum on local ones, making local procurement difficult and reducing livestock owners' capacity to acquire cereals. Instead of the decrease that WFP had expected, the number of beneficiaries to be assisted looked set to increase during 2010, from 6.5 to 11 million, mainly in the south. Drought, insecurity and conflict had led to a quadrupling of the number of food-deficit households, reaching 4.3 million in 2009. Most of these people would require food assistance only during the lean season, but households' food stocks would run out in March, so vulnerable families would become hungry earlier than usual. WFP would use food for education and food for recovery whenever possible. The quality of the June rains would determine the situation for the rest of 2010.
91. To augment its preparedness and rapid-response capacity, WFP was pre-positioning stocks in Southern Sudan, deploying staff from other areas, and diverting food from other programmes to the emergency operation (EMOP). The EMOP was 50 percent funded, with needs satisfied until June; because it could take up to six months for a donation to result in food in a beneficiary's hands, donors were requested to commit funds quickly.
92. The humanitarian needs and nutrition status in Darfur were changing, and WFP was fine-tuning its programmes to focus on where it was most needed; food assistance would be part of a package for returnees. The costs of the UNHAS had declined since 2008; WFP had decreased also its operational costs from US\$1,311 per mt to US\$1,100 per mt, and would work to reduce these costs further.
93. Board members thanked the Regional Director for his report, which some members felt contained some grounds for optimism: relations between the Sudan and Chad had improved, voters were registering for the elections, and displaced people were returning to their homes in Darfur.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL MATTERS

Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit Relevant to the Work of WFP (2010/EB.1/18) (*for consideration*)

94. The Secretariat expressed its appreciation of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), the independent external oversight body of the United Nations, stressing that WFP participated in all phases of its work. JIU recommendations had been and were being addressed as set out in the document; the full reports were available on the JIU website.

95. Thanking the Secretariat, Board members noted that the document did not give the status of actions that had been incomplete at the time of the preceding JIU report, and asked for clarification: points at issue included the oversight lacunae in the United Nations system and the procedure for appointing the head of the oversight function. Some Board members requested information on the use of WINGS II in WFP's procurement system. The matter of employment in executive positions of staff who had served in an external audit organization was also identified as requiring clarification. Board members asked for explanation as to the differences between independent audits and internal audits, and as to the nature and frequency of audits in WFP; there was also a question as to the function of the WFP Audit Committee and senior management with regard to internal controls. Some members enquired as to the status of the whistle-blower protection policy and its outcomes. Attention was drawn to the need for a broader range of languages on the WFP website.
96. The Secretariat appreciated Board members' questions, and would refer them to the relevant WFP departments for full responses to be communicated to the Board. The budget of the oversight function was scrutinized by the Audit Committee as part of its examination of elements of WFP's Management Plan; WFP managers had no influence in internal oversight activities. With regard to staff who had served as external audit personnel, the Secretariat reminded the Board that such staff were ineligible for WFP executive positions for three years after the end of the external audit contract. On the question of internal audits, the Secretariat noted that external professional bodies carried out regular independent peer reviews of WFP's work. The WFP Inspector General was appointed for a four-year term with the possibility of one extension; termination of contract would only be for just cause and any grievance could be laid before the United Nations appeal body. Work was ongoing to increase the number of languages on the website, but funding constraints meant that progress was slow.

OTHER BUSINESS

Report on the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP (2010/EB.1/20) (for information)

97. The former President of the Board outlined the work of the joint meeting held in New York in January of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP. The main topics addressed had been the Delivering as One initiative; issues related to gender-based violence and potential interventions to reduce it; climate change and related development concerns; recovery from the economic crisis and concomitant issues involving food security and food and social safety nets; and the status of progress towards the MDGs, whose target date for achievement was only five years away.

