



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 20 July 2016  
(OR. en)

11433/16

COHAFA 57  
DEVGEN 175  
ALIM 16  
ONU 87  
FAO 37  
COAFR 227  
MAMA 162  
MOG 92  
COEST 202  
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#### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and  
Food Aid on 14 July 2016

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Delegations will find attached the outcome of the proceedings of the Working Party on  
Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 14 July 2016.

## **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 3418/16, with additional AOB items on South Sudan, the humanitarian situation in the border area between Syria and Jordan (the so-called 'berm'), and World Humanitarian Day. The AOB item on the Food Assistance Convention mission to Haiti was postponed until the next meeting.

## **2. Work programme of the Slovak Presidency**

The Presidency programme is set out in 10602/16.

COHAFA meetings will be held on 8-9 September, 29 September, 10-11 November and 8-9 December. An informal COHAFA meeting will be held (together with CODEV) on 27-28 October in Bratislava, and will focus on the humanitarian-development nexus.

A workshop on gender-based violence and women's empowerment (originally scheduled for 29 September) will take place on 7 September in Brussels.

## **3. Education in emergencies**

The Working Party had an informal exchange of views with a representative of UNICEF, who stressed the crucial importance of education in emergencies. It is estimated that the education gap worldwide, with 75 million school-age children living in areas affected by crises, could be closed at a cost of USD 8.5 billion.

The Education Cannot Wait Fund was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016, with initial commitments of USD 90 million (including EUR 5 million committed by DEVCO).

The members include donor and crisis-affected countries, foundations, civil society and UN agencies. UNICEF is serving as the host of the Fund initially; the permanent host is yet to be decided.

The Commission has recently increased education funding from 2 % to 4 % of its humanitarian funding.

The Commission representative confirmed the Commission's intention to maintain that level of funding and to advocate the same level of contributions from other donors.

#### **4. World Humanitarian Summit and Consensus Implementation Plan**

The Commission representative reported on the ongoing exercise of mapping WHS commitments as compared to the Consensus Implementation Plan.

Several delegations reported that their individual WHS commitments coincided with the priorities of the Implementation Plan.

The Commission is planning to organise an expert meeting in September, to discuss the second Consensus Implementation Plan and the country cases. The exact date will be communicated soon.

#### **5. Gender - women's empowerment in emergencies**

The Working Party had an informal exchange of views with representatives of the Syrian organisation Women Now for Development and of CARE International UK.

Their interventions focused on the main challenges and opportunities for local civil-society organisations in implementing World Humanitarian Summit gender-related commitments. They considered the Grand Bargain to have been the most tangible outcome of the WHS and called for its rapid translation into action.

The Commission representative recalled the individual gender-related commitments made by the Commission at the World Humanitarian Summit, as well as the overall implementation of its gender policy that includes the use of the gender and age marker in the project cycle.

## **6. AOB**

### **a) ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment meeting**

The Commission representative debriefed the Working Party on the outcome of the last ECOSOC meeting, which took place in New York from 27 to 29 June, and focused on the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit. The Commission hosted side events on Iraq and on El Niño.

### **b) Mali**

The Commission representative debriefed the Working Party on the teleconference held on 24 June; with the participation of several Member States, Switzerland, Canada and the US.

The next teleconference is to take place in the autumn.

### **c) DRC**

The Commission representative provided an update on the humanitarian situation in DRC.

The already dire situation has recently deteriorated further, due to heightened inter-community tensions and increased security incidents against humanitarians. In addition, a yellow fever outbreak, which originated in Angola was declared. The Union Civil Protection Mechanism has been activated.

### **d) Food Assistance Convention mission to Haiti**

This item was postponed until the next meeting.

### **e) UNGA 71**

The Commission representative briefed the Working Party on the preparations for the upcoming UNGA 71 meeting, which will take place in New York from 13 to 20 September.

The humanitarian fiche (as part of a broader UNGA preparation) was endorsed by COREPER on 7 July and would be submitted to the Council on 18 July.

**f) EU Aid Volunteers Initiative**

The Commission representative presented the second annual report on the implementation of the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative in 2015 (10865/16 - COM(2016) 436).

**g) The berm**

The Commission representative gave a briefing on the deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in the so-called berm, the border area between Syria and Jordan.

**h) South Sudan**

The Commission representative briefed the Working Party on the humanitarian situation in South Sudan following the recent escalation of hostilities. Relief organisations have evacuated their non-essential staff. Evacuation of EU citizens was also ongoing.

**i) World Humanitarian Day**

The Commission representative informed the Working Party about the information campaign it is preparing for World Humanitarian Day on 19 August. The information activities will take place principally on social media.

The next COHAFA meeting will be held on **8 and 9 September**.

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