

**Delegation from
The State of Libya**

**Represented by
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Position Paper for the World Food Programme

The topics before the World Food Programme (WFP) are: Enhancing Food Procurement Strategies; Improving Food Security to Support the Return, Reintegration, and Resettlement of Displaced Populations; and Climate Change and Food Security: Strengthening National Capacity and Resilience. The State of Libya recognizes the food security as a key priority and looks forward to working multilaterally with Member States and discussing these topics at the upcoming conference.

I. Enhancing Food Procurement Strategies

Food Procurement is a theme of major concern. Therefore enhancing Food Procurement Strategies is a key issue. Achieving food security is one of the goals of the United Nations, and especially the WFP, since 925 million people still do not have enough to eat, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The State of Libya is all the more concerned as the increasing violence and instability since 2011 has led to the end of a Welfare State that covered the needs of the population. More than 1.33 million people are in dire need of humanitarian assistance in the State of Libya, 55% of whom are women and children. Libya considers enhancing Food Procurement strategy as an urgent necessity.

Libya pledges to support WFP's actions which are already very useful and essential for its population. Through the Emergency Operation 200925 (EMOP 200925) – *Assistance to People Affected by the Crisis in Libya* launched in January 2016, the WFP assisted in average 75 000 people per month in 2016 with food distribution. This operation was possible thanks to three local Cooperating Partners, three NGOs: LibAid in the east, Sheikh Taher Azzawi Charity Organization in west and south of Libya and Ayady Al Khair Society. However, the extension of the operation through December 2017 in order to continue providing food packs to people in need shows that the conflict is far from being over and that the population of the State of Libya does suffer from a major humanitarian crisis.

Libya believes that lives are at stake and stresses the need for Member States to improve coordination and to increase funds allocated to the EMOP to help population suffering from the crisis within its own borders. Libya also recommends a military help to try and fight the exclusion of starving populations in some areas of the country due to intensive conflicts. More generally, the State of Libya is deeply convinced that a closer cooperation between Member States and local NGO would enhance Food Procurement Strategy and address the issue of food security.

II. Improving Food Security to Support the Return, Reintegration, and Resettlement of Displaced Populations

Food security means that a country can provide sufficient quantity of food to its people and guarantee their access to it, which is part of the right to food, and is recognized internationally and by the United Nations as a human right. It is arguably a priority for population fleeing conflicts and threats to find a place to live where they can have access to food. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Center and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimate there are at least round 3 13,236 internally displaced people in the State of Libya (mostly located in the western region, as food shortages and higher food prices are most prevalent in the southern region of Fezzan), 462,957 returnees and more than 5,000 refugees since the beginning of the Libyan civil war. According to the World Food Program (WFP) 24% of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are food insecure and 62% are vulnerable to food insecurity. Medium-sized households headed by unemployed women are the least food secure, with almost one third being food insecure. For most of them, they cannot get back to their country or their cities, even after the peace has been restored and our government can ensure security, for their houses cannot be reconstructed by lack of financial means and humanitarian food does not reach them. Four thousand families coming from the city of Syrte are forced to live in Tripoli, where they struggle to pay their rent and eat their fill. That is why, in addition to the refugees and the displaced, 1.75 million non-displaced Libyans, most residing in urban centers, are in need of humanitarian assistance.

During the last six months, military operations against DAESH located in and around Sirte have led to an increase in IDPs. In the EMOP 200925, WFP provided food assistance monthly to the neediest IDPs and refugees in Libya, contracted new Cooperating Partners and engaged in their training in reporting, finance and logistics. In its budget increase of 2016, the WFP decided of an extension period of twelve months (making the new end date of the operation December 2017) and assured that WFP will provide monthly food rations to 65,000 IDPs, 20,000

refugees and 90,000 returnees identified as the most vulnerable by the local crisis committees. Cooperating Partners of the HCR dispatch humanitarian food to IDPs in the regions of Zintan, Nafoussa (70,000 people) and Warshafana (30,000 people). The security council of the UN further decided on December 13th, in its 2323 resolution that “UNSMIL, within operational and security constraints, should undertake the following tasks: (i) support to key Libyan institutions; (ii) support, on request, for the provision of essential services, and delivery of humanitarian assistance and in accordance with humanitarian principles”. The Islamic State lost control over almost all of Sirte, where it had been based since June 2015.

However, the lack of housing, infrastructures still keeps IDPs from returning safely and have food dispatched to them. The HCR relies a lot on its local Cooperating Partners but those partners are in incapacity to access the areas most affected. Moreover, 44% of IDPs is spending all their savings on food and reduces non-food expenses on health and education which has led to the closing of more than 60 schools and universities according to the HCR, and criminality has been rising. The delegation of Libya then asks for the foreign forces and then UNSMIL to help reconstruct the city of Sirte and the western region, for IDPs to have a safe place to have access to humanitarian food and stop sacrificing their health and education to be able to eat. The delegation of Libya renews its vow to help the international communities, the NGOs and the local associations to help dispatching food, which means involving the state’s army to secure the routes. The delegation of Libya also underlines it would entirely cooperate with a cease-fire for humanitarian purposes, but will not negotiate its sovereignty with the other criminal parties in Libya.

III. Climate Change and Food Security: Strengthening National Capacity and Resilience

Climate Change has a huge impact on Food Security and is consequently an important topic for the WFP. According to FAO reports and previous WFP analysis, climate change could indeed, have effects on food availability and food access since extreme weather events and fluctuation of temperatures can destroy or affect agriculture and livelihood assets. Moreover, the fluctuation of prices due to climate-related disasters makes poor people even more vulnerable and unable to cover their food needs. This new threat is all the more disturbing as the global population is projected to increase by 2.5 billion by 2050. Strengthening National Capacity in order to make sure every Member States are able to achieve food security and protect vulnerable populations is therefore a key challenge. The delegation of Libya considers that protecting food security despite climate change relies on the resilience of every countries.

The delegation of Libya strongly supports and encourages actions of the WFP in favour of the adaptation to climate change and to the edification of a strong resilience. 700 000 people benefitted from climate change adaptation activities which were implemented by WFP and more than 40% of WFP’s operations in the last five years included activities to limit disaster risk and build resilience. As a Member of the Executive Board elected by FAO Council, Libya has participated in the launch of initiatives such as the WFP’s Food Assistance for Assets initiative, which is aimed at addressing immediate food needs and at promoting the building, protection or rehabilitation of assets that could improve food security and resilience on the long term. The Food Security Climate Resilience Facility (FoodSECuRE) was also developed by WFP: this fund is a financial instrument that supports actions to reinforce and build climate resilience. At the 7th Conference of the Parties in 2001, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change created the Adaptation Fund, to finance concrete projects aimed at helping developing countries to adapt the effects of climate change.

Libya acknowledges the strong connection between climate change, food security and national capacity and resilience. Moreover, citizens of Libya are among people who are the most affected by the threat of climate change on food security since it has already been undermined by the conflict that has been raging since 2011 and since Africa is one of the continents where climate change is expected to have the more important local impacts. Therefore, the delegation of Libya pledges for the protection of food security through adaptation to climate change. On one hand, every country should have the capacity to rely on precise and accurate information on climate change to be able to prepare themselves to potential natural disasters. However, developing countries do not have those abilities and do need the financial and scientific help of developed countries. On the other hand, strengthening resilience for all vulnerable people includes adopting practices: protecting existing livelihood systems, diversifying sources of foods... Libya therefore urges for a global protection of biodiversity and current assets thanks to a greater cooperation between Member States, NGOs and local population.