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For information

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Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)

The Executive Director is pleased to submit herewith the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions pertaining to WFP. The report covers the following agenda items:

- WFP Management Plan (2021–2023) (WFP/EB.2/2020/5-A/1)
- Process for the selection and appointment of the WFP External Auditor for the term from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2028 (WFP/EB.2/2020/5-B/1)
- Workplan of the External Auditor (WFP/EB.2/2020/5-C/1)

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Advisory Committee on
Administrative and Budgetary Questions

13 November 2020

Dear Mr Beasley,

Please find attached a copy of the report of the Advisory Committee on your submissions of the reports in the attached annex.

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the Advisory Committee's report to be placed before the Executive Board at its forthcoming session, as a complete and separate document. I would appreciate it if a copy of the document could be provided to the Advisory Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Abdallah Bachar Bong
Chairman

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I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered two reports of the World Food Programme (WFP), submitted to the Executive Board for approval: i) the WFP Management Plan (2021-2023) (WFP/EB.2/2020/5- A/1); and, ii) Process for the selection and appointment of the WFP External Auditor (WFP/EB.2/2020/5-B/1). The Advisory Committee also had before it the Work plan of the External Auditor (WFP/EB.2/2020/5-C/1), submitted to the Executive Board for information. During its consideration of the report, the Committee received additional information and clarification on 28 October 2020.
2. The Advisory Committee notes that WFP was awarded the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize and in awarding the prize to WFP, the Norwegian Nobel Committee described the link between hunger and armed conflict as a vicious circle in which “war and conflict can cause food insecurity and hunger, just as hunger and food insecurity can cause latent conflicts to flare up and trigger the use of violence. ”The Committee acknowledges that the assistance provided by WFP is a first step towards peace and in helping to ease tensions that could escalate into conflict, as also acknowledged by the UN Security Council in Resolution 2417 (adopted in May 2018), which reconfirmed the prohibition on the use of hunger as a weapon of war. **The Advisory Committee commends WFP for being the recipient of the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.**

II. WFP Management Plan (2021-2023)

Operational requirements

3. The Management Plan presents WFP’s planned programme of work and the proposed resource allocations from the programme support and administrative (PSA) budget required to support its operations. Paragraphs 69 to 156 of the report provide an overview of the operational requirements for 2021 and an analysis of those requirements, including total operational requirements expressed by WFP’s country offices and WFP’s medium-term framework for its response to the COVID-19 crisis and the main cross-cutting thematic areas. The report indicates that the Management Plan covers WFP’s operations in 121 countries. Of these countries 69 have endorsed country strategic plans (CSP), 13 have interim CSPs, one is operating under a transitional interim CSP, 37 are operating under either the Pacific or the Caribbean interim multi-country strategic plan and one is operating under a limited emergency operation (ibid, para. 80).
4. The report indicates an increased level of estimated operational requirements of USD 12,344 million for 2021, an increase of USD 1,778 million or 17 per cent from 2020). The projected contribution revenue for 2021 is forecasted to be USD 7,400 million, resulting in a forecasted funding gap of USD 4,944 million or 40 percent in 2021. It is estimated that the Programme’s projects will directly reach 101 million beneficiaries in 2021, representing a 15 percent increase compared to 88 million beneficiaries in 2020 (ibid, Executive Summary and paras. 40, 70, 84, 86).
5. On 13 November 2020, following its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee received supplementary information indicating that the WFP Management Plan (2021–2023) presents WFP’s planned programme of work and the budgetary support required to implement in 2021. The figures include projected operational requirements and forecasts of the resources available to meet those needs. The note indicates that given the nature of WFP’s work, operational requirements are continually evolving and are subject to change after management plan data is published. This is especially the case in 2020, where the full scale, scope and timing of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic are still unfolding in WFP’s countries of operations and donor countries and creating unprecedented uncertainty around projected needs and forecasted contributions. The note indicates that current 2020 needs-based plan figures have increased to USD 13.6 billion, to reach

127 million beneficiaries. The 2021 needs-based plan figures as at 11 November 2020, derived from approved and ongoing budget revisions, have increased to USD 13.1 billion to reach 107 million beneficiaries. The note further indicates that since publication of the management plan, WFP's contribution income forecast has increased for 2020 and 2021; from USD 7.7 billion to USD 8.2 billion for 2020, and from USD 7.4 billion to USD 7.8 billion in 2021. The Advisory Committee notes that these figures are notably different from those included in the Management Plan and provided to the Committee (see also para. 4 above and para. 6 below).

