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FOLLOW-UP TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 63/232 ON OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM: EXTENSION OF THE WFP STRATEGIC PLAN

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NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal points indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Director, OEDP*: Mr D. Stevenson tel.: 066513-2325

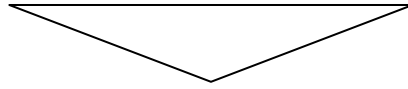
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Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact Ms C. Panlilio, Administrative Assistant, Conference Servicing Unit (tel.: 066513-2645).

* Policy, Planning and Strategy Division



DRAFT DECISION*



The Board,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/232 of 19 December 2008, changing the comprehensive policy review of operational activities from a triennial to a quadrennial cycle, urging the funds and programmes to align their strategic planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and the intention to hold the next comprehensive policy review in 2012:

- i) decides to extend the present WFP Strategic Plan by two years, until the end of 2013;
- ii) requests the Secretariat to prepare a mid-term review of the WFP Strategic Plan for presentation at its Annual Session in 2011 and to submit the next Strategic Plan at its Annual Session in 2013, covering the period from 2014 to 2017, taking into account the recommendations of the next comprehensive policy review that will be held in 2012 and the mid-term review of the current Strategic Plan; and
- iii) further requests the Secretariat to submit at its Second Regular Session in 2009 any change required to the WFP General Rules to implement the above provisions of General Assembly resolution 63/232.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.



BACKGROUND

1. During its sixty-third session in 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided to change the Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System from a triennial to a quadrennial cycle, and to hold its next comprehensive policy review in 2012, with subsequent reviews on a quadrennial basis. Resolution 63/232 (Annex I) urges the funds and programmes, and encourages the specialized agencies, to: i) undertake changes to align their planning cycles with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), including the implementation of mid-term reviews as necessary; and ii) report to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) on adjustments made to accommodate the new cycle.
2. Member States agreed to extend the current (2007) Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) for two years; rather than covering the three years 2008, 2009 and 2010, it will continue until 2012. The QCPR discussions will take place during 2012, and should result in adoption of a General Assembly resolution in December 2012. The QCPR cycle would then cover the period 2013–2016.
3. Extending the strategic planning cycles requires a decision by the Executive Boards of the funds and programmes. The Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) made the decision to do so at its First Regular Session of 2009 (Annex II). The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) plan to submit a similar draft decision to the Annual Session of their Board this year in June.
4. Agencies would prepare strategic plans during 2013, based on the QCPR, to cover the years 2014–2017.
5. While the Boards of UNICEF and UNDP/UNFPA approve their strategic plans at their Second Regular Sessions, WFP's Board approves the WFP Strategic Plan at its Annual Session. This is stipulated in WFP's General Rules, with the rationale that the Management Plan, approved at the Second Regular Session, should be developed after a WFP Strategic Plan has been approved. WFP does not have a mid-term review process: the four-year WFP Strategic Plan is approved every two years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The Executive Director recommends that the Board extend the current WFP Strategic Plan by two years, until the end of 2013. A mid-term review of the WFP Strategic Plan (2008–2011) would be undertaken in 2010 for presentation at the Board's Annual Session in 2011. WFP would prepare the next Strategic Plan in 2013 for approval by the Board at its Annual Session in 2013; it would cover the period 2014–2017.
7. It is proposed that the amendments to WFP's General Rules made necessary by the above changes be brought before the Board at its Second Regular Session in 2009.



ANNEX I

United Nations

A/RES/63/232



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 March 2009Sixty-third session
Agenda item 54**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly***[on the report of the Second Committee (A/63/419)]***63/232. Operational activities for development***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General¹ and of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;²

2. *Also takes note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/2 of 18 July 2008 on the progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

Funding of operational activities of the United Nations development system

3. *Reiterates* paragraphs 18 to 20 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/2, on the comprehensive statistical analysis of the

¹ Reports of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2006 (A/63/71-E/2008/46); on the trends in contributions to operational activities for development of the United Nations system and measures to promote an adequate, predictable and expanding base of United Nations development assistance (A/63/201); and on the implications of aligning the strategic planning cycles of the United Nations funds and programmes with the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development (A/63/207).

