

Executive Board Third Regular Session

Rome, 20 - 23 October 1997

REVISED ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Agenda item 1

THIRD REGULAR SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



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1. Adoption of the agenda

The Executive Director has prepared and circulated the provisional agenda (WFP/EB.3/97/1), which is based on the programme of work of the Executive Board for 1997 approved at the Third Regular Session of 1996 (WFP/EB.3/96/11). The Executive Board may amend the provisional agenda by deletion, addition or modification of any item.

The Board may wish to adopt its agenda with any amendments it deems desirable.

2. Appointment of the Rapporteur

In accordance with the rules of procedure and methods of work adopted by the Board in 1996, the Executive Board may wish to appoint from among its members a Rapporteur for its Third Regular Session.

3. Policy issues

a) Measures to enhance WFP's programming in the poorest countries

The Mission Statement indicated that WFP should provide, by 1997, at least 50 percent of its development assistance to least developed countries. While substantial progress has been made, the target has not yet been achieved. The Board will have before it for consideration a paper identifying obstacles to increased programme concentration in the poorest countries, and containing recommendations on how such obstacles may be overcome (WFP/EB.3/97/3-A).

b) Reaching mothers and children at critical times of their lives

According to the Mission Statement, WFP food aid should aim at improving the nutritional status and quality of life of the most vulnerable people at critical times of their lives. The Board will have before it for consideration a paper that argues that adequate nutrition is of particular importance for young children, and for expectant and nursing mothers, and puts forward recommendations concerning future programming directed to these target groups (WFP/EB.3/97/3-B).

c) Follow-up to the World Food Summit Plan of Action

As requested at its First Regular Session of 1997, under this item, the Board will have before it, for information and consideration, a document containing a systematic analysis of the objectives established in the World Food Summit Plan of Action and how, within WFP's mandate, its programmes, projects and other activities can contribute to achieving these objectives (WFP/EB.3/97/3-C).

4. Financial and budgetary matters

a) Biennial budget for 1998-99

In accordance with regulation 6.3 of WFP's current Financial Regulations, under this item the Executive Director will submit the proposed biennial WFP Budget for the period 1998-99 (WFP/EB.3/97/4-A) and the relevant comments of the FAO Finance Committee and the United Nations Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) (WFP/EB.3/97/4-A/Add.1 and Add.2).

In drawing up her budget proposals, the Executive Director has taken into account the comments and guidance provided by the Board in relation to the WFP Strategic and Financial Plan 1998-2001 (WFP/EB.A/97/4-A), submitted at its Annual Session in May 1997.

In the budget document, the Executive Director explains the approach taken in preparing her proposals within the overall context of WFP's strategic priorities -- available financial resources, advice from Board members, and United Nations reforms, including results of the harmonization of organizational budget formats, presentation and terminology. A section addresses the operational budget and gives details on the expected resources and their proposed utilization for each operational programme category for the biennium. The Programme Support and Administrative (PSA) budget and the programme of work for 1998-99 are presented in another section. The results of the 1997 Cost Measurement Study, distributed under separate cover (WFP/EB.3/97/4-E), form the basis for establishing the indirect support cost rates for 1998-99.

 b) Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations: Proposed Revised Financial Regulations (WFP/EB.3/97/4-B), and comments by the ACABQ and the FAO Finance Committee (WFP/EB.3/97/4-B/Add.1 and Add.2).

The FAO Finance Committee and the ACABQ reviewed and commented on the proposed Financial Regulations prepared by the Open-ended Working Group on the Revision of WFP's General and Financial Regulations. The Working Group subsequently incorporated the comments and will submit the revised texts to the Board for approval, pending the adoption of the proposed General Regulations and Rules.

c) Proposal on the use of interest income

At its Annual Session of 1997, while reviewing the Budgetary performance report for 1996, the Board requested the Executive Director to present a paper on the use of interest income at its Third Regular Session of 1997. Accordingly, the Board will have before it a document outlining proposals and recommendations for the use of interest income (WFP/EB.3/97/4-C).

d) Appointment of WFP's External Auditor for the term July 1998 to June 2002

Under this item, the Executive Director will present a document seeking guidance from the Board on the course of action to be followed on the appointment of the WFP's External Auditor for the term July 1998 to June 2002 (WFP/EB.3/97/4-D). The paper will present the options available to the Board following the approval of the new WFP Financial Regulations which may propose changes in the profile and term or tenure of potential external auditors.

e) Update of indirect cost rates

In accordance with the request made by the Board at its First Regular Session of 1997, the Secretariat will present a document (WFP/EB.3/97/4-E) for the Board's approval, outlining the indirect cost rates proposed for 1998.