6. The report indicates the global economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic which has caused needs related to food security to soar in many countries already facing humanitarian crisis, while placing increased pressure on WFP to mobilize resources to meet escalating operational requirements. The report also indicates that unlike most crises that WFP has responded to throughout its history, the impact of the pandemic is directly affecting countries that comprise the organization's donor base as well as those where it operates (ibid, para. 32 and paras. 71 to 78). The report also highlights that the recent strategic evaluation of the funding of WFP's work has provided a basis for WFP's mobilization efforts for managing the funding gap by strengthening and diversifying the donor base. These strategies include focusing on the private sector, international financial institutions, innovative financing and enhanced United Nations partnerships, national government funding and greater advocacy for predictable and flexible funding (ibid, Executive Summary and paras. 44 to 68).
7. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with information indicating the needs and projected funding from 2015 to 2021 set out in Table 1 below. The Committee notes that while the gap between operational requirements and funding decreased from 2017 to 2019, it subsequently increased and that there is a projected funding gap of USD 3,116 million in 2020 and USD 4,944 million in 2021.

TABLE 1: NEEDS AND PROJECTED FUNDING, 2015-2021 (USD million)							
Management Plan (MP) needs vs. projected funding, 2015-21							
Item	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
MP needs (including ISC)	7 967	8 581	9 007	9 011	9 796	10 566	12 344
MP funding forecast	4 400	4 900	5 200	5 700	6 800	7 450	7 400
Funding gap	3 567	3 681	3 807	3 311	2 996	3 116	4 944

* forecast as of August 2020

8. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the prioritization of activities, modalities and expenditures is carried out by the Country Offices against available and expected resources in order to facilitate informed resource allocation to vulnerable populations in need. The attribution of available resources against CSP activities is done by the country offices within the Implementation Plan exercise and its review, taking into account both flexible and earmarked funding. Unearmarked and lightly earmarked funding is critical in order for WFP to flexibly prioritize its resources, but it amounts to only 6 percent of overall contributions with the remainder of resources having conditions/earmarking. Therefore, the prioritization is a complex exercise which is not entirely under WFP's control.
9. **The Advisory Committee notes WFP's fundraising and mobilization efforts to date and the increased levels of projected funding for 2020 and for 2021, which is projected at a lower rate than for 2020. The Committee trusts that updates regarding WFP's mobilisation strategy will be provided in the next update of the WFP Management Plan.**