Special Guest – Mr J. Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute and Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals

98. Professor Sachs began his remarks by stressing that hunger and poverty could be dramatically reduced where governments implemented focused programmes addressing clearly defined issues. What was needed was a holistic, science-based global effort that took into account such issues as population growth, water and energy needs, and food production – WFP was urged to work with the African Union to scale up seeds, fertilizer and irrigation access for small farmers with a view to making Africa food-secure in 20 years. Other important issues were: i) land management – urgent work was needed to

address land degradation as in the MERET programme in Ethiopia, which was restoring productivity in water-stressed areas; ii) emergency response – this remained the core of WFP’s work, but more attention should be given to prevention and development; and iii) support for vulnerable groups – programmes for safety nets, nutrition support, market development, health and education were essential, and were part of WFP’s work in many places.

99. Professor Sachs suggested that WFP was an action-oriented agency that had the mandate, expertise and operational leadership to adopt a mandate that involved focusing the work of other agencies in addressing hunger and poverty. The need was to maximize the combined effect of programmes; such an approach was practicable and affordable.
100. The Board thanked Professor Sachs for his trenchant observations; members appreciated the opportunity for debate on approaches to addressing hunger and poverty. Some members were of the view that the core mission of WFP should be focused on emergencies and disagreed with the view that WFP should lead other organizations in addressing hunger, stressing that it was an emergency response organization not equipped to take on the fight against chronic hunger alone. Coordination among humanitarian and development organizations was the practical approach; a high-level coordination system involving the CFS was needed.
101. Several Board members argued that the vertical funding model promoted by Professor Sachs was not the optimum response to food insecurity, which was a highly complex issue that involved legal, social, commercial and institutional considerations as well as agricultural inputs. Because the mandates of organizations overlapped, funding tended to be dissipated, resulting in lack of donor confidence and increased earmarking when flexibility was needed; extending and changing mandates could exacerbate this situation.
102. Board members agreed with Professor Sachs that problems arose where resources were scarce and disputed. Several members noted that development assistance had decreased since the 1960s, with a consequent reduction in investment in agricultural development. They agreed that the need was for immediate action to address specific problems rather than discussion of abstract issues, and the proposed holistic international approach uniting strategies, tools and resources could be an effective way forward. But Board members stressed the need for country ownership and management of development processes, and drew attention to the fact that it was crises that attracted funding while chronic problems tended to be “invisible”. Various Board members stressed that undertakings made at the G8 and other meetings were indeed being honoured, and that funding was being made available to support agricultural development. Discussion of the merits of multi-donor trust funds focused on the tendency for a few major donors to assume control, but acknowledged that such mechanisms could get resources rapidly to those who needed them.
103. In response, Professor Sachs forcefully reiterated that the need was to find an entry point for action and to resolve contingent problems over time; a simple focused intervention could make a major difference, and make it easier to solve other problems. On the question of global funds, Professor Sachs stressed that they enabled countries to access investment funding in the short term on a contractual basis without the need for lengthy donor coordination processes, thereby enhancing national ownership of interventions and making it possible to monitor the use of cash or in-kind contributions. WFP’s operating procedures offered entry points for interventions that could change the lives of millions.

104. Professor Sachs drew attention to the urgent need in Haiti for high-yield rice seeds and fertilizers for the coming planting season in six weeks' time: action had to be immediate and use all available networks; a business-as-usual approach would end in failure. He implored donors to make cash donations to a donor trust fund for use by the Government of Haiti and humanitarian agencies.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

ACABQ	Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions
APR	Annual Performance Report
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CFS	Committee on World Food Security
CP	country programme
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EMOP	emergency operation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
FFA	food for assets
FFW	food for work
FITTEST	Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency Support Team
GDP	gross domestic product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDPs	internally displaced person
IFAD	International Fund For Agricultural Development
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
ISFS	Information Systems for Food Security
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MCHN	mother-and-child health and nutrition
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MERET	Managing Environmental Resources to Enable Transitions to More Sustainable Livelihoods
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
P4P	Purchase for Progress
PLHIV	people living with HIV

PRRO	protracted relief and recovery operation
PSA	Programme Support and Administrative
PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
SPR	Standardized Project Report
SRAC	Strategic Resource Allocation Committee
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHAS	United Nations Humanitarian Air Service
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WINGS II	WFP Information Network and Global System

ANNEX I**DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS****Adoption of the Agenda**

The Board adopted the agenda as proposed.

