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Mr. Vice-President of ECOSOC,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Executive Heads of Agencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

The post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda will bring new challenges and opportunities for the United Nations. Our objective must continue to be to improve the lives of those we serve. We must strive to do it more effectively and with greater impact.

As we transition into a new era, for this Development Agenda to be effective, old siloes will need to be broken. We must recognize that transition from emergency relief to post-crisis recovery and development is rarely linear. We must turn crises into opportunities for long-term change.

Just as effective emergency response can help protect hard won gains in health and poverty reduction, development planning must also be responsive to sudden changes in the needs of vulnerable populations.

For WFP this means we must work to meet a dual objective:

1. To respond to emergencies so that the impact of conflict and natural disasters are mitigated and minimized; and
2. To deploy safety nets – from school feeding to asset creation to crop insurance - to sustainably and comprehensively eradicate hunger, while strengthening the resilience of vulnerable populations.

For example, following Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, WFP responded with multiple interventions that were appropriate for the local context. We responded with High Energy Biscuits, and then full rations where food wasn’t available. We provided cash and voucher transfers when the markets started functioning within days.

Beyond the UN system, government leadership and investment is critical for bringing about an end to world hunger. National safety net programmes that provide vulnerable populations with transfers of cash or food are effective tools for ensuring access to food.

When functioning safety nets exist, countries can more rapidly, effectively and efficiently respond to shocks, such as sudden food price increases. This contributes to social stability, reducing the risk of crisis at the local and national level.

We must all adapt to the changing development landscape. For WFP this is reflected in our shift from **food aid to food assistance**.

The transition to food assistance has improved WFP’s ability to respond to an increasingly complex global environment affected by climate change, population growth, conflict, natural disasters, and economic crises.

We continue to improve our responses. We are using more sophisticated and innovative modalities that are people-centred and sensitive to local conditions and market dynamics.

Food assistance leverages WFP’s comparative advantages, building on our extensive field presence, effective emergency preparedness and response capacity, expertise in the provision of operational services, and the capacity and global reach to assess food security needs.

To ensure that our corporate architecture could support the most efficient and effective delivery of service, in 2012 WFP began it’s Fit for Purpose exercise.
Based on the fact that the people we serve are the focus of our work, Fit for Purpose has resulted in a structure that empowers our country offices and improves the support capacity of our regional bureaux.

As we continue to adapt to the changing environment, the need to invest in complementary partnerships cannot be underestimated, whether with governments, the UN, NGOs or private sector.

**South-South and Triangular Cooperation** has become increasingly important to support national efforts in reducing food insecurity and undernutrition.

In partnership with the government of Brazil, the WFP Center of Excellence against Hunger provides governments from developing countries the opportunity to benefit from structured learning exchanges based on the Brazilian model for eradicating hunger – *Fome Zero* or Zero Hunger. The center provides institutional, policy and financial support for the development of nationally owned frameworks and strategies. To date 23 countries have benefitted from this partnership, 75 per cent of them in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Twinning arrangements are used to match in-kind food contributions from a developing country with cash contribution from one or more donors to meet related costs. For example, in 2013 the government of Pakistan provided food valued at US$ 39 million matched with cash donations from CERF and donor countries. Since 2004, WFP has leveraged in-kind contributions valued at over US$ 600 million from more than 40 countries through this modality.

Looking towards 2015, we must recognize that we have enormous challenges in front of us. Much remains to be done to achieve the **MDG1 target of halving hunger**.

The recent State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) report for 2013 provided clear evidence that growth and rising incomes do not result in proportional improvements in food security and nutrition.

Between 1990 and 2010, the number of people living in extreme poverty was reduced by more than 50 per cent. However, the number of undernourished declined by only 17 per cent. There are still 842 million food insecure people in the world today.
Economic growth does play a key role for improving food security and nutrition. However, the reality is that economic growth is not always inclusive, this results in missed or uneven benefits for many.

Strategies for addressing poverty need to be “nutrition sensitive” to ensure real impacts on malnutrition. Agriculture-led growth is more effective in reducing food insecurity and malnutrition when it is supplemented by social protection and nutrition-specific interventions. We need targeted policies and investments to ensure that the social benefits from economic growth reach the most vulnerable populations.

The Secretary-General’s **Zero Hunger Challenge** provides the international community with a framework for advancing progress. It consists of five pillars:

(1) 100% access to adequate food all year round;

(2) Zero stunted children less than 2 years;

(3) All food systems are sustainable;

(4) 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income;

(5) Zero loss or waste of food.

With this framework, partnerships across institutional lines and with a broad range of stakeholders are growing and momentum can be built to eradicate hunger and malnutrition in the post-2015 era.

Thank you.