WFP Deputy Executive Director, Mr Amir Mahmoud Abdulla

Statement

IPOA MTR Roundtable 4: Multiple Crises and other Emerging Challenges, and Mobilizing Financial Resources for Development and Capacity-building

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The Mid-Term Review of the Istanbul Programme of Action provides us with a unique opportunity to reflect on a key principle of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): ‘leave no one behind and reach those furthest behind first’. This principle has emerged as a critical theme that unifies and cuts across the range of global agreements that have been reached over the past year – from Sendai to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the SDGs and COP21 in Paris. Reaching those furthest behind first provides a guiding principle for the Istanbul Programme of Action and serves to underline the global partnership for the development of LDCs.

This principle also provides a useful frame for linking the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit to the long-term achievement of the Agenda 2030 in LDCs. The imperative for embedding emergency preparedness and response capacity in national development strategies must be a priority in the most vulnerable and at risk countries.

As stated in the Secretary General’s report for the World Humanitarian Summit, conflict and fragility remain the biggest threats to human development. Climate change will likely increase the risk of hunger and malnutrition by up to 20 percent by 2050 and could reduce potential agricultural output by up to 30 percent in Africa.

As climate change and more frequent extreme weather events result in increased competition for scarce natural resources, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas, the potential for conflict and forced displacement is intensified. The capacity for food insecurity, land degradation, and resource scarcity to act as conflict multipliers in LDCs must be recognized and addressed.

Despite the potential for natural hazards to drive increasing levels of conflict and displacement, the response of the international community to climate-related crises remains inadequate. The failure to mobilize the domestic and international
resources required to address both immediate and longer-term needs in the most at risk countries will have serious consequences for long-term stability and economic growth; and increase the risk of more severe crises and large-scale population movements in the future.

Shifting towards more comprehensive efforts to build resilience and manage risk is critical to achieving sustainable development in LDCs. We must build resilience before, during and after crises. Investment in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and early and effective crisis response protect hard-won development gains, save lives, and money, and help people break out of the cycle of chronic vulnerability.

Social protection systems provide an effective means for addressing the multiple dimensions of poverty. As a component of government-owned frameworks for addressing chronic vulnerability, social protection systems provide predictable and structured mechanisms for scaling up in response to crises.

Strengthening national capacities for managing disaster risks and developing new sources of finance must be a priority of the international community. As indicated in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Official Development Assistance should play an increasingly catalytic role in mobilizing finance from new sources, including private capital markets. To this end, the World Food Programme has supported the African Union in establishing a sovereign disaster insurance pool, the African Risk Capacity (ARC). For the 32 African states participating in ARC, natural hazards risks are insured by up to USD 300m.

In collaboration with the governments of the Vulnerable Twenty Group of Ministers of Finance of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, or the V20, WFP has worked together with the World Bank, UNDP, OCHA, and FAO to establish the Global Partnership on Preparedness. This initiative, which was recently launched at the World Humanitarian Summit, donors and multilateral organizations to strengthen national and local preparedness and develop predictable arrangements for response and recovery in countries most at-risk to the impact of climate change and natural hazards.