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H.E. Dr. Nageeb Manssor Hamid Al-Oj
Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Republic of Yemen
(Transmission by email: moit.gov.ye@outlook.com)

***Subject: Global Agriculture and Food Security Program GAFSP
Statement of readiness***

Excellency,

This letter is to serve the purpose of the "Statement of readiness from the preferred Supervising Entity" to be included in the GAFSP submission package that the Government of Yemen intends to present to the GAFSP Secretariat in response to the 2019 *Special Call for Proposals for Fragile and Conflict Affected Countries - GAFSP Public Sector Window*.

The World Bank fully endorses and supports the proposal prepared by the Government of Yemen with support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). After a careful review and discussion of this proposal the World Bank's endorsement is provided in view of: (a) the vast needs of the country given an unprecedented food crisis Yemen is facing in result of the ongoing conflict; and (b) the urgent support required for the agricultural sector to mitigate food insecurity and restart livelihood activities. The proposed project would build on the ongoing GAFSP funded Smallholder Agriculture Production Restoration and Enhancement Project and expand support to reach new areas in need of emergency assistance and scale up support to improve agricultural production and nutrition. We note that the project design incorporates lessons learned and experience acquired from the recently completed and ongoing agricultural and food security operations in Yemen. The project proposal is ready for detailed preparation of investment operation.

In these regards, I am pleased to confirm the World Bank's readiness to serve as Supervising Entity for the above-mentioned proposal in the event of its acceptance for funding by the GAFSP Steering Committee. The detailed *preparation* of this operation would then follow our regular investment lending procedures and standard requirements for approval and implementation of stand-alone investment projects.

The proposed project is aligned with the objectives of the World Bank Group's Yemen Country Engagement Note for Fiscal Years 2020-2021 to (a) continue supporting the delivery of basic services, including agriculture; and (b) extending support to livelihoods, human capital, and basic economic recovery. Overall, the World Bank current portfolio in Yemen comprises the following five active operations which provide critical support to Yemeni families and communities across the country:

1. Emergency Crisis Response Project (IDA, US\$640 million) in partnership with UNDP and UNICEF;
2. Emergency Health and Nutrition Project (IDA, US\$483 million) in partnership with UNICEF and WHO;
3. Smallholder Agricultural Production Restoration and Enhancements (GAFSP, US\$36 million) in partnership with FAO;
4. Integrated Urban Service Emergency Project (IDA, US\$150 million) in partnership with UNOPS;
5. Emergency Electricity Access Project (IDA, US\$50 million) in partnership with UNOPS

Please allow me to take advantage of this opportunity to thank your Excellency for your trust and continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



Raja Bentaouet Kattan
Country Manager