Food and cash-based transfers

10. The report indicates that WFP estimates that while the average cost per beneficiary (CPB) has gone up the quantity of food and the amount of cash-based transfers transferred to each beneficiary has also increased significantly. This is in the context of steadily declining costs per metric ton of food delivery, increased average duration of assistance per beneficiary, increased investment in capacity strengthening, improved nutritional value of rations and an increase in the number of emergencies with a corresponding increase in the difficulty of reaching beneficiaries in emergency contexts. The report also indicates that the changes in operational contexts, ration composition and modality allocation have strained WFP's cost-per-ration measure, which currently does not disaggregate modalities in a way that facilitates the types of analyses that WFP now requires. An essential benchmark for WFP, historically the cost per ration has reflected the estimated budgeted amounts that can be attributed to a daily food basket or CBT that is designed to achieve programme results. WFP is rethinking the cost per ration (CPR) metric to better reflect the changes that have occurred within the organization since the measure was introduced and to better reflect cost per modality. The complexity of WFP's programmatic activities, improved availability and granularity of data, changes in activity portfolios, and the increased use of CBTs all need to be critically examined in regard to how the cost per ration is calculated and reported. To this end, an inter-departmental working group is developing a revised approach and methodology, which is expected to be implemented for the 2020 annual performance report exercise (ibid, paras. 95 and 96).
11. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the CPB and related CPR are among WFP's most visible metrics. The CPR is reflected in the Annual Performance Report (APR) and the Management Plan (MP). The potential improvements are based on how CPR was being calculated and the underlying methodology to better reflect the budget amounts that can be attributed to a daily food basket or cash-based transfer (CBT) designed to achieve programme objectives. For example, the concept of a "ration" needs to be better designed for Cash Based Transfer modalities. The Committee was also informed that the new CPB and CPR measures based on agreed definitions, database and dashboards will better reflect the complexity of WFP's programmatic activities, improved availability and granularity of data, changes in activity portfolios, and the increased use of CBTs. The working group is one major effort to consolidate and harmonize indicators within the organization, and it is being done in the broader context of a renewed commitment towards simplification, consistency, transparency, and accuracy in WFP's performance management. **The Advisory Committee trusts that updated information regarding the food and cash-based transfers revised approach and methodology will be provided in the context of the next WFP Management Plan.**
12. The report indicates that WFP's projected crisis response requirements amount to USD 9,545 million in 2021, accounting for 77 per cent of overall requirements, and amounts to an increase of 22 per cent since 2020. The remaining 23 per cent in operational requirements is accounted for in terms of resilience building and programmes that address root causes, in the amounts of USD 2.3 million and USD 547 million respectively (ibid, Table III.1).

13. The report also indicates that of the USD 10, 320 million in total transfers for operational requirements, in-kind food transfers account for 50 per cent of the projected WFP assistance in 2021 while cash-based transfers (CBTs) are expected to account for 37 per cent of total assistance. The report highlights that in 2021, total operational requirements are projected to increase by 17 percent compared with 2020, including a 24 percent increase in the requirements for food transfers and a 14 percent increase in CBTs. The full breakdown of the transfer costs is provided in table III.7 of the report (ibid, Executive Summary). The report underlines that the use of CBTs has increased consistently over the past ten years and that WFP provides more humanitarian cash transfers than any other agency. In 2021, the use of CBTs is planned to increase further, reaching USD 2,425 million or 24 percent of WFP's total transfer costs and value vouchers will account for nearly USD 1,374 million, or 13 percent of total transfer costs. Beneficiaries of this form of assistance can choose what to buy at shops that have been designated and contracted by WFP (ibid, paras. 122 and 123). The Advisory Committee notes that in 2020 in-kind food transfers accounted for 47 per cent of the projected WFP assistance while cash-based transfers continue to account for 37 per cent of total assistance (ibid, table III.7). The Committee further notes that the use of commodity vouchers¹ increased from 2 per cent in 2019 to an estimated 4 per cent in 2020 and is expected to remain stable (ibid).
14. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with further information regarding the cash versus food transfer values distributed over the period from 2016 to 2019 as shown in table 2 below. **The Advisory Committee notes the increasing trend in the 2016-2019 period in the use of cash-based transfers for the provision of assistance and reiterates its view that effective monitoring and oversight mechanisms are required for cash-based transfers to ensure that funds are properly used and risks mitigated.**

¹ A commodity voucher is a credit equivalent to a fixed quantity of specific foods.

TABLE 2: CASH VERSUS FOOD TRANSFER VALUES, 2016 TO 2019 (USD millions) AND CBTS DISTRIBUTED BY RECIPIENT COUNTRY Cash vs. food transfer values, 2016-19 (USD million)				
Cash vs Food transfer values distributed	2016	2017	2018	2019
Cash-based transfers distributed	882.3	1 446.1	1 760.5	2 134.0
Food commodities distributed	2 051.1	2 197.5	2 132.6	2 346.0
CBTs distributed by recipient country				
Recipient Country	2016	2017	2018	2019
Turkey	55.4	340.8	463.3	487.3
Lebanon	215.9	244.9	276.5	284.7
Yemen	28.9	63.6	90.9	265.3
Jordan	145.5	148.6	161.3	171.0
Somalia	25.9	134.8	116.1	117.9
Bangladesh	9.9	9.1	33.6	61.3
Democratic Republic of Congo	16.4	18.7	46.4	53.8
Nigeria	4.7	37.2	47.5	52.8
South Sudan	13.5	28.8	25.1	49.8
Sudan	36.1	23.6	27.0	47.9
Colombia	4.4	5.9	20.0	42.8
Zimbabwe	17.7	11.8	12.2	38.2
Uganda	5.9	14.6	23.9	36.1
Iraq	53.8	56.5	56.5	33.9
Mali	6.9	14.7	35.2	31.1
Palestinian Territories	17.6	22.6	26.7	30.3
Kenya	23.1	37.3	33.8	30.2
Malawi	11.8	23.7	18.8	28.1
Egypt	18.9	20.9	23.3	27.6
Syria	3.0	4.9	10.6	23.6
Others	166.8	183.3	211.7	220.4
Total	882.3	1 446.1	1 760.5	2 134.0

