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Subject: Bulletin from UGSS

The Union of the General Service Staff salutes our colleagues in Gaza, Jordan, Egypt and the Regional Bureau and confirms unconditional support for the courageous stance taken in stating unequivocally the grave concerns of the staff over WFP's position in Gaza, and the perceived ambiguous stance of the Executive Director, advisors and Leadership Group on the war and on the attendance of Ms. McCain at the Halifax International Security Forum in Canada.

The UGSS sent a request for clarification to the Ethics Office on 23 November 2023, recalling the wording of the WFP Code of Conduct (Executive Director's Circular dated 13 June 2022 – OED2022/14), and more specifically para. 6 which expressly provides: "The Code of Conduct incorporates principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter – [omissis]... competence, integrity, impartiality, independence and discretion; the Humanitarian Principles – humanity, neutrality, impartiality, operational independence" We further noted that the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) Standards of Conduct are implied into the WFP Policy, together with the Charter of the United Nations which both expressly deal with expectations of conduct and accountability for meeting those expectations and reiterated the UN commitment to neutrality.

UGSS affirms support for the colleagues who have spoken out directly to the Executive Director and her staff and further recalls that those who in good faith report misconduct (or perceived misconduct) are protected from retaliation.

Clear direction and wholehearted commitment to WFP and the UN are needed at this moment as our colleagues and beneficiaries are literally enduring terror, hardship and are in fear for their lives and those of their families.

There is no room for equivocation!

Whether or not the UN itself has taken up a position the use of starvation as a weapon should not prevent WFP, which has always been a leader in the pursuit of the right to food, from continuing to fight for that right.. We invite our leadership to take up this request.