



Food Assistance Committee
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

11 November 2016

PRESS RELEASE

7th Session of the Food Assistance Committee
London, 11 November 2016

The Food Assistance Committee (FAC) convened for its 7th formal Session on 11 November 2016 at the Secretariat of the International Grains Council in London, under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Matthew Nims, Deputy Director, Office of Food For Peace, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, USAID representing the United States.

The meeting was attended by Parties of the Convention, namely, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Finland, Japan, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America. Additionally, representatives from Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Trans-Atlantic Dialogue on Food Assistance (TAFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) were present as observers.

The Committee discussed the growing number of people affected by conflict and climate related emergencies resulting in record numbers of people displaced and food insecure.

Members who participated in the June 2016 joint FAC mission to Haiti presented highlights from that trip, describing the projects funded by FAC members that were visited and discussing lessons learned from their time in the field together including the value of increased coordination and holistic approaches to address food insecurity. Members expressed support for future joint missions to the field to observe and experience programming in action.

Concerning other agenda items, there were discussions on the 2016 Annual Report with consideration to possible streamlining of country reporting. Members also provided updates on efforts to reach out to new donors.

Members confirmed their minimum annual commitments for 2017 and discussed the adoption of a future rotational schedule for the appointment of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

The formal Session was preceded on 10 November by a seminar entitled "*The Role of Early Warning and Analysis to Improve Food Security Responses*," which explored the use of science, data and early warning to help the food security community better prepare, plan and respond to food insecurity. Presentations were given by Mr. Christopher Hillbruner, Deputy Chief of Party, Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Washington DC and Mr. Francois Kayitakire, Food Security Assessment Team Leader, European Commission Joint Research Center (JRC), Ispra, Italy.