

19 December 2012

FOOD ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

PRESS RELEASE

**Entry into force of the new Food Assistance Convention (FAC)
on 1 January 2013**

From: Kilian Greter (Switzerland),
Provisional Chairperson of the Food Assistance Committee

Following the depositing of instruments of ratification of the Food Assistance Convention (FAC) by 6 parties as at 30 November 2012 (Canada, Denmark, the EU, Japan, Switzerland and the United States) the FAC will enter into force on 1 January 2013.

The negotiation of a new Convention began in early 2011 and was successfully terminated in April 2012 under the Chairmanship of Ms. Leslie Norton, Director-General, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The Food Assistance Convention will expand the traditional focus of previous Food Aid Conventions to now include all forms of food assistance that will protect and improve access to food for those most in need. The new Convention will include a new commitment structure, a broader toolbox of eligible activities and food assistance products, as well as a commitment to improved transparency and accountability.

Once this Convention has entered into force, it shall be open for accession by all food assistance-providing donor countries, including new States who were not party to the 1999 Convention.

The first Session of the Food Assistance Committee will be held in February 2013.