



World Food
Programme

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Alimentos

برنامج
الغذية
العالمي

The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

20 January 2008

Mr Václav Mikulka
Director
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea
Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations
New York N.Y. 10017
USA

Dear Mr Mikulka,

I refer to the letter dated 10 December 2008 from Ms Patricia O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, to the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, inviting WFP to submit information on the impact of the Consultative Process on its activities.

Of particular relevance to the World Food Programme are the outcomes of the Ninth meeting on maritime security and safety, specifically with regard to piracy and armed robbery against ships.

In 2005, the hijacking off the coast of Somalia of two ships carrying food aid forced WFP to suspend its deliveries for several weeks, endangering the food security of populations which rely heavily on WFP's assistance. This situation compelled WFP to appeal, in close consultation with IMO, for concerted and sustainable international action against piracy.

In this context, WFP welcomed France's offer of September 2007 to provide short-term military escorts to ships carrying food assistance to Somalia, on the basis of bilateral agreements with flag States and the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia. This initiative was subsequently joined by Denmark, the Netherlands, Canada and NATO.

WFP further welcomed the involvement of the United Nations Security Council to promote an international response against acts of piracy and armed robbery in Somalia, in particular through its Resolutions 1772 (2007), 1814 (2008), 1816 (2008), 1839 (2008) and 1846 (2008). It also welcomed the decision by the EU on 10 November 2008 to launch a naval operation for a period of twelve months to, *inter alia*, protect ships carrying relief cargo under the auspices of WFP.

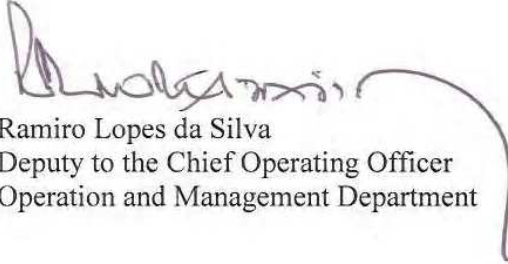
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WFP is much appreciative of the international efforts deployed to secure unimpeded deliveries to Somalia; these have been decisive for the continuity of its relief programmes. It remains concerned however about the sustainability of these initiatives in the long term.

Whilst WFP sees, in the current context, their continuation as a prerequisite, it is conscious that the root causes of piracy also need to be addressed in order to curb a phenomenon which constitutes a major destabilisation factor for the country and the region.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ramiro Lopes da Silva', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right and then curves back down.

Ramiro Lopes da Silva
Deputy to the Chief Operating Officer
Operation and Management Department