



**Food Assistance Committee**  
**Comité de l'assistance alimentaire**

10 November 2017

**PRESS RELEASE**

**9th Session of the Food Assistance Committee**  
London, 10 November 2017

The Food Assistance Committee convened for its 9th formal Session on 10 November 2017 at the Secretariat of the International Grains Council in London, under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Matthew Nims, Acting 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, France, Japan, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America. Additionally, representatives from Republic of Korea, Action for Hunger (ACF), 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) and the World Food Programme (WFP) were present as observers.

Participants discussed the unprecedented levels of global food and nutrition insecurity and outlined their current food assistance operations. The adverse role of conflict in driving historic levels of displacement and emergency food needs in places like Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and Nigeria, was also discussed in depth. The FAO and EU DEVCO presented the first annual Global Report on Food Crises 2017, which was published this year and can be a useful resource to FAC members.

Members confirmed their minimum annual commitments for 2018 and agreed to organise the Committee's second joint field mission the location and date is pending confirmation. FAC members conducted the first joint field mission to Haiti in 2016.

With regard to the appointment of officers for 2018, Mr. Shuichi Akamatsu, Minister for Economy, Embassy of Japan, London was appointed as Chair and Katharina Jenny, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation was appointed as Vice-Chair of the FAC for 2018.

The formal Session was preceded on 9 November by a seminar entitled "*Sahel – A forgotten food and nutrition crisis*," which focussed on the current food and nutrition security situation in the Sahel. An overview of the unique challenges faced in addressing food insecurity in the Sahel was presented by the FAO and Action Against Hunger provided a contextual analysis of the nutrition crisis and response. The U.S., EU, DFID and others discussed the need to work in the humanitarian-development nexus to address the unique challenges faced in the region.

PR (FAC November 2017)