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WFP Statement to the Seventy-Second World Health Assembly
Geneva, 24 May 2019, Committee B
Agenda Item 20 on “Collaboration within the United Nations system and with other intergovernmental organizations”

Chair, Honourable Delegates, Director-General, United Nations partners, Esteemed Colleagues: There is broad recognition that UN agencies must leverage interlinkages and comparative advantages to support Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We will not be able to reach the targets in both SDG2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG3 unless we work together. The Global Action Plan for healthy lives and well-being for all (GAP) provides the international community with a vehicle to leverage such interlinkages and to forge operational partnerships to reach the most vulnerable and furthest behind in an intersectoral way. For this reason, WFP has committed to co-leading GAP Accelerator 7, which aims to advance innovative programming in fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable states and for disease outbreak responses.

Working jointly to respond to both acute and protracted emergencies and prepare for future health crises is serving to deepen the collaboration between WFP and WHO. This is in line with commitments to improve efficiency through partnerships across the UN and efforts to address the humanitarian-development nexus.

Of note is our ongoing collaboration in the Ebola emergency response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. From the beginning of Ebola operations to 5 May 2019, WFP has reached nearly 309,000 people with food and nutrition assistance, the majority of whom are contacts of confirmed cases and their households. WFP is also assisting WHO’s medical response by providing engineering, logistics and aviation services, while at the same time supporting preparedness activities in neighbouring countries.

Over the past year, WFP has also supported WHO’s response to the crisis in Yemen through the provision of fuel for clinics, logistics, planning, telecommunications, and engineering – including construction of cholera treatment centres.

Additionally, we have further strengthened our partnership on issues ranging from supply chain to pandemic preparedness, malnutrition in fragile contexts, and emergency response.

Building on this partnership’s success, we are committed to enhancing our collaboration, combining our expertise and coordinating our efforts to realise both SDG2 and SDG3. We look forward to expanding future collaboration through the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding this year.

Thank you.