



Group of Friends of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot

Side event on the margins of the 2018 annual session of the Executive Board

18 June 2018 from 13:15 – 14:45

Meeting Room, WFP Headquarters

Context

The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) is an international network of six humanitarian support hubs, managed by the World Food Programme, offering supply chain solutions for the broader international humanitarian community. Established 18 years ago, it facilitates the rapid deployment of non-food items and services for an effective response to global emergencies for WFP and its partners.

In 2015, the Italian Government launched an informal group of UNHRD donors and WFP Executive Board members, the Group of Friends of UNHRD, aimed at raising awareness on the role of UNHRD in the global humanitarian architecture, as well as to ensure a sustainable UNHRD network, through *inter alia*, investment in emergency preparedness. The Group of Friends of UNHRD is currently coordinated by the Italian Government and other Member States are encouraged to join. The handover of chairmanship of the UNHRD Group of Friends from Italy to Spain during this event, endeavors to strengthen the inclusive, participative and plural nature of the Group.

Concomitantly, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and WFP's Integrated Road Map, WFP has embarked on an ambitious process to develop a private sector partnerships and fundraising strategy (2018–2021) to increase its capacity to leverage private sector support and resources to provide life-saving development and emergency to those in need. This essential strategy is also an opportunity to engage partners in support of the UNHRD network's mandate.

Objectives

In the midst of the worst humanitarian crisis since the end of the Second World War, it apposite to reflect on how to enhance UNHRD and its partners potential with a view to deliver assistance more efficiently and effectively to humanitarian crises. For this reason, the Permanent Missions of Italy, Panama and Spain to the United Nations Rome-based agencies have organized a Group of Friends of UNHRD side event.

The event purports to demonstrate the added value of the network, including its tools and vision. Similarly, it seeks to foster an exchange of views among Members States and further raise awareness, thereby facilitating the establishment of transformative partnerships, including with the private sector and universities, to strengthen the network's capacity to fulfill its goals.



In addition, the innovative research and development work of the UNHRD LAB will be highlighted. In collaboration with academia and the private sector, the LAB contributes to improving logistics support equipment and providing concrete solutions to support humanitarian operations in their initial response.

Agenda

Master of Ceremonies to give a short introduction of run of show of ceremony and invite the speakers to give their remarks:

- remarks by the Executive Director;
- remarks by H.E. Pierfrancesco Sacco, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy;
- remarks by H.E. Jesús Manuel Gracia Aldaz, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain;
- remarks by Ms Angélica Jácome, Permanent Representative of Panama; and
- remarks by the Special Guest of the WFP Executive Board, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein, United Nations Messenger of Peace and Chairperson of the International Humanitarian City.

Other Group of Friends of UNHRD will attend the ceremony and will be positioned on podium:

- H.E. Dato Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino, Ambassador-Designate of Malaysia;
- H.E. Saqer Nasser Ahmed Alraisi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates; and
- Mr Nii Quaye-Kumah, Alternate Permanent Representative of Ghana.

Following the remarks, the Master of Ceremonies will launch the ceremony to handover the coordination from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the Rome-based agencies to the Permanent Mission of Spain to the Rome-based agencies:

- toast and cutting of cake to commemorate the 18th Anniversary of UNHRD; and
- Master of Ceremonies to invite the participants to the buffet-luncheon area.