

**World Food Programme's Statement at the 68th session of the Executive Committee of the
High Commissioner's Programme
Delivered by Ms. Gordana Jerger, Director WFP Geneva Office**

4 October 2017

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

At a time when the world faces humanitarian crises on an unprecedented scale, the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNHCR are strengthening collaboration to leverage our respective capabilities and resources. As at the end of 2016, WFP supported 6.4 million refugees in 33 countries, including in the process of reintegration in their home communities. Underlining the critical nature of this support, a recent study by WFP entitled "At the Root of Exodus" identifies clear linkages between food security, conflict and international migration. The report recommends investing in food security and livelihoods at or near people's place of origin. Doing so may contribute to the prevention of displacement, reduce forced onward migration, result in more cost-effective humanitarian interventions and yield greater socioeconomic benefits now and in the longer term.

As a recent example of our joint efforts to deepen our partnership, WFP and UNHCR concluded an Addendum on Cash-Based Transfers to our Global Memorandum of Understanding. Signed by our two Executive Heads in May, this represents a crucial step towards continuing to ensure that our efforts to assist refugees remain effective and efficient. Underpinning this agreement are additional work streams on data sharing and joint targeting. Towards this goal, for example, in Niger, WFP and UNHCR have developed a vulnerability-based targeting methodology to collect and analyse data on refugee populations and the communities that are hosting them.

The ongoing efforts to give shape to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees are being closely followed by WFP. As a member of the Global Migration Group and working in close consultation with UNHCR on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, WFP looks forward to renewed opportunities

to work with host governments and partners to lift communities from their dependence on humanitarian support and have them included in the national planning efforts and social safety nets, engendering thus longer-term development and building peace.

The UNHCR - WFP new Joint Strategy on Enhancing Self-Reliance in Food Security and Nutrition is one example of our strong collaboration in this regard. This new way of working posits that greater levels of refugee self-reliance in food security and nutrition can be achieved over multi-year time-frames through the strengthening of refugees' livelihoods while ensuring that their basic food and nutrition needs are met.

Madam Chairperson,

At a time when a record-high number of people have been forced to flee their homes across the world, WFP remains a steadfast partner of UNHCR in providing support to those in need.

Thank you.