



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 29 June 2020
(OR. en)

9204/20

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From: German, Portuguese and Slovenian Delegations
To: Delegations

Subject: Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) Trio
Programme
Germany – Portugal – Slovenia
July 2020 – December 2021

Delegations will find attached the trio programme of the future German, Portuguese and Slovenian Presidencies for the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) for the period July 2020 - December 2021.

COHAFA Trio Programme
Germany – Portugal – Slovenia
July 2020 – December 2021

Through their trio cooperation, Germany, Portugal and Slovenia would like to add further value to the work and profile of COHAFA. This trio programme outlines joint priorities and topics of mutual interest that will feature continuously throughout our presidencies.

The humanitarian effects of the COVID-19 outbreak will set the agenda and directly influence COHAFA's working methods and the substance of its deliberations for many months. We will support the operationalisation of the Team Europe approach and will focus on lessons learned, especially in respect of prevention and preparedness.

I. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

Carrying forward the work of the previous COHAFA trio, especially the November 2019 Council conclusions on humanitarian assistance and international humanitarian law, we intend to keep this topic high on the agenda. This includes promoting the safeguarding of humanitarian space from a general perspective as well as looking into concrete operational developments on the ground, including the protection of water resources and water infrastructure.

II. INCLUSION OF THE MOST VULNERABLE

We intend to further the exchange on how the gender-, age- and disability-specific needs of beneficiaries in vulnerable situations can be addressed better and more systematically in assistance funded by ECHO and MS, giving special attention to the specific needs and capabilities of women and girls and bearing in mind the specific vulnerabilities resulting from forced displacement; and, in this context, highlighting the prominent role of female humanitarian workers.

III. ANTICIPATORY HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Resilience building, disaster risk reduction, preparedness, anticipatory humanitarian action and rapid response mechanisms vis-à-vis pandemic risks and increased risk of climate-change-induced extreme weather events will be a regular theme during our presidencies, promoting a forward-looking humanitarian system that saves lives and mitigates humanitarian impacts through early action taken ahead of disasters wherever possible.

IV. INNOVATION AND DIGITALISATION

Innovative approaches, inclusion of new partners and new technologies offer great potential for addressing the gap between humanitarian needs and the available funding as well as for making humanitarian assistance more effective and efficient. We will encourage the exploration of these opportunities, while advocating for a responsible use of data and digitalisation.

V. TRIPLE NEXUS AS A HORIZONTAL TOPIC

It is of special importance that development and peace actors are brought into crisis contexts earlier in order to prevent, reduce and end humanitarian needs, including those related to food assistance. We will ensure that the triple nexus perspective is taken into account in COHAFA's deliberations where relevant, in particular in fragile, emergent and protracted crisis contexts. Addressing the vast impact of the COVID-19 pandemic requires a coordinated and complementary approach of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and sustained peace efforts.