8 February 2010

Election of the Bureau and Appointment of the Rapporteur

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Board, the Board elected H.E Sabas Pretelt de la Vega (Colombia, List C) as President for a one-year term. H.E José Antônio Marcondes de Carvalho (Brazil, List C) was elected as Alternate.

The Board elected H.E Agnes van Ardenne (Netherlands, List D) as Vice-President. Ms Harriet Spanos (United States of America, List D) was elected as Alternate.

The Board elected as members of the Bureau, representing the other three WFP electoral lists, for a one-year term: Mr Innocent Mokosa Mandende (Democratic Republic of the Congo, List A); H.E Javad Shakhs Tavakolian (Islamic Republic of Iran, List B); and Mr Jiří Muchka (Czech Republic, List E). Elected as Alternates were: H.E. Mohamed Ashraf Gamal Eldin Rashed (Egypt, List A); H.E. LI Zhengdong (China, List B); and Mr Arsen Vartanyan (Russian Federation, List E).

In accordance with Rule XII of its Rules of Procedure, the Board appointed Mr Arsen Vartanyan (Russian Federation, List E) Rapporteur of the First Regular Session of 2010.

8 February 2010

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**2010/EB.1/1 Current and Future Strategic Issues**

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.

8 February 2010

POLICY ISSUES

2010/EB.1/2 **Annual Report for 2009 to ECOSOC and FAO Council**

The Board approved “Annual Report for 2009 to ECOSOC and FAO Council” (WFP/EB.1/2010/4/Rev.1). In accordance with its decision 2004/EB.A/11, the Board requested that the Annual Report be forwarded to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Council, along with the Board’s decisions and recommendations for 2009 and this decision.

8 February 2010

2010/EB.1/3 **Resourcing for a Changing Environment**

The Board took note of “Resourcing for a Changing Environment” (WFP/EB.1/2010/5-B/Rev.1).

10 February 2010

2010/EB.1/4 **WFP’s Role in the Humanitarian Assistance System**

The Board took note of “WFP’s Role in the Humanitarian Assistance System” (WFP/EB.1/2010/5-C). The Board requested the Secretariat to present on a yearly basis a report on humanitarian assistance and challenges faced.

8 February 2010

2010/EB.1/5 **Steps Forward: Implementation of WFP Strategic Results Framework (2008–2013)**

The Board took note of “Steps Forward: Implementation of WFP Strategic Results Framework (2008–2013)” (WFP/EB.1/2010/5-D).

9 February 2010

RESOURCE, FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

2010/EB.1/6 **Revised Fee for the External Auditor for the Biennium 2008–2009**

The Board, having considered the request to increase the fee for the External Auditor for the Biennium 2008–2009 by 114,800 Pounds Sterling (WFP/EB.1/2010/6-B/1), and following the analysis jointly carried out by Bureau members and External Auditor representatives of the larger number of hours worked, approved an increase of 104,000 Pounds Sterling to the fee for the External Auditor, bringing the total fee to 502,000 Pounds Sterling for the Biennium 2008–2009.

The Board also took note of the comments of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/2) and the FAO Finance Committee (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/3).

10 February 2010

2010/EB.1/7 Update on the Financial Framework Review: Programme Categories

The Board, having considered “Update on the Financial Framework Review: Programme Categories” (WFP/EB.1/2010/6-C/1), appreciated the work undertaken by the fast-track working group and took note of the proposed approach to issues related to programme categories. It looked forward to a continued process of consultations, and requested a final proposal for the financial framework, to be approved at the Second Regular Session of 2010.

