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Programme
Alimentaire
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World
Food
Programme

Programa
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**Executive Board
Annual Session**

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INFORMATION NOTE

CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR A REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENT



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1. This note proposes a process of consultation to guide and support a WFP policy review on the use of food aid as an instrument for development.
2. The review can be seen as involving three broad phases. The first would be a consideration, based on recent research and experience, of the special role of targeted food aid as a tool for development together with an identification of the circumstances in which it is a particularly effective instrument. Phase two would apply this understanding to the mandate and operations of WFP, arriving at a definition of the purposes and situations on which WFP should focus its development food aid. The final phase would be the identification of a strategy to apply these principles in an effective and timely manner.
3. A consultation should be devoted to each of these three phases.
4. The first consultation, an essential backdrop to the other two, would address issues broader than those of direct relevance to WFP. It would consider the particular characteristics and best uses of assistance in the form of food, for example, and define the circumstances in which food is a preferred resource. The participation of researchers, eminent thinkers and partner organizations would enrich this discussion, ensure that important issues are considered from differing and informed perspectives, and introduce recent research results and experience into the dialogue. It is proposed, therefore, to invite a number of eminent speakers to contribute to the debate and to encourage the broadest possible participation by all Members and donors.
5. To facilitate the participation of headquarters officials as well as Permanent Representatives, it is suggested that this first consultation be held in conjunction with the Third Regular Session of the Executive Board in October 1998. It is proposed that the Third Regular Session begin one day earlier than currently scheduled, that is, that it be held from Monday 19 October to Thursday 22 October. The consultation could then be held on Friday 23 October, continuing through the morning of Saturday 24 October if required.
6. The second and third consultations would focus more directly on the mandate and operations of WFP. They would be open to all Members and the Observer for the European Community, along the lines of the review of WFP's Resource and Long-term Financing policies. It is proposed that the second consultation be held following the First Regular Session of the Executive Board in January 1999 and the third in March 1999.
7. The final step would be Executive Board review of a policy paper, guided by these consultations, during the Annual Session in May 1999.
8. Throughout the process, the Secretariat would work in close collaboration with the Bureau.

