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**Executive Board
Third Regular Session**

Rome, 20–24 October 2003

POLICY ISSUES

Agenda item 4

For consideration



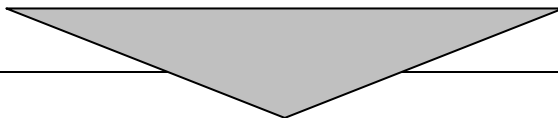
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FOLLOW-UP TO ECOSOC/GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES – ISSUES AND OPTIONS

Further to decision 2003/EB.1/6, taken by the Board at its First Regular Session in February 2003, the Bureau is forwarding to the Board this document, prepared by the Secretariat, on adequate timing and reporting on WFP follow-up action to General Assembly, ECOSOC and FAO resolutions. The Bureau recommends that the Board approve the Secretariat's proposal.

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

Note to the Executive Board



This document is submitted for consideration by the Executive Board.

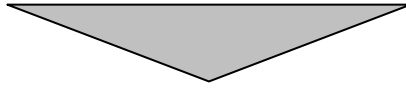
The Secretariat invites members of the Board who may have questions of a technical nature with regard to this document to contact the WFP staff focal point indicated below, preferably well in advance of the Board's meeting.

Director, Division of External Relations (PER): Mr F. Strippoli tel.: 066513-2338

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).



Draft Decision*



In accordance with the recommendation contained in decision 2003/EB.1/6, the Bureau reviewed and endorsed the Issues and Options Paper on “Follow-up to ECOSOC/General Assembly Resolutions on Actions to Be Taken by the Executive Boards of the United Nations Funds and Programmes” (WFP/EB.3/2003/4-D).

With regard to the method and timing of WFP’s reporting on the follow-up actions to General Assembly, ECOSOC and FAO Conference and Council resolutions, the Bureau recommended a one-step process by which the Secretariat would provide to the Third Regular Session of the Board in one document the information on the resolutions approved and a report on the follow-up action taken by the Programme.

The Board takes note of the information contained in document WFP/EB.3/2003/4-D, as submitted by the Bureau, and endorses it.

* 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. In compliance with Article VI of the WFP General Regulations, the Secretariat prepares an annual report listing United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and General Assembly (GA) resolutions relevant to the work of the Programme. The paragraphs of those resolutions that call for consideration or follow-up action by the WFP Executive Board and/or Secretariat are presented in the report "Follow-up to ECOSOC and General Assembly Resolutions on Actions to be Taken by the Executive Boards of the United Nations Funds and Programmes". That report is presented at the First Regular Session of the Executive Board, in February, generally for information.
2. The most recent follow-up report was submitted for consideration during the First Regular Session of 2003. It presented 17 ECOSOC and GA resolutions. Following its review, the Board "recommended that the Bureau review the document and that the Secretariat report at a future session the follow-up action taken by WFP in compliance with the mandates contained in those resolutions".
3. Information on follow-up actions on GA and ECOSOC resolutions is regularly provided in the Annual Report of the Executive Director at the Annual Session of the Executive Board. However, that information is limited owing to the Annual Report's format and to time constraints (i.e., in order for the Annual Report to be presented in May, it is completed in April, when many of the follow-up actions have not yet been taken).
4. In addition, the Executive Board Bureau meeting of 15 July 2003 recommended that decisions and recommendations from the FAO Council and FAO Conference receive the same treatment as ECOSOC and General Assembly resolutions.

Issues

⇒ *Timing and Comprehensiveness of the Reporting of GA and ECOSOC Resolutions to the Board*

5. Because the ECOSOC substantive session takes place in July, and the main session of the GA from September through December of each year, the follow-up report presented at the WFP's Board's First Regular Session contains all ECOSOC resolutions adopted during the previous year, but only some GA resolutions. In fact, the final text of the GA resolutions adopted toward the end of the year are not made available before late January/February of the following year, which is later than the time of the preparation of the follow-up report (December). In addition, the follow-up report does not contain any follow-up action taken or envisaged by the Secretariat.
6. Consequently, the First Regular Session of the Executive Board, in February, is too early either to report on all the GA resolutions taken during the previous year or to provide follow-up action on them.

⇒ *Adequate Reporting and Timing on Follow-up Action Taken/Envisaged by the Secretariat*

7. As indicated above, follow-up action taken and/or envisaged by the Secretariat for some of the ECOSOC/GA Resolutions approved the previous year is presented to the Board's Annual Session, in May, in the Annual Report of the Executive Director. To meet the submission deadline, that report is prepared in March, that is, just three months after the



adoption of the latest resolutions. This does not allow enough time for the Secretariat to report meaningfully on follow-up action taken.

Options

8. With the aim of addressing the issue of timing and enhancing the quality and consistency of WFP's reporting on the follow-up actions to GA, ECOSOC and FAO resolutions, there is a need to make a clear distinction between informing the Board on the resolutions approved (which are available on the ECOSOC and GA websites) and reporting to it on the follow-up actions taken/envisaged in the implementation of those resolutions of interest to WFP. The following two options could be considered by the Executive Board Bureau:
 - **Maintain the status quo**, i.e., keep the two-step process by which the Board is provided with a report on the follow-up (an incomplete consolidated list of resolutions approved the year before) and with a brief and partial section in the Annual Report on follow-up action taken or envisaged. Variations on this option can be considered, such as spreading reporting out over the other sessions of the Board during the year.
 - **Envisage a one-step process** by which the Secretariat provides to the Board in one document the information on the resolutions approved and a report on the follow-up action taken by the Programme.
9. The Secretariat favours the second option. It suggests that the new follow-up report on implementation of the GA, ECOSOC, FAO Conference and FAO Council resolutions relevant to the work of WFP be submitted each year at the Third Regular Session of the Board, in October. The report should comprise the following information:
 - paragraphs relevant to the mandate and operational focus of WFP from all United Nations General Assembly and ECOSOC resolutions adopted during one calendar year, from 1 January to 31 December;
 - the text of the FAO Council and FAO Conference resolutions of relevance to WFP; and
 - an additional column indicating WFP action taken, progress achieved and/or action to be taken, and further follow-up required.

