

STATE OF GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY – FAO – 6 MAY 2011

Remarks by Mr. Amir Abdulla
Deputy Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer
The World Food Programme

Thank you. On behalf of the World Food Programme, let me say that it's a pleasure and an honour to be here. Thank you, Secretary Clinton, for your insightful, forward-looking analysis of the global food security environment, of the challenges we all face, and of the progress being made – and still to be made.

Thank you too for your exemplary personal commitment to solving, once and for all, the global challenge of hunger and food insecurity. Your leadership and dedication has pushed the issue to the forefront of the international agenda, and given us the “Feed the Future” and “Thousand Day” programmes – vital initiatives that are driving the campaign forward.

WFP supports more than 100 million hungry people a year. In 2010, over 90% of the 109 million beneficiaries we reached were women and children – who are nutritionally the most vulnerable. 25 million of them were children under five.

The world is changing, and WFP is changing too. We are very aware that filling empty stomachs is no longer enough. We know that we need to ensure that the food we provide is *right* for the most vulnerable – pregnant and lactating women, children under five and those with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses.

Last year, WFP delivered *40 billion* meals. We are working hard to make sure that each one maximises its nutritional impact. We know that we mustn't just *feed* the future, but also *nurture* it.

Patrick Webb and his team from Tufts University made that case very powerfully in their report released last week. We applaud their emphasis on the importance of 1,000-day nutrition initiatives.

WFP wholeheartedly endorses that emphasis. As our Executive Director Josette Sheeran has pointed out, WFP's mantra is simple and twofold. One, the right *tool* at the right time in the right place. Two, the right *food* at the right time in the right place."

As a result of advances in science and technology – and in partnership with the private sector – WFP is increasing the deployment of nutritious fortified food products, including improved blended foods, ready to use supplementary foods, and micronutrient powders, which are designed to efficiently and cost effectively meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

WFP is rapidly accelerating the number of children and pregnant and lactating women who receive new nutritionally enhanced food products. In the last two years, we have increased almost 50-fold our coverage of children under-two receiving these products.

We are actively engaged in the multi-stakeholder Scaling Up Nutrition – SUN – movement, and leading efforts to identify ways in which business communities can be more involved.

WFP is leading the charge against childhood undernutrition by hosting an interagency partnership called REACH – Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition. Established in 2008 by WFP, WHO UNICEF and FAO, REACH - "Delivering as One" in action - also includes governments and the private sector. Programmes have been piloted in West Africa and Southeast Asia. More are on the way.

We are also ramping up our ability to deploy at scale other food assistance tools provided for under our current Strategic Plan. These include cash and voucher programmes, and the Purchase for Progress

initiative that links small farmers to hungry people in their own countries. But we have a greater demand for these programmes than we have the capacity to deliver. We must close this gap. And we are working hard to do so.

No one group or agency can respond to the historic challenge of food insecurity alone. Rome-based collaboration remains a key focus for WFP. We are all committed to broadening and deepening this collaboration.

Thank you.

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