

12 June 2012

## FAC PRESS RELEASE

### Meeting of the Food Aid Committee, London 11 June 2012

The Food Aid Committee (FAC) held its 106th Session in London on 11 June 2012, chaired by Ms. Leslie Norton, Director-General, International Humanitarian Assistance Directorate, CIDA, Canada.

The Committee reviewed the current food situation, noting that global grains availabilities in 2012/13 appeared comfortable, with a record maize crop expected and adequate wheat stocks to cushion the impact of an anticipated reduced harvest. Reflecting this, IGCs daily Grains and Oilseeds index (GOI) was down by 8% over the past year, led by falls of around one-quarter for maize and wheat. In contrast, prices for white rice and oilseeds, notably soyabeans, were supported by tight exportable supplies in key suppliers.

Grains production in developing countries in 2012/13 was forecast to show a small increase, to 879m. tons, including a small rise in maize output, to 436m., but a slight decline in wheat, to 325m. tons, mainly due to a smaller crop in Morocco. In sub-Saharan Africa, results from 2011/12 maize and sorghum harvests were mixed. Total coarse grains production in sub-Saharan Africa in 2011/12 was estimated at 97m. tons, down by 5% year-on-year, but still 3% above the five-year average. The outlook for grains production in sub-Saharan Africa in 2012/13 was for a moderate rise in the coarse grains output, partly hinging on a rebound in Sudan.

During the meeting, members of the FAC exchanged information on recent and planned operations, including responses to emergencies, notably in the Horn of Africa, Sudan, the Sahel and southern Africa. Members also briefed the meeting on the latest developments in their food assistance policies and international food security initiatives were discussed.

Regarding the Food Aid Convention, 1999 members agreed not to extend it. Accordingly, this Convention is set to expire on 30 June 2012. In January 2010, the Food Aid Committee began negotiations for a Food Assistance Convention\*, which was adopted in London on 25 April 2012. It was opened for signature on 11 June 2012 and is expected to come into effect on 1 January 2013.

\* The "Food Assistance Convention" and "Rules of Procedure and Implementation for the Food Assistance Convention" (FAC (11/12)1) can be accessed at the following link:  
<http://www.foodaidconvention.org/en/index/foodassistance.aspx>

PR(FAC June 2012)