



Food Assistance  
Convention

Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

# The new **Food Assistance Convention**

6 June 2013

Kilian Greter, FAC Chairperson 2013

# Food Aid Convention



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- The Food Aid Convention was in force from 1967 to 2012
- Main objective: minimum levels of food aid on a predictable basis by commitments from members defined as wheat equivalents.
- Food Aid Convention was part of the Grains Agreement
- Member States: Australia, Canada, European Union, Norway, Japan, Switzerland, US [and Argentina]

# Negotiation of the Food Assistance Convention (FAC)



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Food Aid Convention did not anymore reflect Food Assistance policies of all members
- Negotiation of the FAC from January 2011 to April 2012 under Chairmanship of Leslie Norton (CAN)
- FAC entered into force on 1 January 2013

# Objectives of the FAC



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

Save lives, reduce hunger, improve food security, and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations by

- Commitments
- Shared principles
- Information sharing and cooperation

# Features of the FAC



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Independent Convention
- Good-will treaty, no enforcement mechanisms
- No 'operational' organisation
- Open-ended convention
- FAC year = calendar year
- Official languages: English and French
- Rules of Procedures and Implementation

# Content of the FAC



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Objectives
- Principles
- Commitment
  - Definition of the Commitment
  - Activities and associated costs for meeting the Commitment
  - Contributions: 80% in fully grant form
- Reporting and Information sharing
- Organisational and formal issues

# FAC principles



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

## General principles

- based on needs and whenever possible fully granted
- long-term development objectives and avoid dependency
- protects livelihood and local markets, strengthen self-reliance and resilience

## Effectiveness

- coordination and cooperation with relevant stakeholders
- minimize associated costs, purchase food locally and regionally
- monetization only where there is an identified need, no market development.

## Accountability

- Strengthen the transparency, monitoring and accountability,

# Commitments



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Quantity or value Commitments
- Flexible commitments, can be adapted annually
- Initial Commitments (for 2013):

|                |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Austria        | € 1.495 m.   | ~ US\$ 2 m.   |
| Canada         | C\$ 250 m.   | ~ US\$ 240 m. |
| Denmark        | DKK 185 m.   | ~ US\$ 32 m.  |
| European Union | € 200 m.     | ~ US\$ 260 m. |
| Finland        | € 6 m.       | ~ US\$ 8 m.   |
| Japan          | JPY 10 bn.   | ~ US\$ 100 m. |
| Switzerland    | CHF 34 m.    | ~ US\$ 36 m.  |
| USA            | US\$ 1.6 bn. | US\$ 1.6 bn.  |



# Eligible Activities



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Provision and distribution of eligible products
- Cash transfers
- Commodity-based or cash-based voucher transfers
- Nutritional interventions



Food Assistance  
Convention

Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

# Eligible Products

- Grains, rice, soybeans; incl. prod. of primary or secondary proc.
  - Pulses and root crops
  - Edible oil and sugar
  - Other products part of a traditional diet, or included in food baskets
- 
- Dairy products
  - Supplementary and therapeutic feeding products, micronutrients, salt
  - Fortified blended food and Ready to use food
  - Fruits and vegetables
  - Seeds, seedlings, and plant cuttings that relate to the previous list of products
  - Basic hand-held agricultural and fishing tools
  - Basic food preparation equipment
  - Livestock for milk and consumption purposes

# Associated Costs



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Logistical costs, incl. twinning
- Costs for program design
- Other relevant associated costs

# Reporting and information sharing



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Report by Parties (first reports by the end of April 2014)
- Report by secretariat (1<sup>st</sup> report by the end of June 2014)
- Exchange of information at sessions and meetings
- Ad-hoc information exchange
- [www.foodassistanceconvention.org](http://www.foodassistanceconvention.org)

# Organizational and formal issues



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Food Assistance Committee
  - Formal sessions (at least 1x/y) and informal meetings
  - Decisions by consensus
- Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- FAC secretariat = IGC secretariat

# Current activities



Food Assistance  
Convention

Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Ratification process
- Reporting template
- Outreach for new members
  - WFP side event
  - International Grains Council
  - CFS side event
- Next FAC sessions
  - November 2013
  - June 2014

# Status of Members



Food Assistance  
Convention

Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

| Participant              | Signature   | Approval(AA), Acceptance(A), Accession(a), Ratification |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| Australia                | 21 Dec 2012 |   |
| Austria                  | 8 Nov 2012  | 29 Jan 2013   |
| Bulgaria                 | 25 Sep 2012 |   |
| Canada                   | 6 Sep 2012  | 23 Nov 2012   |
| Denmark <sup>1</sup>     | 2 Oct 2012  | 6 Nov 2012 AA   |
| European Union           | 1 Aug 2012  | 28 Nov 2012 AA  |
| Finland                  | 21 Dec 2012 | 21 Dec 2012 A   |
| France                   | 2 Nov 2012  |   |
| Greece                   | 26 Sep 2012 |   |
| Japan                    | 24 Jul 2012 | 24 Jul 2012 A   |
| Luxembourg               | 24 Sep 2012 |   |
| Portugal                 | 6 Sep 2012  |   |
| Switzerland              | 10 Oct 2012 | 10 Oct 2012   |
| United States of America | 26 Sep 2012 | 26 Sep 2012 A   |

# New Members



Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

- Share the commitment of the international community to contribute to world food and nutrition security
- Discuss food assistance matters and exchange information with other donors
- Participate at the development of a traditional and new tool of food assistance





Food Assistance  
Convention

Food Assistance Committee  
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

# QUESTIONS & COMMENTS