



Food Assistance
Convention

Food Assistance Committee
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

PressRelease

18 February 2013

FAC PRESS RELEASE

1st Session of the Food Assistance Committee London, 15 February 2013

Following the depositing of instruments of ratification of the Food Assistance Convention by six parties – namely Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Japan, Switzerland and the United States – as at 30 November 2012, the Food Assistance Convention entered into force on 1 January 2013.

The Food Assistance Committee convened for its 1st formal Session on 15 February 2013 at the Secretariat of the International Grains Council in London, under the newly-elected Chairmanship of Mr Kilian Greter, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland. The Committee also appointed Mr Roger Mireles, Assistant Deputy Administrator, FAS/Office of Capacity Building and Development, United States Department of Agriculture, USA, as Vice-Chairman.

The meeting was attended by all signatories to the new Convention and former members of the Food Aid Committee, while the government of Brazil was also present as an observer.

During the meeting, members discussed a range of items, in particular minimum annual commitments under the new Convention, as well as progress in the formulation of an annual reporting system. Members noted the importance of communicating and sharing information about the new Convention with all stakeholders, other international organisations and potential Parties, while a review of the new website and its content was undertaken (http://www.foodassistanceconvention.org/en/about_fac/about.aspx).

The Committee reviewed the current and prospective food situation in developing countries against the background of recent developments in world markets for grains, rice and oilseeds. Members also provided detailed information on their responses to food emergencies, together with updates on planned operations and policy developments.

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