

Remarks for Tokyo Conference on Afghanistan by WFP Deputy Executive Director, Ramiro Lopes da Silva

- ✓ WFP congratulates Japan and Afghanistan for hosting this historic conference on Afghanistan in Tokyo.
- ✓ WFP has a long history of engagement with Afghanistan since 1963 when WFP was established. We reiterate that engagement.
- ✓ Hunger remains a central challenge in Afghanistan. One in three Afghans is food insecure, 18% children under five are acutely malnourished and 55% chronically malnourished. Taming hunger will allow the release of the full potential of the Afghan people to effectively participate and contribute in the development of the country. Over the first half of 2012, WFP has taken a close look at its portfolio in Afghanistan with the goal to identify the programs with higher potentials for positive impacts in contributing to the government's goals as detailed in the national priority programs. We will be focussing

our support in investing on community-owned asset creation with food insecure communities, in safety nets to ensure that vulnerable groups are assisted and have access to food, and in nutrition programs targeting children and mothers.

- ✓ In parallel, we will continue working with relevant ministries supporting the capacity development and institutional strengthening to enable them to take charge of the full management of these programs.

- ✓ In view of Afghanistan's fragile food security and exposure to natural disasters, WFP will continue to work with the government on emergency preparedness and disaster management. In that regard WFP will retain a surge capacity to support quick response in case of events that may impair the availability and accessibility to food.

- ✓ At the center of our engagement moving forward is our commitment to expand and deepen our partnership with state institutions, civil society

organizations, and sister UN agencies. Taming hunger requires multifaceted and comprehensive approaches needing predictable commitment and multi-stakeholder approach. Doing it right with a comprehensive and well integrated package of programs can generate as shown in other countries, short and medium term economic growth across several sectors, from agriculture and manufacturing. It is about not only social development.

- ✓ I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Afghan government and our donors for their support. Above all I wish to thank the Afghan people for their trust and confidence.

Thank you