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Multilateral

Food Assistance Convention. London, 25 April 2012

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Multilatéral

Convention relative à l'assistance alimentaire. Londres, 25 avril 2012

Entrée en vigueur : *1^{er} janvier 2013, conformément à l'article 15*

Textes authentiques : *anglais et français*

Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies : *d'office,
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Participant	Ratification, Accession (a), Acceptance (A) and Approval (AA)		
Canada	23 Nov.	2012	
Denmark	6 Nov.	2012	AA
European Union	28 Nov.	2012	AA
Finland	21 Dec.	2012	A
Japan	24 July	2012	A
Switzerland	10 Oct.	2012	
United States of America	26 Sept.	2012	A

Participant	Ratification, Adhésion (a), Acceptation (A) et Approbation (AA)		
Canada	23 nov.	2012	
Danemark	6 nov.	2012	AA
États-Unis d'Amérique	26 sept.	2012	A
Finlande	21 déc.	2012	A
Japon	24 juill.	2012	A
Suisse	10 oct.	2012	
Union européenne	28 nov.	2012	AA

FOOD ASSISTANCE CONVENTION

PREAMBLE

The Parties to this Convention,

Confirming their continued commitment to the still valid objectives of the *Food Aid Convention, 1999*, to contribute to world food security, and to improve the ability of the international community to respond to emergency food situations and other food needs of developing countries;

Seeking to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of food assistance in preserving the lives and alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable populations, especially in emergency situations, by strengthening international cooperation and coordination, in particular among the Parties and stakeholders;

Recognising that vulnerable populations have particular food and nutritional needs;

Affirming that States have the primary responsibility for their own national food security, and therefore for the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food as set out in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) *Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security* adopted by the FAO Council in November 2004;

Encouraging governments of food insecure countries to develop and implement country-owned strategies that address the root causes of food insecurity through long-term measures, and that ensure proper linkages between relief, recovery and development activities;

Referring to international humanitarian law and the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence;

Referring to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship, endorsed in Stockholm on 17 June 2003;

Recognising that the Parties have their own policies related to providing food assistance in emergency and non-emergency situations;

Considering the World Food Summit Plan of Action adopted in Rome in 1996, as well as the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security identified in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security of 2009, in particular the commitment to achieve food security in all countries and the ongoing effort to reduce poverty and eradicate hunger that was reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

Considering the commitments made by donor and recipient countries to improve development aid effectiveness by applying the principles of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness adopted in 2005;

Determined to act in accordance with their World Trade Organization (WTO) obligations, in particular any WTO disciplines on food aid;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Convention are to save lives, reduce hunger, improve food security, and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable populations by:

- (a) addressing the food and nutritional needs of the most vulnerable populations through commitments made by the Parties to provide food assistance that improves access to, and consumption of, adequate, safe and nutritious food;
- (b) ensuring that food assistance provided to the most vulnerable populations is appropriate, timely, effective, efficient, and based on needs and shared principles; and
- (c) facilitating information-sharing, cooperation, and coordination, and providing a forum for discussion in order to improve the effective, efficient, and coherent use of the Parties' resources to respond to needs.

ARTICLE 2

PRINCIPLES OF FOOD ASSISTANCE

The Parties, in providing and delivering food assistance to the most vulnerable populations, should always adhere to the following principles:

- (a) General principles of food assistance:
 - (i) provide food assistance only when it is the most effective and appropriate means of addressing the food or nutrition needs of the most vulnerable populations;
 - (ii) provide food assistance, taking into account the long-term rehabilitation and development objectives of the recipient countries, while supporting the broader goal of achieving food security, whenever appropriate;
 - (iii) provide food assistance in a manner that protects livelihoods and strengthens the self-reliance and resilience of vulnerable populations, and local communities, and that prevents, prepares for, mitigates and responds to food security crises;
 - (iv) provide food assistance in such a way as to avoid dependency and minimise direct and indirect negative impacts on beneficiaries and others;
 - (v) provide food assistance in a way that does not adversely affect local production, market conditions, marketing structures and commercial trade or the price of essential goods for vulnerable populations;
 - (vi) provide food aid in fully grant form, whenever possible;
- (b) Principles of food assistance effectiveness:
 - (i) in order to increase the amount available to spend on food assistance for vulnerable populations and to promote efficiency, minimise associated costs as much as possible;
 - (ii) actively seek to cooperate, coordinate and share information to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of food assistance programs, and the coherence between food assistance and related policy areas and instruments;