The Board also took note of the comments of the ACABQ (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/2) and the FAO Finance Committee (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/3).

9 February 2010

2010/EB.1/8 Report of the External Auditor on the Strategic Planning and Reporting at a WFP Country Office — Uganda

The Board took note of “Report of the External Auditor on the Strategic Planning and Reporting at a WFP Country Office—Uganda” (WFP/EB.1/2010/6-D/1) and the management response in WFP/EB.1/2010/6-D/1/Add.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations, taking into account considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

The Board also took note of the comments of the ACABQ (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/2) and the FAO Finance Committee (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/3).

9 February 2010

2010/EB.1/9 Report of the External Auditor on the IPSAS Dividend: Strengthening Financial Management

The Board took note of “Report of the External Auditor on the IPSAS Dividend: Strengthening Financial Management” (WFP/EB.1/2010/6-E/1) and the management response in WFP/EB.1/2010/6-E/1/Add.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations, taking into account considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

The Board also took note of the comments of the ACABQ (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/2) and the FAO Finance Committee (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/3).

9 February 2010

2010/EB.1/10 Update on the WFP Biennial Management Plan (2010–2011)

The Board took note of “Update on the WFP Biennial Management Plan (2010–2011)” (WFP/EB.1/2010/6-F/1).

The Board also took note of the comments of the ACABQ (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/2) and the FAO Finance Committee (WFP/EB.1/2010/6(A,B,D,E,F,G)/3).

9 February 2010

EVALUATION REPORTS

2010/EB.1/11 Summary Report of the Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security

The Board took note of “Summary Report of the Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security (ISFS)” (WFP/EB.1/2010/7-B) and the management response in WFP/EB.1/2010/7-B/Add.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations, taking into account considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

The Board also encouraged WFP to work in the Committee of World Food Security with FAO and other stakeholders to identify how to sustain collaboration for more effective and continuous ISFS institution-building, in accordance with the suggestions contained in Recommendation 2 of the summary report.

10 February 2010

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL PORTFOLIO

2010/EB.1/12 Country Programme Guatemala 200031 (2010–2014)

The Board approved on a no-objection basis Country Programme Guatemala 200031 (2010–2014) (WFP/EB.1/2010/8), for which the food requirement is 21,160 mt, at a total cost to WFP of US\$16.9 million.

10 February 2010

2010/EB.1/13 Summary Evaluation Report Guatemala PRRO 104570

The Board took note of “Summary Evaluation Report Guatemala PRRO 104570: Recovery and Prevention of Undernutrition for Vulnerable Groups” (WFP/EB.1/2010/7-D) and the management response in WFP/EB.1/2010/7-D/Add.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations, taking into account considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

10 February 2010

ASIA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO**2010/EB.1/14 Summary Evaluation Report Afghanistan PRRO 104270**

The Board took note of “Summary Evaluation Report Afghanistan PRRO 104270” (WFP/EB.1/2010/7-A) and the management response in WFP/EB.1/2010/7-A/Add.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations, taking into account considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

10 February 2010

2010/EB.1/15 PRROs for Executive Board Approval — Afghanistan 200063

The Board approved the proposed protracted relief and recovery operation Afghanistan 200063 “Relief Food Assistance to Tackle Food Security Challenges” (WFP/EB.1/2010/9/1).

10 February 2010

MIDDLE EAST, CENTRAL ASIA AND EASTERN EUROPE REGIONAL PORTFOLIO**2010/EB.1/16 PRROs for Executive Board Approval — Iraq 200035**

The Board approved the proposed protracted relief and recovery operation Iraq 200035 “Support for Vulnerable Groups” (WFP/EB.1/2010/9/2).

