



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 May 2012

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat
Dated:	14 May 2012
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Subject:	Council Conclusions on Strengthening Resilience to Food Crises in the Horn of Africa

At its meeting on 14 May 2012, the Council adopted Council Conclusions set out in the Annex to this note.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

on

Strengthening Resilience to Food Crises in the Horn of Africa

1. The EU Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa, adopted in November 2011, highlights the need to address the underlying causes of structural food insecurity, displacement and conflict in the Horn of Africa and the need to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in the region. The recent severe food crisis in the region serves to underline the importance of a comprehensive approach addressing the security, fragility and development nexus.
2. The Council underlines that the countries of the region, and relevant regional organisations, notably the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), remain primarily responsible for building the resilience of vulnerable communities, which is closely linked to good governance as well as social protection, trade and natural resource management.
3. To support their long-term efforts, the EU and its Member States will seek to further enhance the effectiveness of their assistance to disaster risk reduction and food and nutrition security in the Horn of Africa, working in close coordination with the countries of the region, IGAD, the African Union (AU) and other partners, including local actors. The Council recognises the importance of those forms of livelihood best adapted to arid and semi-arid lands. In this context, it encourages support for national and regional pastoral policy frameworks and drought resilience strategies.

4. The Council stresses the importance of mutually reinforcing linkages between humanitarian and development assistance in building resilience. It recommends that chronic undernutrition – particularly prevalent among women and children – and its root causes, be addressed in a sustainable manner through long-term engagement. In this context, it welcomes the focus of the Commission Staff Working Document 'SHARE: Supporting Horn of Africa Resilience' on improving the link between relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD), combining a regional approach with specific national level interventions and enhancing coordination. The Council invites the EEAS and Commission to take a similar approach in other regions, in particular the Sahel.
 5. The Council invites the Commission to follow up with further proposals on building resilience in drought prone areas including a Communication before the end of 2012.
 6. The Council will review the progress made concerning the implementation of these Conclusions as part of the monitoring of implementation of the Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa before the end of 2012.
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