

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Concerning the establishment of a strategic partnership between the World Food Programme and the Commission of the European Communities in the field of humanitarian and recovery assistance in developing countries

Considering the Communications of the Commission of the European Communities ('the Commission') to the European Council and Parliament on "*Building an effective partnership with the United Nations in the fields of Development and Humanitarian Affairs*"¹ and on "*The European Union and the United Nations: the choice of multilateralism*"²;

Considering the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the European Community and the United Nations, signed on 29 April 2003³;

Considering the long standing co-operation between the World Food Programme ("WFP") and the Commission of the European Communities ("the Commission").

Considering the Strategic Programming Dialogue between the "WFP" and "the Commission" which started in November 2001, in the field of humanitarian and recovery assistance;

The Commission and the WFP hereby consolidate their strategic partnership ('the Partnership') with the aim of enhancing and increasing the effectiveness of both partners in their efforts to achieve their common goals and objectives in the field of humanitarian and recovery assistance in developing countries.

A. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Through the Partnership, the Commission and the WFP will work towards the shared goal of reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development targets. This will be reached by making the greatest possible contribution to save lives and livelihoods in humanitarian crises, emergencies and protracted crises and other situations marked by food insecurity, particularly to assist the most vulnerable and poor populations, including refugees, internally displaced people, returnees and other people affected by humanitarian crises

In particular, the objectives of the Partnership are to mutually benefit, consolidate, develop and structure close collaboration at all levels between the Commission and the WFP, in matters pertaining:

- to humanitarian and recovery assistance to restore food security and ensure transition between relief and recovery.
- to strengthen (pre)crisis information management tools in order to formulate appropriate food aid responses.
- to build on each others' comparative advantage in order to make specific contributions to ensure efficient, appropriate and cost-effective delivery of food aid to the most vulnerable populations, in humanitarian crises, food emergencies and protracted crises in developing countries.

¹ COM (2001) 231 final, 02.05.2001

² COM(2003)526 final, 10.09.2003

³ COM(2003)

- to pay particular attention to post-conflict and transition situations with a view to strengthen initiatives such as the United Nation's Programme for Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction ("4 R's programme") and UNDG/ECHA⁴ Working Group on Transition Issues.

The objectives of the Partnership will be achieved through:

- regular policy dialogue between the WFP and the Commission;
- enhanced collaboration at all levels, in particular between WFP representatives, Commission Delegations and ECHO at regional and country level;
- financial co-operation in WFP's operational activities where there is added value, relevant impact, common interest and adequate capacities, concerning the Commission's priorities, with due regard to the relevant legal bases and implementing procedures.

B. SCOPE

WFP and the Commission will seek to work closely together on matters of mutual interest at global, regional, and field levels.

At the global level, WFP and Commission will seek to strengthen co-ordination with other humanitarian actors and agencies and to find synergies within the frameworks of Consolidated Appeals Process (CAPs).

Specific areas where collaboration is likely to be especially relevant are assessment of humanitarian needs, including food aid needs assessments; vulnerability mapping (VAM), coordination of relief and recovery efforts; disaster prevention and mitigation; ensuring transition from emergencies and relief to recovery and development assistance and in monitoring progress against food security and nutrition indicators, based on multi-agency cooperation and coordination.

The geographical scope of the Partnership is limited to those countries classified as 'developing' according to the OECD-DAC list of aid recipients, where there exists needs related to food shortages⁵.

C. AREAS FOR POLICY DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION

This partnership aims to ensure a more effective link between the shared political commitments agreed at global level and improved efficacy of responses to humanitarian needs and recovery efforts at country level.

The following issues of mutual concern are set out as a basis for the strategic partnership in order to elaborate a common framework for policy dialogue and programme implementation. These issues include:

1. Accurate **emergency food aid needs assessment** to enable timely, relevant, appropriate and cost-effective food aid responses.

⁴ United Nations Development Group / Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs.

⁵ Food caps in relation to the normal (or pre-emergency) consumption levels for the country/population concerned.

