ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Agenda item 10

For information*

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INFORMATION NOTE ON WFP'S SECURITY UPGRADE PROGRAMME

NOTE TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

This document is submitted for information to the Executive Board.

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 point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Director, Management Services Division (MS)   Mr A. Lukach   tel.: 066513-2500
and Security Focal Point:

Should you have any questions regarding matters of dispatch of documentation for the Executive Board, please contact the Supervisor, Meeting Servicing and Distribution Unit (tel.: 066513-2328).

BACKGROUND

1.   Following the attacks directed against the United Nations on and after 19 August 2003, WFP senior management initiated a Security Upgrade Programme to identify and implement options in response to new threats worldwide to enable WFP staff to continue their work feeding the hungry poor in insecure areas without becoming victims themselves.

2.   In the Biennial Management Plan 2004–2005 (WFP/EB.3/2003/5-A/1), the Executive Director proposed setting aside a security upgrade contingency fund to address WFP security needs worldwide. The Board was advised that estimates at that time indicated a cost requirement of US$20 million.

3.   At its Third Regular Session in 2003, as part of its consideration of WFP's Biennial Management Plan for 2004–2005, the Executive Board authorized the Executive Director to allot up to US$20 million from the PSA Equalization Account to cover one-time costs for security upgrades in WFP's offices (Decision 2003/EB.3/6-i). The Secretariat expressed its intention to update the Board on this important topic at its First Regular Session in 2004.

4.   The purpose of this document is to inform the Board of progress made on WFP's Security Upgrade Programme since October 2003.

KEY AREAS OF THE SECURITY UPGRADE PROGRAMME

5.   No security system can eliminate threats entirely, but the six elements of the Security Upgrade Programme listed below would allow WFP to monitor its environment systematically, to anticipate and plan for security incidents, and to enhance readiness and protection through additional training, equipment and security measures. The programme is based on a worldwide threat assessment process to enable WFP to target, prioritize and focus its response. It is an upgrade in the sense that it builds on progress made so far in staff safety and security, particularly in the field.

6.   The elements of the Security Upgrade Programme are as follows, with estimated costs in US dollars:

➢   **Site security assessments (US$300,000).** Assess physical and procedural building security measures at WFP Headquarters, regional bureaux, offices and sub-offices in areas at phase III or above, WFP offices in United Nations houses or joint premises, and other WFP locations depending on risk.

➢   **Physical security improvements (US$13.1 million):** Implement building-security improvements, access-control systems, measures to protect facilities and vehicle and parking controls.

➢   **Country-level threat assessments (US$300,000):** Assess threat levels from political situations, conflict, criminality and terrorism in medium-risk and high-risk countries, implement measures to reduce risk, follow up recommendations from past assessments and participate in joint inter-agency/Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator (UNSECOORD) assessments where possible.

➢   **Field security improvements (US$2 million):** Bring all WFP locations up to full compliance with minimum operating security standards (MOSS), designate security focal points at the country level and ensure activation of security coordination cells at the country level.

> ➢ **Staff personal safety (US$400,000):** Ensure continued security training for all staff and advanced training for deployment into phase III and IV areas, maintain a stock of body armour for staff, install additional protection on cars in phase III and IV areas, distribute identity tags, ensure security clearance and staff movement control and accountability at all levels.

> ➢ **Security resources (US$3.9 million):** Appoint regional security advisers (RSAs), additional field security officers (FSOs), a security analyst and additional security guards for selected sites.

PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WFP SECURITY UPGRADE PROGRAMME

7. **Security assessments.** In order to utilize resources effectively, site security assessments and country-level threat assessments are usually conducted as part of a mission to a country; where possible, WFP seeks to conduct these missions jointly with UNSECOORD and the other field-based agencies.

> ➢ **Headquarters.** A complete security assessment carried out for WFP Headquarters resulted in detailed recommendations to improve security. The Executive Director has approved plans to reinforce and relocate the main entrance gate and to update vehicle and visitor screening and access control; work will begin after this Executive Board Session.

> ➢ **Offices and sub-offices in areas at phase III or above.** Security assessments have been completed in the 21 countries where WFP operates that are among the top 26 high-risk areas identified by UNSECOORD. The next series of assessments will focus on other areas under security phase III or above, with priority given to WFP offices in United Nations houses or premises shared with other agencies.

> ➢ **Other WFP locations.** A security assessment of the Humanitarian Response Depot at Brindisi in Italy has been completed. Assessments of WFP liaison or information offices in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries will be undertaken in conjunction with UNSECOORD and other international organizations located in the same cities.

