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European Union

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#### OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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To: Delegations

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Subject: Council conclusions on food and nutrition security  
- Council conclusions (20 June 2016)

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Delegations will find in the annex the Council conclusions on food and nutrition security,  
as adopted by the Council at its 3477th meeting held on 20 June 2016.

**Council conclusions on food and nutrition security**

1. The Council welcomes the Second consolidated biennial report on implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments<sup>1</sup> and welcomes the renewed policy commitments to food and nutrition security. The Council also welcomes the presentation of the First progress report on the Commission's Action plan on nutrition of July 2014<sup>2</sup>. Recognising the importance of these reports as accountability tools which contribute to more effective development assistance, having taken note of the EU's performance results for the year 2014 and recalling its conclusions on the First biennial report on implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments<sup>3</sup>, as well as previous conclusions in this policy area since 2010, the Council concludes the following:

**Implementing EU food and nutrition security policy commitments, second biennial report**

2. Substantial progress is being made to improve global food security and the global hunger index shows that the level of hunger has fallen by 27% since 2000. However, the Council is concerned that the total number of people chronically undernourished is still at 795 million. The Council welcomes the second consolidated report on EU food and nutrition security policy and the fact that the EU and its Member States have been instrumental in influencing key global agreements and commitments in 2014 and 2015, have renewed their policy commitments to food and nutrition security and in a number of cases have substantially improved their focus and funding since the first report. The Council supports the recommendations of the report and wishes to highlight the following issues:

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<sup>1</sup> 9978/16 - COM (2016) 244 final.

<sup>2</sup> 9467/16.

<sup>3</sup> 9141/15.

- 2.1. Keep global food and nutrition security at the forefront of the EU development cooperation agenda and visibly support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Agenda 2030. Taking the SDGs as a leading framework, the EU and its Member States should make their commitment more explicit in terms of reporting results on agriculture, food and nutrition security. Indicating how the EU contribution improves the lives of stunted<sup>4</sup> children and small-holder farmers (of whom at least 50% are women), the Commission is requested to coordinate with EU Member States to propose common indicators and efficient methodologies that could facilitate the aggregation of results towards the relevant SDGs, in particular SDG2. This work should be complementary to the work already carried out on the SDG indicators.
- 2.2. Strengthen a multi-stakeholder and integrated approach to tackling food and nutrition security. The EU and its Member States, together with partner governments, need to work proactively with multilateral partners, civil society organisations and the private sector, including micro, small and medium enterprises to achieve sustained investments and lasting results. Continued emphasis should be put on transforming the role of women and youth, particularly those living in fragile and conflict situations, and on ensuring equal access to resources for women as well as to strengthening the (climate) resilience of vulnerable communities, also through capacity building. The next implementation report could aim to develop baseline-data on the level of stakeholder involvement and application of integrated, climate resilient approaches and nutrition sensitive agricultural practices across the EU and Member States programmes.

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<sup>4</sup> Stunting describes chronic undernutrition, characterised by low height compared to age (WHO definition).

- 2.3. Enhance mechanisms to boost responsible private sector engagement and investment, and learn from inclusive business models. The EU and its Member States are increasingly working in partnership with the private sector to drive significant change for small-scale family farmers, with special attention to the role and contribution of women to food and nutrition security. In this context it is vital to ensure that small-scale family farmers can take advantage of responsible domestic, regional and global value chains, and help deliver inclusive and sustainable growth in the agricultural sector. In this respect the Council encourages the creation of effective public-private partnerships that ensure governance mechanisms in which producer- and civil society organisations have a voice, to apply the Committee on World Food Security Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.
- 2.4. Recognise rural transformation as a critical process to create decent jobs, raise income and economic growth, and achieve food security and nutrition objectives in the long-term, especially for women and youth. This also has significant linkages with addressing economic inequality, migration and urbanisation. More work is needed to create the conditions for sustainable investment, in infrastructure and development in rural areas. Climate change, in particular, must be taken into account and sustainable strategies be developed to counter it. Furthermore, transboundary health threats such as anti-microbial resistance, is a factor to be followed closely.
- 2.5. Ensure continued investment in research and innovation, including digitalisation, and increase action to enhance the impact of this investment. The Council encourages the EU and its Member States to work together to accelerate farmers' access to innovation and strengthen partnerships between European and partner research institutions for long term effectiveness.

- 2.6. Further improve EU and Member States coordination and coordination with other donors in tackling food and nutrition security challenges as well as agricultural development. In this respect the Council encourages further work on Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and Joint Programming<sup>5</sup>. The Council calls on EU Member States to pursue concrete initiatives or actions – including joint work on analysis, policy dialogue, monitoring and evaluation, and on improving results frameworks – in at least five partner countries over the next reporting period.

### **First Progress Report on the Action Plan on Nutrition**

3. The Council welcomes the analysis of the current situation and trends on stunting until 2025 for each of the 40 focus countries of the Action Plan on Nutrition. This analysis is a powerful tool to improve our understanding of country trends and projections on stunting and to strengthen the dialogue with governments, the international donor community and other stakeholders. It may also be a useful basis for governments and interested partners to define realistic national targets on stunting.
4. The Council stresses the importance of strengthened coordination between the Commission and Member States in defining nutrition programming and priorities, by exchanging lessons learned and expertise especially with regard to nutrition impact assessment tools and indicators.

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<sup>5</sup> 8831/16.

5. The Council welcomes the Commission's progress report figures on EU investments in nutrition for the period 2010 to 2014<sup>6</sup> and recommends that the joint reporting methodology agreed to in the Scaling up Nutrition Movement Donor Group is applied to ensure coherence amongst donors. The Council encourages regular reporting on financial commitments on nutrition by the EU and Member States, in particular those who have made commitments in the Nutrition for Growth Compact of 2013. The Council invites the Commission to ensure regular reporting along the lines of the current progress report to inform on progress in achieving its nutrition policy and financial objectives. The Council also invites Member States to report regularly on progress, priority countries and sectors of intervention to achieve their nutrition commitments.
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<sup>6</sup> 9978/16 ADD 1 - SWD (2016) 155 final. The EU reports on nutrition investment figures for the period 2010 to 2014. The 2014 investments amounted to 454.57 million Euros. This figure has been reported and will also be published in the 2015-2016 Global Nutrition Report (GNR). France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and the UK have also reported nutrition investment figures for the GNR using the SUN Donor Group reporting methodology.