2. Adequate **food security information** and Early Warning Systems at national and regional level, based on **multi-agency co-operation** and co-ordination, to enable preparedness, early and appropriate responses.
3. Strong programming, monitoring and evaluation **capacity** at headquarter, regional, country and field level to enable effective and appropriate delivery of food aid including effective coordination, sharing of data and analysis, and communication of significant results; based on outcome indicators.
4. Increased **aid effectiveness** of food aid and improved harmonisation of activities of the international community, by inter alia, more frequent impacts evaluations of food aid interventions at all levels.
5. **Prevention, preparedness and early response activities** as well as **linkages from relief to recovery**, including ensuring proper entry and exit strategies;
6. Support **recovery and stabilisation** from post conflict situations to underpinning still fragile peace process by helping to create the conditions for political stability and security.
7. **Integrated, multi-sectoral approach** among operational agencies to ensure that food needs assessments consider non-food responses where appropriate and that food aid responses are made in concert with appropriate inputs in other sectors.
8. **Increased local and regional purchases** by WFP and adapted to local food habits and nutritional needs of the beneficiaries taking into account possible negative effects on the markets.

D. AREAS FOR FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Given the role of WFP and the nature of humanitarian and recovery assistance, WFP and the Commission agree that financial collaboration at global and country levels will focus on support for saving lives and livelihoods in humanitarian crises, emergencies and protracted crises and other situations marked by food insecurity. Collaboration may be also based on international appeals (Consolidated Appeal Process, CAP or ad hoc appeals) for a given country or region.

The WFP and the Commission may agree to financial collaboration aimed at strengthening the core capacities of WFP. The funding must be based on principles of relevance related to WFP's role, likely impact on aid delivery, innovative nature of the proposed activities and willingness to share results.

E. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COOPERATION

The main forum for policy dialogue between the Commission and WFP for the Partnership will be formal, regular bilateral meetings, where discussions will take place on policy matters of common interest to the two parties. Senior level meetings shall be held once a year between the Director responsible for Development Policy, the Director responsible for Humanitarian Aid and the Director responsible for the European Aid in the Commission, or their representatives, and the Executive Director of the WFP, or his representatives, to review progress of work in the priority areas of cooperation and to discuss policy, technical and operational issues related to furthering the objectives of the Partnership.



The focal points for will be, on the one hand the Directorate-General responsible for Development in the Commission , and on the other, the Liaison Office of the WFP with he European Commission in Brussels. The focal points shall ensure the coordination of this Partnership within their respective organizations.

Technical meetings may be held between officials of the two parties with notification to, and participation, as far as possible, of liaison officials and the respective Delegations or Representations in the field, if necessary. These would cover practical matters of cooperation, in particular the implementation of projects and the preparation of documents.

The Commission and the WFP may invite the other party to participate in working groups, conferences and seminars relevant to the Partnership, in conformity with the applicable rules.

During these meetings and working shops, a particular attention will be given to a cooperation and coordination with other relevant institutions.

F. FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

Financial assistance by the Commission to activities undertaken by the WFP shall, unless otherwise agreed in exceptional circumstances, be in accordance with the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement between the European Communities and the United Nations, which entered into force on April 29th 2003.


Programming of resources made available by the Commission under this Partnership will be carried out in conjunction with the relevant parties for which the funds are earmarked, through agreed implementing partners and in close collaboration with other UN-organisations.

If possible, the parties will within the Partnership also consider possibilities of an enhanced, more predictable, multi-year financial co-operation in area(s) agreed under the Partnership.

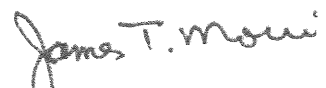
G. ENTRY INTO FORCE AND DURATION

The Partnership shall enter into force at the date of the signature of this Memorandum. The content of this Partnership should be reviewed within the overall arrangements laid down in Section E of this Memorandum, on the basis of mutual agreement of the parties. This Memorandum may be terminated by either Party upon giving six (6) months prior written notice to that effect to the other Party.

Done at Brussels
For the Commission of the
European Communities


Louis MICHEL
Commissioner for Development and
Humanitarian Aid

Date: 02/09 - 2005
For the World Food Programme


James T. MORRIS
Executive Director