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

15. As regards the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on WFP's operations, the report indicates that the WFP response efforts have focused on addressing the immediate consequences of the crisis through the protection and scale-up of critical life-saving operations. Beyond immediate response, global expectations are that the full impact of the crisis, expected in 2021, will be unprecedented and that its scale, scope and timing will vary greatly among regions and countries. At the request of national governments and in addition to its life-saving activities, WFP is investing in national social protection, health and nutrition systems and their flexibility to scale up in response to the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 in 2021 and beyond. The report also indicates that WFP has developed a medium-term programme

framework that provides a high-level vision for shaping its contribution to global response efforts, focused on where WFP's expertise and capacities can best strengthen national governments' response efforts and establishes three interdependent pillars: social protection; basic services, with an emphasis on nutrition and school-based programming; and food systems (ibid, figure III.4). WFP is also supporting governments in developing a better understanding of the changing needs arising from COVID-19 and the actions needed to address them, assisting the scale-up of existing cash-and food-based safety nets and expanding coverage in urban areas, and broadening new government programmes to reach groups that are not covered by current safety nets (ibid, paras. 135, 146, 148). Other pandemic-related efforts include country capacity strengthening and leveraging remote monitoring capacities, including mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) systems and web surveys, to closely monitor the food security situation of affected people. Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, mVAM systems for near real-time monitoring were rapidly scaled up in more than 30 countries to track the impact of the outbreak on food security and livelihoods and the broader impacts on access to services, markets and supply chains (ibid, paras. 149, 153).

16. Upon enquiry the Advisory Committee was informed that as the full scale, scope and timing of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic were still unfolding in WFP's countries of operation and in the traditional donor countries, unprecedented uncertainty around projected needs and forecasted contributions for 2021 has been created. **The Advisory Committee recognizes the fluid situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and trusts that the World Food Programme will provide a status update in the context of the next WFP Management Plan.**

Programme support and administration

17. The report indicates that the programme support and administrative (PSA) budget provides programme and administrative support to WFP's activities. WFP proposes a 2020 PSA budget of USD 443.5 million for 2020 representing an increase of USD 19.9 million, a 5 % increase compared to the PSA budget of USD 423.6 million for 2020. Table IV.1 of the report provides a summary of main adjustments in the 2021 PSA budget. The increase consists of: (1) increased capacity for oversight functions: USD 4.0 million (paras. 171–175); (2) Mainstreaming of emergency support activities: USD 5.0 million (paras. 176–179); (3) Mainstreaming of programme and policy development activities: USD 6.0 million (paras. 180–182) (4) Establishment of Assistant Secretary-General office: USD 0.8 million (paras. 183–184) (5) Establishment of a data protection function: USD 0.5 million (paras. 185–186) (6) Technical adjustments for centralized services: USD 4.6 million (paras. 187–195). The increase is offset by a decrease in standard staff cost rates of USD 1.0 million (paras. 168-170).
18. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that WFP is living within its means on two critical counts: first, the proposed PSA for 2021 is lower than the Indirect Support Cost income that would be derived even from a conservative contribution income forecast of USD 7.4 billion in 2021; second, the projected PSAEA available balance is greater than the "floor" requirement, which is equivalent to the 2 months of PSA (see paragraph 225). The Committee was further informed that the approved PSA budget for 2020 was crafted based on a projected contribution income of USD 7.45 billion. While this was increased to a higher value of USD 7.7 billion, since the Management Plan (2021-2023) was published, the 2020 projection is expected to reach USD 8.2 billion. This will further augment the projected PSAEA available balance. The Committee notes that the propose 2021 PSA budget of USD 443.5 million is less than the projected indirect support income for 2021 and represents an increase of USD 19.9 million or 5 percent over the PSA budget of USD 423.6 million for 2020.

