

Agenda Items 5-B
**Evaluation on the evaluation of the policy on WFP's role in
peacebuilding in transition settings**

Mister President

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

[XXX, XXXX, XXXX align themselves with this statement.]

We take note of the evaluation of the 2013 policy on WFP's role in peacebuilding in transition settings, and the related Management response.

Conflicts represent one of the main drivers of rising humanitarian needs and food insecurity. 2022 has shown this very clearly to the world. We underline that a conflict-sensitive and 'do no harm' approach as well as the respect of humanitarian principles are crucial in conflict settings. Enhanced efforts to improve understanding of such contexts remain necessary.

We take note that the evaluation overall found the policy to be well-formulated and relevant, but that achievement of results was limited.

Therefore, we invite WFP to conduct better analysis of contexts, conflict dynamics and related risks and to use these results to adapt programmes, processes and systems in conflict-sensitive way. In this respect, we support recommendation 1 to strengthen country-level conflict analysis, including

risk analysis, as well as recommendation 2 to better integrate conflict sensitivity. We acknowledge that the support provided to country offices for conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity has only recently increased and encourage WFP to strengthen it. This analysis is particularly relevant for WFP's use of Cash-based Transfers and should also be given special attention in WFP's Cash-based Transfer Policy, which will be presented to the Executive Board later this year.

We emphasise the importance of strengthening synergies with other cross-cutting aspects such as protection, gender, disability and inclusion, accountability to affected populations, as well as access.

We take note that the evaluation found some important analytical blind spots, including the interaction between WFP and host governments, especially when a government is a party in a conflict. We reiterate that in conflict settings, strong awareness and full respect of humanitarian principles, in particular impartiality and neutrality, are of utmost importance. In line with recommendation 3 on strengthening the mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity in WFP's processes and work with partners, we invite WFP to address these issues in order to reduce to the largest extent possible the risk of inadvertently reinforcing tensions or conflict. We look forward to the forthcoming conflict sensitivity mainstreaming strategy of WFP.

We note the evaluation finding that WFP's contribution to peace lies mainly in reducing food insecurity and supporting local food production systems as part of broader coordinated efforts to prevent conflict and support peace. The evaluation also concluded that evidence of positive effects of

programmes addressing the drivers of conflict other than food insecurity is rare. Considering these findings, we encourage WFP to better clarify the organisation's contribution to peace and to reflect in the policy the critical role of coordination and partnership with peacebuilding actors.

In this vein, we strongly support recommendation 4: alleviating food insecurity should remain the most important WFP contribution to peace. Reducing food insecurity impartially and based on needs is the organisation's core mandate. Hence, we invite WFP not to redirect its attention and resources towards efforts to reduce conflict drivers other than food insecurity. Furthermore, we encourage WFP to focus on supporting existing peacebuilding processes and continue exploring partnerships with other actors, including key local ones, drawing on its core strengths and comparative advantage.

We also continue to see a crucial role for WFP through analysis, data-collection, and where possible advocacy, in showing the link between conflict and hunger, promoting compliance with the UNSC resolution 2417 and prevention of the use of starvation as a weapon of war.

Lastly, in line with recommendation 4.2, we encourage WFP to engage in humanitarian diplomacy to increase humanitarian access, in close coordination with other actors and as part of an overarching UN process. We would welcome more clarity on how WFP sees its own role in this regard, including potential challenges in relation to upholding humanitarian principles. Considering WFP's role as a major humanitarian actor, any form

of engagement should ensure that WFP's neutrality and independence are safeguarded.

Thank you.