



Food Assistance
Convention

Food Assistance Committee
Comité de l'assistance alimentaire

12 November 2013

PRESS RELEASE

2nd Session of the Food Assistance Committee
London, 12 November 2013

The Food Assistance Committee convened for its 2nd formal Session on 12 November 2013 at the Secretariat of the International Grains Council in London, under the Chairmanship of Mr Kilian Greter, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland.

The meeting was attended by Parties of the Convention (Austria, Canada, European Union, Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America) and signatories (Bulgaria, France and Portugal). Representatives from Brazil, Slovenia, Spain, the World Food Programme and the Canadian Food Grains Bank attended as observers.

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 responses to food emergencies, together with planned operations and policy developments. Other items discussed at the meeting included members' annual commitments under the Convention and steps to expand membership.

The committee elected Mr Roger Mireles, Assistant Deputy Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture, USA as Chairman for 2014, and Dr Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director, Strategy, Policy and International Cooperation, European Commission, DG ECHO, as Vice-Chairman.

The Session was preceded by a seminar on nutritional interventions on 11 November, aimed at exchanging information on activities and best practice, as well as improving the common understanding on global needs and gaps. There were presentations from Brazil, Canada, the EU, Japan, Spain and the USA, followed by a panel discussion moderated by Mr Roger Mireles. The invited panellists were Ms. Barbara MacDonald, Senior Policy Advisor, Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and Mr Alex Rees, Head of Hunger Reduction and Livelihoods, Save the Children.

The discussion centred on the importance of addressing severe and moderate acute malnutrition through a multi-sectoral approach, especially focusing on children under five and pregnant and lactating women, with a view to reducing mortality and increasing resilience.

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