19. Table A.II.1 of the report indicates a growth from 2020 to 2021 of the PSA budget under four budget lines, namely: (1) Consultancy from USD 27.6 million to USD 33.0 million; (2) Temporary assistance from USD 9.0 to 12.0 million; (3) Duty travel from USD 14.1 to 15.7 million; and (4) Communications and IT services & equipment from USD 10.6 to 11.2 million.
20. Upon further enquiry, the Committee was informed that the report was prepared in June 2020, the pandemic introduced significant uncertainties in planning, and that while the tables reflected the finalized budgets by organizational unit, the allocations between expenditure lines had not been finalized. The Committee was informed that the breakdown of non-staff resources will therefore change between budget lines according to the forward plans for a 'new normal. These plans will be finalized by mid-December, in time for the internal 2021 allotments, and after the PSA budget is approved by the Board. The Committee was furthermore informed that the breakdown by expenditure line in table A.11.3 does not limit management's latitude to switch between expenditure lines, as the budget is approved at the level of three appropriation lines. As regards the lines of expenditure, the Committee was informed that as regards duty travel, the increase reflected a repurposing of up to 50 percent of the travel cost is expected, which should be finalized by mid-December 2020 and monitored in 2021; and, in terms of communications and IT services & equipment, the increase is consistent with the increase in staffing across the organization; however, the forward plans seek to achieve efficiencies in communications, IT services and equipment expenditure.
21. The Committee was also informed that as regards the consultancy line of expenditure, the difference of USD 5.4 million (19%) reflected the need for WFP to maintain an agile workforce; however, in accordance with the ongoing forward planning intentions the organization is shifting towards a greater use of staff for core functions. Also in terms of temporary assistance, the increase reflected the need to maintain organizational flexibility and agility; however, under the forward planning intentions, the organization is already shifting towards a greater use of staff for core support functions. **The Committee reiterates its view that, while recognizing that the use of external consultants may be necessary to acquire specialized expertise not readily available in-house, reliance on the use of external consultants should be kept to an absolute minimum. Given the forward planning intentions of WFP, the Committee looks forward to an update on the use of consultants and core staff in its forthcoming reports.**
22. **Taking into account the 2020 budget and the ongoing impact of the pandemic, and that the contribution forecast for 2021 is USD 7,400 million, the Advisory Committee notes that the forecast for 2021 is projected at a lower rate than for 2020. The Committee is, therefore, of the view that the proposed budget increases under a number of lines of expenditure may not be realistic and trusts that updated information and justifications will be provided to the executive board during the consideration of the present report.**

Bottom-Up Strategic Budgeting Exercise

23. The report indicates that the year 2021 will be one of transition for WFP while a bottom-up strategic budgeting exercise is conducted. Launched in the summer of 2020, the exercise consists of an in-depth analysis of recurring programme support and business operations requirements, as well as a review of the attendant funding sources. The objectives of the exercise include optimizing funding source allocation and ensuring that all funding sources are consistently aligned with the various activities undertaken at headquarters and the regional bureaux. The exercise will also improve the transparency of budget allocations to headquarters and the regional bureau, inform how WFP funds its core country office presence and enable the more efficient use of funding, in line with management and operational

priorities. The exercise provides an opportunity for the organization to reflect on some of the structural issues related to PSA allocations (ibid, paras. 164 – 166).

