



Food Assistance Committee Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

PRESS RELEASE

12th Session of the Food Assistance Committee

London, 15 November 2019

The Food Assistance Committee held its 12th Session in London on Friday, 15 November 2019, under the Chairpersonship of **Mr. Philippe Besson**, Head of the Multilateral Affairs Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland.

The meeting was attended by Parties of the Convention, namely, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, France, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America. Additionally, representatives from Portugal, Action contre la Faim (ACF), 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 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, oilseeds and pulses. The IGC Secretariat also presented its two new projects namely the *Africa Delivered Price Tool (ADPT)* for rice, which aims to improve the transparency of the cost of African rice imports and tool to calculate the total cost of trade in grains 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, the Chairperson gave a synopsis of the 2018 FAC Narrative report to be published in mid-December, and discussed the latest arrangements for the Third FAC joint field mission to Ethiopia in March 2020. The Chairperson thanked Parties for again exceeding their minimum annual commitments. Members also confirmed their intended minimum annual commitments for 2020.

The Committee appointed **Ms. Mette Thygesen**, Director, Department of Humanitarian Action, Migration and Civil Society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Denmark) as the next FAC Chairperson. **Ms. Tara Carney**, Director, International Humanitarian Assistance Operations Division (Canada) as appointed Vice-Chairperson.

The Session was preceded on Thursday 14th November by a seminar titled *The Contribution of Food Assistance to Peace* which included interventions by the ACF, Canadian Food Grains Bank, FAO, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Oxfam, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the WFP. The seminar addressed the current challenges of protecting the populations affected by the crises from hunger and malnutrition and discussed how delivery of food assistance could be leveraged for preventing conflicts and building peace.

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