² A/63/205.



financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;³

4. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, making use of existing capacities within the Secretariat and, if necessary, voluntary contributions, to take the necessary steps to integrate by 2010 information from the report on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures and its statistical addendum into the report on the comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, to provide appropriate online access to this information and to report to the Economic and Social Council in 2009 on progress in this regard, and encourages the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund to take the necessary decision to make this possible;

5. *Expresses concern* at:

(a) The fact that the upward trend in contributions in real terms received by the United Nations system for operational activities since 2002 came to a halt in 2006;⁴

(b) The continuing imbalance between core and non-core funding;

(c) The limited progress towards greater predictability and adequacy of funding;

6. *Emphasizes* that increasing financial contributions to the United Nations development system is key to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard recognizes the mutually reinforcing links between increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries in eradicating poverty and achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development through operational activities for development and the overall resourcing of the United Nations development system;

7. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

8. *Urges* donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their voluntary contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United Nations development system, in particular its funds, programmes and specialized agencies, and to contribute on a multi-year basis, in a sustained and predictable manner;

9. *Invites* countries to consider increasing their contributions to the budgets of the specialized agencies in order to enable the United Nations development system to respond in a more comprehensive and effective manner to the demands of the United Nations development agenda;

10. *Emphasizes* the importance of taking measures to broaden the donor base and increase the number of donor countries and other partners making financial contributions to the United Nations development system in order to reduce reliance of the United Nations development system on a limited number of donors;

³ See also A/63/71-E/2008/46.

⁴ See A/63/201.



11. *Welcomes* the growth in funding provided to the United Nations system from non-governmental sources, such as civil society, private organizations and foundations;

12. *Notes* that non-core resources represent an important supplement to the regular resource base of the United Nations development system to support operational activities for development, thus contributing to an increase in total resources, while recognizing that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources and that unearmarked contributions are vital for the coherence and harmonization of the operational activities for development;

13. *Underscores* the importance of mobilizing more predictable levels of voluntary contributions to the core operational programmes of the United Nations development system, recognizes the establishment of thematic trust funds, multi-donor trust funds and other voluntary non-earmarked funding mechanisms linked to organization-specific funding frameworks and strategies established by the respective governing bodies as funding modalities complementary to regular budgets, and encourages the measurement of the funding received by the United Nations development system through these modalities as part of the comprehensive statistical analysis of financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;

14. *Recognizes* the increasing complexity of the international aid architecture, and in this regard encourages the organizations of the United Nations development system to continue to explore ways to engage with other development partners in order to strengthen their complementarity and the implementation of their mandates, taking into account the importance of national priorities of programme countries, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations development system, to report on efforts in this regard in the context of his annual report on the implementation of resolution 62/208;

15. *Encourages* the organizations of the United Nations system, if they have not done so, to mobilize and allocate resources, on the basis of a strategic plan, including a multi-year resource programming framework;

16. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take, in full consultation with Member States and observer States, measures:

(a) To promote an adequate and expanding base of development assistance from the United Nations system, taking into account, inter alia, the development priorities of programme countries;

(b) To promote an upward trend in real contributions to operational activities for development, to identify obstacles to the achievement of that goal, and to make appropriate recommendations in this regard;

(c) To promote the predictability and the multi-year pledging of funding for operational activities for development;

(d) To promote an appropriate balance between core and non-core contributions;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report, in the context of his annual report on the implementation of resolution 62/208, on measures taken in response to paragraph 16 above, bearing in mind the provisions of the present resolution, and including feedback from Member States on ways to achieve the aims contained therein;



Aligning the strategic planning cycles of the United Nations funds and programmes with the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

18. *Decides* to change the comprehensive policy review of operational activities from a triennial to a quadrennial cycle in order to better provide policy guidance to the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies;

19. *Also decides* in this regard to hold its next comprehensive policy review in 2012 and subsequent reviews on a quadrennial basis;

20. *Urges* the funds and programmes and encourages the specialized agencies to carry out any changes required to align their planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, including the implementation of midterm reviews as necessary, and to report to the Economic and Social Council on adjustments made to fit the new comprehensive review cycle at the substantive session of the Council.

*72nd plenary meeting
19 December 2008*



ANNEX II**Decision adopted by the UNICEF Executive Board
at its 2009 First Regular Session, 4–6 February 2009****2009/5 Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 63/232 of 19 December 2008 on operational activities for development of the United Nations system: extension of the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan**

The Executive Board,

Recalling its decision 2008/14 to extend the current medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) by two years, until the end of 2011,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/232 of 19 December 2008, changing the comprehensive policy review of operational activities from a triennial to a quadrennial cycle, urging the funds and programmes to align their strategic planning cycles with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and the intention to hold the next comprehensive policy review in 2012,

1. *Decides* to further extend the MTSP by two years, until the end of 2013;
2. *Requests* UNICEF to prepare its next strategic plan, to start in 2014, taking into account the recommendations of the next comprehensive policy review that will be held in 2012 and the end-of-cycle review of the current MTSP.

*First Regular Session
6 February 2009*