

7 December 2018

PRESS RELEASE

10th Session of the Food Assistance Committee Paris, 7 December 2018

At the invitation of French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Food Assistance Committee held its 10th Session in Paris on Friday 7 December 2018 under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Shuichi Akamatsu, Minister, Embassy of Japan in London.

Mr. Jean-François Pactet, Sub-Director, Human Development, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs welcomed delegates to the Session.

The meeting was attended by Parties of the Convention, namely, Australia, Canada, the European Union, Austria, France, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United States of America. Additionally, representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Trans-Atlantic Dialogue on Food Assistance (TAFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) were present as observers.

The Committee reviewed the global situation regarding hunger and malnutrition and current food emergencies against the backdrop of recent developments including the outlook for world markets for grains, rice and oilseeds. Members also provided information on responses to food emergencies in the most vulnerable regions and on planned operations and recent policy developments, with particular emphasis on food security.

Concerning other agenda items, members approved the publication of the 2017 Annual Report¹ and discussed the planning for the 2018 Annual Report. The Chairperson thanked Parties for again exceeding their minimum annual commitments. Members also confirmed their intended minimum annual commitments for 2019.

Members who participated in the June 2018 joint FAC mission to Uganda presented highlights from that trip, and discussed lessons learned from their time in the field. The Chairperson also gave a report on the CFS 45 panel discussion he participated in titled "Working together against food crises" organised by EU, FAO and WFP.

With regard to the appointment of officers for 2019, Dr Olivier Bangerter, Deputy Head of the Multilateral Division of the Humanitarian Aid, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland was appointed Chairperson for 2019.

The Session was preceded on 6 December 2018 by a seminar entitled "Neglected areas and food assistance" and included interventions from France, WFP and EU who presented DG ECHO's Forgotten Crises Assessment and updated members on the EU Humanitarian-Development nexus approach to encourage humanitarian, development and political/diplomatic actors to add value and work better together. Canada also presented their resilience programme in three African Countries while ACF delivered a snapshot on food insecurity in Central African Republic. The Chairman also presented the lessons learned from the FAC joint field trip to Uganda.

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¹ Please see <https://www.foodassistanceconvention.org/en/reports.aspx>