



Food Assistance  
Convention

## Food Assistance Committee Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

21 June 2024

### FOOD ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE

The 19th Session of the Food Assistance Committee was held in London on Friday 21 June 2024 under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Jürgen Drexler, Senior Expert (FAO, OECD, Food Assistance), Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria.

Parties of the Convention, namely, Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, European Union, France, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Luxembourg, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America participated in the session.

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.

The IGC Secretariat gave members an update on the latest situation in grains, rice and pulses markets, including recent price movements and prospects for supply and demand in 2024/25, when world grains production is projected to expand by 15m t y/y, to 2,312m. With consumption also seen advancing, by 9m t y/y to 2,320m t, as food, feed and industrial uses reach new peaks, end-season stocks may tighten by 1% y/y to a ten-year low of 580m, led by declines for wheat and maize. World rice output is projected to increase by 1% y/y to a record 523m t, with modest gains in both consumption and stocks anticipated, while stronger import demand from sub-Saharan Africa is forecast to offset weaker purchasing from Asian markets. The Secretariat also included prospects for world supply of pulses, as well as updates on ongoing logistical disruptions in dry bulk freight shipping.

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. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) provided written statements for the session.

The Chair updated members on the draft 2023 Narrative report. The final report will again highlight the contributions of all Parties to the Convention, with a particular emphasis on their cash based assistance activities.

A seminar titled "*Innovation in humanitarian and food assistance using the example of WFP Innovation Accelerator*" was held in conjunction with the session which highlighted the importance of technologies, and innovations at scale to deliver new ideas and approaches to tackle global food insecurity and humanitarian crises.

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