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COHAFA 73
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COAFR 193
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COJUR 25
SAN 468
MAMA 124
COEST 567
RELEX 1027

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 12 and 13 July 2022

Delegations will find in annex the outcome of proceedings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid held on 12 and 13 July 2022.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in CM 3764/22 REV1.

2. CZ PRES 2022: indicative work programme

The Presidency presented its priorities, as set out in ST 11413/22. Its aim is to adopt Council conclusions on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) at FAC/DEV on 28 November. An informal meeting together with the CODEV-PI Working Party is planned for 14-15 September in Prague, focusing on DRR and resilience, as well as a field-trip to Sudan (also with CODEV-PI WP), scheduled for 6-10 December, with an emphasis on the triple nexus.

The Delegations welcomed the priorities.

3. Fragility framework

The OECD presented its Fragility framework, which calculates fragility based on exposure to risk and coping capacity as a means of determining priority interventions. Belgium presented its FRAME risk management approach.

The Delegations voiced support for a risk-based approach, with several delegations stating that they used similar methods.

4. Current crises: Ethiopia and the Sahel

The Commission outlined the dire humanitarian situation in Ethiopia, with large swathes of the population in need of food assistance in 2022. The situation is being further exacerbated due to the violence in the North and the drought in the South. Total EU humanitarian funding thus far in Ethiopia is EUR 58.2 million. The EEAS outlined the political situation and EU diplomatic initiatives.

The Delegations expressed its concern for the region and several delegations stated their financial support. The need to open up a second route to Tigray was emphasised.

The Commission and the EEAS then reported on the food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel and Lake Chad region. Since 2019, the number of food insecure people has quadrupled (with the impact of the war in Ukraine not yet factored in). The Commission also briefed the meeting on a mission to

Burkina Faso, where they recommended a reinforcement of the nexus approach and an increase in funding.

The Delegations noted that this was a priority area for them, with several delegations outlining the funding that they were providing.

5. Humanitarian funding

The Commission presented a bleak outlook: none of the major humanitarian crises is improving; the war in Ukraine is aggravating the pre-existing situation, food security is deteriorating in many countries, inflation is driving costs up, and the euro is falling against the dollar. The Commission has significantly increased funding: the EUR 350 million allocated by the EU in response to the Ukraine crisis had not impacted allocations for other crises, with funds from other instruments being reallocated (e.g. reusing unspent EDF funds); furthermore, EUR 150 million have been allocated to address the food crisis situation in ACP countries. The EU humanitarian assistance budget amounts to EUR 2.2 billion (same level mid-term 2022 as the entire budget in 2021) and it would increase in view of the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Globally, 77% of humanitarian needs had not been met (compared to 44% last year); the EU and MS had lost their top spot among humanitarian donors in 2021 and this trend was continuing in 2022.

The Delegations welcomed the discussion, with several delegations reporting on their respective budgets, and argued that the EU should intensify its efforts to raise and track funds and keep a global perspective of humanitarian needs. Additionally, the Delegations highlighted predictable, multiannual, flexible, unearmarked and core funding and outreach to non-traditional donors as a possible solution. Outreach to donors from the private sector and the nexus approach were mentioned as part of the solution. The Presidency would return to this discussion in October and it asked delegations to provide written input in the meantime.

6. International humanitarian law and humanitarian diplomacy

Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC), a group of international NGOs, outlined their work documenting violence against health workers, notably by presenting their recent report: *Unrelenting Violence: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict 2021*. They made three recommendations: (1) end impunity, (2) strengthen prevention, (3) strengthen global and domestic leadership.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supported the report. They mentioned their Health Care in Danger (HCID) initiative, aimed at addressing the issue of violence against patients, health workers, facilities and vehicles, and ensuring safe access to and delivery of healthcare in armed conflicts and other emergencies. The Commission noted that IHL remains central to EU action and referenced the *Report on the EU guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law*.

The Delegations expressed support for the topic and interest in further discussions.

7. AOB

The Presidency reminded that the deadline for pre-registration for the informal COHAFA/CODEV-PI meeting in Prague (14-15 September) is 20 July.

The Commission reported on the ECOSOC/HAS annual meeting (21-23 June), as well as on the UNICEF Executive Board (14-17/6), the WFP Executive Board (20-24/6) and the UNHCR Standing Committee (28-30 June).

The Commission briefed the meeting on the Ukraine Recovery Conference (Lugano, 4-5 July). The Ukrainian delegation was strongly represented. President von der Leyen and Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis delivered speeches. The Ukrainian Prime Minister presented a reconstruction plan made up of three stages: (1) short-term recovery; (2) fast recovery, e.g. schools hospitals and housing; (3) long-term reconstruction, including industrial recovery. He estimated the reconstruction costs at EUR 750 billion. The Commission proposed to coordinate recovery needs and stabilisation efforts, especially in view of Ukraine's EU dimension, but it had not presented a concrete action plan.

UNRWA reported on its Annual Pledging Conference (New York, 23 June). With the confirmed contributions and those that are forecast over the summer, UNRWA expects a shortfall of over USD 100 million on its core budget. None of the GCC states had pledged anything. UNRWA would be unable to pay salaries from October on and would be forced to further reduce its services, leading to severe consequences.

The Commission briefed the meeting on Syria, in particular on the extension of cross-border humanitarian assistance agreed by UNSC for 6 months up to 10 January 2023.