8. **Physical security improvements.** Following analysis of lessons learned from death and injuries resulting from the attacks against the United Nations in 2003, the Executive Director instructed WFP offices worldwide to review protective measures for facilities and to install shatter-resistant film on windows. Installation of the film started with offices in areas at phase III or above as a priority, and has been completed in 21 countries and at WFP Headquarters. It is envisaged that installation at all WFP locations will be completed by the end of 2004.

9. **Field security improvements.** Achieving full compliance with MOSS has been an essential security requirement for the past two years, but implementation in the field has taken longer than expected. Reasons for this include (i) escalating security phases, which increase MOSS requirements, (ii) the need to replace broken, obsolete or lost equipment, for example after an evacuation, and (iii) funding constraints. Under the Security Upgrade Programme, 26 countries so far have finalized their MOSS requirements and received approval and funding to purchase the necessary equipment. The field security needs of a particular country are of course revisited following a security assessment to determine

whether requirements have changed. WFP's goal is to achieve 100 percent MOSS compliance for all duty stations in the next six months, and to maintain this level in future.

With regard to the flow of security information to and from the field, country directors have been asked to designate security focal points from among senior international staff in accordance with paragraph 24 of ED Circular 2003/001, and to ensure activation of local security coordination cells with involvement of UNSECOORD and WFP FSOs.

10. **Staff personal safety.** WFP's experience demonstrates that security training helps to increase awareness and save lives. During 2003, WFP contributed to development of the UNSECOORD CD-ROM "Basic Security in the Field", which the Secretary-General has made mandatory for all United Nations staff prior to travel to any area under a security phase. About 70 percent of WFP staff have completed this on-line training course in English or French; other language versions are under development. WFP has found that emergency-response training is an excellent preparation for working under adverse and insecure field conditions. The course will be offered four times in 2004 and four times in 2005. Specialized training will be offered to guards, three of whom have been enrolled in an advanced close-protection course, and to FSOs, who will attend an annual workshop that includes intensive trauma training. Evaluations are currently under way for lightweight body armour and medical tags.

11. **Security resources.** An RSA has been added to each of the six regional bureaux to reinforce WFP's security infrastructure. New FSO posts have been created in seven countries under phase III or above; recruitment is nearly complete. A security analyst has been recruited for Headquarters to collate and interpret information from the field with a view to projecting changes in threat levels at WFP duty stations around the world. The Executive Director has approved an additional security professional in Rome to liaise with the Italian Government, Member States and international organizations with regard to mitigating risks to WFP staff arising from situations of insecurity.

UPDATE ON FUNDING OF THE WFP SECURITY UPGRADE PROGRAMME

12. Following the Board's decision at its Third Regular Session in October 2003, the Executive Director allotted US$20 million to the WFP Security Upgrade Programme for the 2004–2005 biennium. These funds were earmarked for the six elements of the programme in the amounts indicated in paragraph 6 above.

13. As planned, 30 percent of the allotted amount, US$ 6 million, was committed during the first four months of the programme. A similar rate of expenditure is foreseen for the remainder of 2004, because there are good reasons for implementing protective measures as soon as possible.

14. Actual spending is generally within the amounts planned. Two categories — field security improvements and security resources — require more than was estimated, however. This is primarily because of the need to meet increased MOSS requirements resulting from increased levels of global insecurity and recruitment of security staff, which has proceeded faster than planned as a result of effective use of the WFP security roster system.

15. By the time of the Annual Meeting of the Board in May 2004, the Secretariat will be able to indicate whether the funds allotted for the WFP Security Upgrade Programme are sufficient for the purpose.

THE WAY FORWARD

16.   The Headquarters and Field Security Branch of the Management Services Division will continue to monitor implementation of the Security Upgrade Programme. The Secretariat will report to the Board on further progress and sufficiency of funding at the Annual Session of the Board in May 2004.

17.   As indicated in the Provisional Programme of Work of the Executive Board 2004–2005 (WFP/EB.3/2003/10-A/1), the Secretariat will update the Board on implementation of new security arrangements in the United Nations system, including a report on the status of WFP's financial obligations towards the United Nations Security Management System and UNSECOORD under the established cost-sharing mechanism for the 2004–2005 biennium.

18.   WFP will participate in the annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) in May 2004. Topics of interest to the security of WFP staff, including air safety, will be discussed at the policy-recommendation level prior to submission to the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) for approval.

19.   The Executive Director will maintain dialogue with Member States, the Secretary-General and other executive heads of agencies so that the General Assembly may again consider funding the United Nations Security Management System from the United Nations regular budget.

ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

FSO	field security officer
HLCM	High-Level Committee on Management
IASMN	Inter-Agency Security Management Network
MOSS	minimum operating security standards
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PSA	programme support and administrative
RSA	regional security adviser
UNSECOORD	Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator