



69th Session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

Statement by the World Food Programme (WFP)

(Delivered by Ms. Gordana Jerger, Director, WFP Geneva Office)

3 October 2018

Madam Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address this 69th meeting of UNHCR's Executive Committee.

Over the past several years, the collaboration between UNHCR and WFP has deepened considerably as we both seek to address the needs of people caught up in humanitarian crises around the globe.

Most recently, on 17 September this year, our Executive Director and the High Commissioner signed a data sharing agreement which lays the foundation for greater interoperability between our two organizations, taking us to a new level of partnership and deepening our joint capacities for assessments, analysis, identity management and monitoring.

This compliments several agreements that we have concluded over the past several years, giving clear recognition that our two organizations can and will increase the inter-operability of our systems and delivery mechanisms, putting people at the centre of our work.

Recognizing the worrying rise in forced displacement over the past several years, we will also strengthen our common advocacy efforts to ensure that adequate resources are available to respond to the needs of refugees.

They face heightened levels of vulnerability, putting them at risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms that can have significant negative longer-term consequences for their well-being.

WFP wishes to commend the High Commissioner and his team for the valuable and untiring work to develop the Global Compact on Refugees. We are very pleased that food security and nutrition are featured in the Compact, a necessary and welcome recognition of the importance of these in addressing the protection needs of refugees.

Last but not least, I should like to highlight the work that WFP and UNHCR are leading as co-Chairs of the Business Innovations Group of the Secretary-General's development reform efforts. A full-time project team has been established with staff so far from WFP, UNHCR, UNDP and DOCO. While there is still much work to be done, we are endeavouring to bring our operational experience and knowledge in demonstrably increasing value for money in the management of back office functions, by advancing common business operations and common premises.

At a time when we are faced with a multiplicity of humanitarian crises driven by conflict, climate change and other disasters, WFP remains a steadfast partner with UNHCR in our common endeavour to ensure protection-sensitive humanitarian assistance to persons of concern.