World Food Programme
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15 April 2020

Management comments to the Internal Audit Report on Cloud Computing in WFP (AR/20/09)

WFP Management appreciates the findings and recommendations shared by the Office of Internal Audit (OIGA) in the internal audit report AR/20/09 on Cloud Computing in WFP, covering the period 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2019, and values the collaborative approach undertaken by the Office of Inspector General during the various phases of the audit.

WFP Management acknowledges the seven observations, four of which are of high priority, and the corresponding agreed to actions. Building on the results from the Internal Audit of Third-Party Access to WFP Data and Systems (AR/20/02), the recommendations of the Report on Cloud Computing will significantly strengthen the control framework around user management. They will help to consolidate the roles of governing bodies, including the Management Information Systems Steering Committee (MISSC), Data Management Committee and the Responsible Data Task Force, in providing oversight of data management in WFP. The recommendations will also contribute to defining WFP's data landscape and data management practices more clearly by complementing on-going efforts in this regard such as updating and refining our existing data classification processes, data mapping led by OIGA and the Programme Division (PRO), and the recruitment of a Data Protection Officer.

Specific to cloud security, Management notes the importance of the auditors' request to establish better coordination and collaboration across divisions implementing cloud solutions. The Organization has keenly leveraged the possibilities offered by cloud computing technologies to support a more effective and efficient service to beneficiaries and improve accountability to donors.

However, updating the required governance mechanisms for cloud computing in the Organization has not been as rapid as the adoption and deployment of these digital solutions. WFP, therefore, is in the process of developing revised guidance on the use of cloud computing. For this purpose, WFP is also carefully observing developments in frontier technologies and the appropriate governance frameworks in a rapidly changing technology landscape.

The Report's highlight on management of identity and accesses as well as on the importance of governance mechanisms in place is well received by WFP. A focus on this will help to

strengthen the Organization's control system, particularly over peripheral areas, where roles and responsibilities overlap with the intervention of stakeholders external to the organization. WFP expects a full implementation of the agreed actions in accordance with the timelines specified in the Report.

WFP Management would like to thank OIGA for the valuable observations and the timeliness of the most recent report on the organizational IT governance arrangements and activities, and for the invaluable help provided to identify and design controls required to operate within the highest level of security.

Implementing the agreed actions will further strengthen WFP's use of technology, enabling WFP to make the most appropriate use of available resources and thus support our operations across the world.