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FINANCE COMMITTEE

Hundred and Sixty-seventh Session

Rome, 29 - 31 May 2017

Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The “Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports” is submitted to the Board for approval.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

- The Finance Committee is requested to endorse the “Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports” for approval by the Executive Board.

Draft Advice

- **In accordance with Article XIV of the General Regulations of WFP, the FAO Finance Committee advises the WFP Executive Board to approve the Executive Director’s proposed revisions to the “Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports” (WFP/EB.2/2012/4-A/1)**



World Food Programme

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Agenda Item 6

WFP/EB.A/2017/6-B/1

Resource, Financial and Budgetary Matters

For approval

Executive Board documents are available on WFP's website (<http://executiveboard.wfp.org>).

Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports

Draft decision*

The Board approves, with immediate effect, the proposed revisions to the Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports set forth in this paper, through:

- i) extending the procedures for the disclosure of investigation reports approved by the Board at the second session of 2012, through the “Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports” (WFP/EB.2/2012/4-A/1), to proactive integrity review reports; and
- ii) approving the administrative procedures set forth at points six through eight of Annex A to this paper.

* This is a draft decision. For the final decision adopted by the Board, please refer to the Decisions and Recommendations document issued at the end of the session.

Focal point:

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Background

1. The Board approved the “Policy for Disclosure of Internal Audit Reports to Member States”¹ in November 2010, “Policy for Disclosure of Investigation Reports”² in June 2011 and the “Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports” in November 2012,³ which consolidated the disclosure policy in respect of all reports (i.e. audit, inspection, and investigation reports).
2. In addition, the Board approved the revised Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption (AFAC) Policy⁴ in May 2015 which authorized the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to undertake proactive integrity reviews (PIR) on specific operational issues that may indicate risk of fraud, corruption, collusion and other wrongdoings. Given that PIR reports are not covered by the above disclosure policy, the Board requested the Inspector General and management to update the disclosure policy in order to include PIR reports.
3. This document proposes the inclusion of disclosure of PIR reports in the scope of the disclosure policy.
4. Additionally, the Secretariat proposes to clarify administrative procedures, set forth at points 6 to 8 of Annex A, concerning receipt of disclosure requests and confidentiality obligations of report recipients. Some aspects of these procedures were already set forth in the 2010 and 2011 policies.
5. All proposed changes to the 2012 “Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports” are highlighted through underlined and bold text in the Annex to this paper.

¹ WFP/EB.2/2010/4-B/1/Rev.1.

² Set forth at Annex II to the Oversight Framework and Reports Disclosure Policy (WFP/EB.A/2011/5-C/1).

³ WFP/EB.2/2012/4-A/1.

⁴ WFP/EB.A/2015/5-E/1.

ANNEX A

Policy for Disclosure of Oversight Reports

1. WFP affirms its commitment to transparency and accountability in all its activities and decision-making.
2. Internal audit and inspection reports issued after 12 November 2012 will be placed on the public website one month after their submission to the Executive Director.
3. Permanent Representatives accredited to the United Nations Rome-based agencies may request investigation reports **and proactive integrity review** reports.
4. The Inspector General may enter into formal agreements with his/her counterparts in member nations and public international organizations to share investigation reports **and proactive integrity review reports** on a confidential and reciprocal basis.
5. Permanent Representatives and public international organizations shall treat any investigation **or proactive integrity review** report received under this policy as confidential.
6. **All disclosures of investigation reports and proactive integrity review reports shall be accompanied by a statement regarding the obligations of Permanent Representatives and public international organizations to treat any investigation report and proactive integrity review report received under this policy as confidential. Requests for access shall confirm that access will be employed for internal purposes only.**
7. **Requests from a Permanent Representative for disclosure of a report are addressed to the Executive Director. Requests should identify the title of the report being requested, include a statement that the Permanent Representative will comply with his or her obligation to treat the report as confidential and ensure that it will be used only for internal purposes, and be signed and dated by the Permanent Representative or his/her alternate.**
8. **Upon receipt of a request for disclosure of an investigation report or a proactive integrity review report, the Office of the Executive Director shall forward it to the Inspector General for decision.**
9. Where disclosure of the contents of a report would be inappropriate for reasons of confidentiality, or where it could place in jeopardy the safety and security of any individual, or run the risk of violating the rights of individuals, the report may be redacted or withheld at the discretion of the Inspector General and Director, Oversight Office.
10. Reasons for redacting or withholding a report will be disclosed on the public website or to the Permanent Representative, as applicable.
11. Where a report contains findings related to a specific State, the Executive Director shall provide a copy of the report to the Permanent Representative of that State. If that Permanent Representative wishes to provide comments to the report in writing, those comments, if applicable, will be made available on the website or to the Permanent Representative requesting the report. The comments will be reviewed to ensure that they contain no information deemed too sensitive, as described in the policy, and may be redacted or withheld at the discretion of the Inspector General and Director, Oversight Office. Reasons for redacting or withholding comments will be disclosed on the public website or to the Permanent Representative, as applicable.
12. This policy shall apply to reports issued subsequent to its approval by the Board.