Under this item the Board will also have before it, for information, a Cost Measurement Study (WFP/EB.3/97/4-E/Add.1) conducted by Messrs. David M. Griffith and Associates, Ltd. The Study is based on 1996 actual and 1997 budgeted costs.

5. Evaluation reports

The following evaluation documents will be submitted under this item for the Executive Board's consideration (WFP/EB.3/97/5 and Addenda). The Board is requested to take note of the reports and endorse the Secretariat's plan to integrate the recommendations and lessons learned in the future work of WFP:

- Relief and post-emergency operations in Angola: a joint WFP/NGOs/IFRC evaluation
- Interim Study on WFP's new capacities in responding to the Great Lakes crisis
- Rehabilitation and upgrading of sea dikes

Viet Nam 4617

- Programme for rehabilitation

Cambodia 5483

 Lessons learned from food aid contributions to MCH: how to address critical food needs of women and children

6. Country Strategy Outlines

The Executive Board's views are invited on the following Country Strategy Outlines (WFP/EB.3/97/6 and Addenda):

Mali

Niger

7. Country Programmes

The Board will have before it, for consideration and approval, Country Programmes (WFP/EB.3/97/7 and Addenda) for:

Egypt Ghana Haiti Mauritania Mozambique Yemen Zambia

8. Projects for Executive Board approval

Under this item, the Executive Board will have before it, for approval, the following proposed projects exceeding the Executive Director's delegated authority for approval:

a) Development projects (WFP/EB.3/97/8-A and Addenda)

Gaza 5474 Honduras 5691 Nepal 3718.01 b) Protracted refugee and displaced person projects (WFP/EB.3/97/8-B and Addenda) Liberia 4604.06

Nepal 5324.02

9. Reports of the Executive Director

a) Development projects approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997

No development projects were approved by the Executive Director during this period.

b) Budget increases to development projects approved by the Executive Director 1 January - 30 June 1997

A paper providing information on budget increases for development projects approved by the Executive Director within her delegated authority between 1 January and 30 June 1997 will be submitted under this agenda item (WFP/EB.3/97/9-B).

c) PROs approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997

Under this item, the Executive Board may wish to consider a summary on a PRO (Mauritania 5413.03) approved by the Executive Director between 1 January and 30 June 1997 within her delegated authority (WFP/EB.3/97/9-C/Add.1).

 Budget increases to PROs approved by the Executive Director, 1 January - 30 June 1997

A paper providing information on budget increases for protracted refugee and displaced person projects approved by the Executive Director within her delegated authority between 1 January and 30 June 1997 will be submitted under this item (WFP/EB.3/97/9-D).

e) Activities approved by Country Directors under Country Programmes approved by the Executive Board.

Under this item, the Board will have before it, for consideration, an abstract relating to Activity 1 of the Bolivia Country Programme - Bolivia 3866.01: (WFP/EB.3/97/9-E/Add.1).

f) Progress reports

The Executive Board will have before it, for consideration, the following progress report on a project which has been in operation for two years or longer (WFP/EB.3/97/9-E/Add.1):

Ecuador 3096.01

10. Organizational and procedural matters: Programme of work of the Executive Board for 1998

In accordance with its established methods of work, the Board will have before it for approval a provisional programme of work for 1998 (WFP/EB.3/97/10).

11. Summaries of the work of the Resumed Second Regular and Annual Sessions of 1997

In accordance with the Board's established methods of work, the summaries of the Resumed Second Regular and Annual Sessions of 1997 will be submitted for endorsement.

12. Other business

Representatives and the Executive Director may wish to raise further matters of interest to the Executive Board.

13. Verification of adopted decisions and recommendations

The Executive Board will have before it a draft document containing all decisions taken and recommendations made at its Third Regular Session of 1997 for verification of their accuracy.

