

FOOD ASSISTANCE CONVENTION (FAC)

The Food Assistance Convention entered into force on 1 January 2013.

The Convention expands the traditional focus of previous Food Aid Conventions and now includes all forms of food assistance that will meet the food and nutrition needs of those most in need.

The key components of the FAC are the Parties' commitments to provide a defined minimum level of food assistance on an annual basis and the agreed principles of food assistance.

FAC OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Food Assistance Convention are to save lives, reduce hunger, improve food security, and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations by:

- addressing the food and nutritional needs of the most vulnerable populations through commitments made by the Parties to provide food assistance that improves access to, and consumption of, adequate, safe and nutritious food;
- ensuring that food assistance provided to the most vulnerable populations is appropriate, timely, effective, efficient, and based on needs and shared principles; and
- facilitating information-sharing, cooperation, and coordination, and providing a forum for discussion in order to improve the effective, efficient, and coherent use of the Parties' resources to respond to needs.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Share the commitment of the international community to contribute to world food and nutrition security and to improve the ability to respond to emergency food situations and other food and nutrition needs of developing countries.
- Participate in discussions with other donors: the Food Assistance Committee provides a forum where members can discuss food assistance matters and share information with other donors and stakeholders.

COMMITMENTS

Each Party to the Convention makes a minimum annual commitment of food assistance, expressed in terms of value (in Party's currency of choice) or quantity, or a combination of both. After each calendar year, the Parties report their food assistance operations, detailing how they meet the respective commitments.

The commitments of the parties who have ratified, accepted or approved the Food Assistance Convention are set out below.

Donor	Commitments in 2013
Austria	€1.495m
Canada	C\$250m.
Denmark	DKK185m.
European Union	€200m.
Finland	€6m
Japan	JPY10bn.
Switzerland	CHF34m.
United States of America	US\$1.6bn.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Convention is open for accession by any State providing food assistance.
- The International Grains Council (IGC) Secretariat provides the administrative support to the Food Assistance Committee.
- The official languages of the FAC are English and French.
- For more information on the Food Assistance Convention including the text and the Rules of procedure and implementation please see: www.foodassistanceconvention.org

FAC CONTACT

FAC Chairperson: Mr. Kilian Greter, Switzerland
C/O International Grains Council Secretariat
1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London
E14 5AE, England
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7513 0630

e-mail: fac@foodassistanceconvention.org