



**SPEECH OF H.E. DR. MUBARAK RASHID AL-BOAININ**  
HEAD OF MISSION OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO ITALY  
PERMANENT OBSERVER REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO THE UN AGENCIES IN ROME

AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE FOR SCHOOL MEALS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION IN  
THE MENA REGION  
AT THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE WFP EXECUTIVE BOARD  
TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2017

Mme Executive Director  
Excellencies and esteemed colleagues,

The League of Arab States has always supported and believed in the importance of active cooperation to achieve sustainable development.

As such, we understand that the “*Initiative for school meals, Education, and Social Protection*” is an important and comprehensive plan which aims to tackle at-once, malnutrition, schooling, and the need to create a social safety net around children in the MENA region – in particular those most affected by ongoing economic crisis, famine, war or civil unrest and displacement.

It is also clear that, to succeed, this initiative requires a proactive approach through the engagement of regional governments, donors, institutions and other actors in designing strategic plans and coordinating initiatives and policies in order to promote stability in the more vulnerable areas and to support growth and development in the more stable ones.

In this context, we are honoured to inform you that in its 36th session, last December, the Arab Ministerial Council of Social Affairs issued Resolution 828, which welcomes the cooperation with the WFP and instructs its technical Secretariat to engage in joint programmes that address common goals with the aim to implement and fulfill Agenda 2030.

Mme Executive Director  
Excellencies and esteemed colleagues,

The League of Arab States is ready to engage with the WFP in efforts to devise a comprehensive regional plan of intervention with the aim to harmonize existing varied approaches to this common goal of sustainable development to the benefit of all the children in our region.

Thank you