



Food Assistance Committee
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

9 June 2017

PRESS RELEASE

8th Session of the Food Assistance Committee
London, 9 June 2017

The Food Assistance Committee (FAC) convened for its 8th formal Session on 9 June 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, 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, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Trans-Atlantic Dialogue on Food Assistance (TAFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and World Trade Organisation (WTO) were present as observers.

The Committee focussed discussions on the state of food insecurity in the world and how FAC members are responding. Most of the dialogue centred on the four countries facing famine, namely, South Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria and Somalia. The role of conflict in perpetuating food insecurity was particularly noted.

With regard to the FAC Rules of Procedure, members agreed to incorporate a new Rule 14: *Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson* which establishes a rotational schedule for the appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, based on the date of member accession, with effect from 1 January 2018.

In line with Rule 12 of the Food Assistance Convention which states that every fifth year after the Convention enters into force, the Committee is to undertake an assessment of its relevance, the Committee discussed the results of a FAC effectiveness survey during a seminar titled *The Effectiveness of the FAC* which was held the previous day. Members reflected on how the meeting forum communications including the annual FAC Report and joint field missions could better advance the objectives of the Convention.

A working group of interested members was also established to more directly coordinate responses in real time.

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