10 February 2010

SOUTHERN, EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL PORTFOLIO**2010/EB.1/17 Summary Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Country Programme Ethiopia 104300 (2007–2011)**

The Board took note of “Summary Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Country Programme Ethiopia 104300 (2007–2011)” (WFP/EB.1/2010/7-C) and the management response in WFP/EB.1/2010/7-C/Add.1 and encouraged further action on the recommendations, taking into account considerations raised by the Board during its discussion.

11 February 2010

ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL MATTERS**2010/EB.1/18 Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit Relevant to the Work of WFP**

The Board took note of the information and recommendations in “Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit Relevant to the Work of WFP” (WFP/EB.1/2010/13).

11 February 2010

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**2010/EB.2/19 Summary of the Work of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board, 2009**

The Board approved the document “Draft Summary of the Work of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board, 2009”, the final version of which would be embodied in the document WFP/EB.2/2009/15.

11 February 2010

OTHER BUSINESS**2010/EB.1/20 Report on the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP**

The Board took note of the oral report on the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP.

11 February 2010

ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. *Adoption of the Agenda (for approval)*
2. *Election of the Bureau and Appointment of the Rapporteur*
3. *Current and Future Strategic Issues*
4. *Annual Reports*
 - Annual Report for 2009 to ECOSOC and FAO Council (*for approval*)
5. *Policy Issues*
 - a) WFP Policy on Information Disclosure (*for approval*) — **withdrawn**
 - b) Resourcing for a Changing Environment (*for consideration*)
 - c) WFP's Role in the Humanitarian Assistance System (*for consideration*)
 - d) Steps Forward: Implementation of WFP Strategic Results Framework (2008–2013) (*for information*)
 - e) WFP Nutrition Improvement Approach (*for information*) — **withdrawn**
6. *Resource, Financial and Budgetary Matters*
 - a) Selection and Appointment of the WFP External Auditor (*for information*)
 - b) Revised Fee for the External Auditor for the Biennium 2008–2009 (*for approval*)
 - c) Financial Framework Review (*for consideration*)
 - d) Report of the External Auditor on the Strategic Planning and Reporting at a WFP Country Office — Uganda, and WFP Management Response (*for consideration*)
 - e) Report of the External Auditor on the IPSAS Dividend: Strengthening Financial Management, and WFP Management Response (*for consideration*)
 - f) Update on the WFP Biennial Management Plan (2010–2011) (*for information*)
 - g) Final Update on the WINGS II Project (*for information*)
7. *Evaluation Reports (for consideration)*
 - a) Summary Evaluation Report Afghanistan PRRO 104270 and Management Response
 - b) Summary Report of the Joint Thematic Evaluation of FAO and WFP Support to Information Systems for Food Security and Management Response
 - c) Summary Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation of the Country Programme Ethiopia 104300 (2007–2011) and Management Response
 - d) Summary Evaluation Report Guatemala PRRO 104570 and Management Response

Operational Matters

8. *Country Programmes (for approval)*
 - Guatemala 200031 (2010–2014)

9. ***Projects for Executive Board approval (for approval)***
 - Protracted relief and recovery operations
 - Afghanistan 200063
 - Iraq 200035
10. ***Projects Approved by Correspondence (for information)***
 - Budget Increases to Protracted Relief and Recovery Operations Approved by the Executive Board by Correspondence between the Second Regular Session 2009 and the First Regular Session 2010
 - Ethiopia 106650
11. ***Reports of the Executive Director on Operational Matters (1 July–31 December 2009) (for information)***
 - Emergency Operations Approved by the Executive Director or by the Executive Director and the Director-General of FAO
12. ***Organizational and Procedural Matters***
 - Biennial Programme of Work of the Executive Board (2010–2011) *(for information)*
13. ***Administrative and Managerial Matters***
 - Reports by the Joint Inspection Unit Relevant to the Work of WFP *(for consideration)*
14. ***Summary of the Work of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board, 2009***
15. ***Other Business***
 - Report on the Joint Meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP *(for information)*
16. ***Verification of Adopted Decisions and Recommendations***