Common services and cost sharing arrangements

24. The report indicates that WFP is addressing multiple challenges by stepping up its efforts within the broader international community and establishing common services. As regards the pandemic response in 2020, WFP sought an additional USD 965 million to ensure critical common services, including passenger and cargo air services, during the global health and humanitarian response (ibid, Executive Summary, para. 37, table III.4). The report also indicates that to enhance global partnership, WFP provides services to the humanitarian community through the three clusters it leads and co-leads and the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) and bilateral logistics service provision. In addition, it provides partner agencies with access to systems and platforms that enable them to transfer entitlements to beneficiaries and leverages its deep field presence and comparative advantage in logistics to provide both mandated and on-demand services for the international community. The report also indicates that in 2019, UNHAS transported more than 400,000 passengers in 20 countries, UNHRD supported 42 partners in 85 countries and the logistics cluster supported more than 700 organizations through its operations in 15 countries. WFP also provided logistics services on request to 47 partners, including host governments, in 18 countries. In 2021, operational requirements totalling USD 416 million are planned for service delivery (ibid, para. 129). **The Advisory Committee recalls its prior comments and recommendations regarding common services, cost sharing and recovery arrangements and trusts that WFP will provide detailed information, along with all the resource implications, in its forthcoming reports (see paras. 19, 20 and 24 of the Advisory Committee' report of 15 November 2019).**

Corporate initiatives

25. The report indicates that no new critical corporate initiatives are proposed in 2021. WFP is proposing the utilization of USD 32.2 million from the PSA equalization account to support work in two areas: the creation of a USD 10 million termination indemnity fund to cover country offices' organizational realignment; and the continuation of a critical corporate initiative on implementation of the private sector strategy initiated in 2020 in the amount of USD 22.2 million, in accordance with the multi-year plan endorsed by the Board in 2019. The termination indemnity fund aims to support WFP in achieving organizational change, to deliver on country strategic plans, to work at the humanitarian–development–peace nexus and to support implementation of the United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks envisioned under the United Nations reform. The fund will enable WFP to implement recommendations stemming from the reviews that are aimed at stabilizing the workforce of country offices. The second year of the multi-year private sector strategy initiative (USD 22.2 million) seeks to increase individual giving from the private sector to enable WFP to save more lives and change more lives. The report also indicates that in 2019, a critical corporate initiative was launched with an allocation of USD 8.2 million for a two-year period from 2019 to 2020 with the aim of ensuring that WFP has the capacity to support the Secretary-General's efforts to prepare for and implement reform of the United Nations development system. In 2020, an additional USD 8.1 million was approved to continue the work in 2020 and 2021. Investments for this period are focused on the design and piloting of reform initiatives, with funding already available for implementation and rollout of piloted activities and systems continuing into 2021 (ibid, Executive Summary, paras. 226 to 234). **The Advisory Committee looks forward to an update of the existing corporate initiatives in the context of the next WFP Management Plan (see also para. 29 below).**

Other matters

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

26. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided information regarding the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee to WFP since its last report dated 15 November 2019 including implementation of the recommendations and the action taken. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that feedback regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee should be regularly provided in the context of WFP reports.**
27. **Subject to its observations and recommendations above, the Advisory Committee has no objections to the WFP Management Plan (2021-2023).**

II. Process for the selection and appointment of the WFP External Auditor

28. The report (WFP/EB.2/2020/5-B/1) indicates the process for the selection of the WFP External Auditor for the term 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2028. Based on the process approved by the Board at its 2014 second regular session, which governed the selection and appointment of the current External Auditor, it sets out: i) the timeframe of the process; ii) the mandate and composition of the Evaluation Panel and arrangements for its continuity; iii) the selection procedure; and iv) the criteria for evaluation, with relative rating weights. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the Process for the selection and appointment of the WFP External Auditor.**

III. Work plan of the External Auditor

29. The report (WFP/EB.2/2020/5-C/1) indicates the work plan of the external auditor for the period July 2020 to June 2021 including objectives, standards and audit areas. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the two planned performance audits: of critical corporate initiatives and of management of information on beneficiaries (WFP/EB.2/2020/5-C/1, paras. 30 - 39) had not been subject to a performance audit by the External Auditor since the beginning of the External Auditor's mandate in 2016. Although the internal audit function had conducted several audits on beneficiaries from various angles, the Board would appreciate an external assurance. **The Advisory Committee looks forward to the results of the performance audits of Critical corporate initiatives and Management of information on beneficiaries in the forthcoming reports of the External Auditor.**