



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa
- Request by the Italian Delegation

Delegations will find attached a note from the Italian Delegation concerning the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa. The topic was included as an “Any other business” item on the agenda for the Council (Foreign Affairs/Development) on 4 May 2023.

**Explanatory note
Italy AOB on the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa**

Foreign Affairs Council Development on May 4th, 2023

Global humanitarian needs have reached a record level in 2023. Among other crisis hotspots, the **Horn of Africa** is characterized by a **dire humanitarian crisis**. The countries in the region are experiencing the **most severe drought in recent history**. Across the region, in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, **more than 31.9 million people require lifesaving and life-sustaining assistance**. Food security remains a primary concern: **over 23 million people** in the Horn of Africa are **acutely food insecure**, and the risk of famine lingers in some areas. The effects of the drought are part of a **broader deteriorating humanitarian picture**, characterized by political and social insecurity and the lingering consequences of exogenous shocks, such as the impacts of Russia's aggression in Ukraine and the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To respond to the most pressing needs and save lives among the affected communities, the requirements of the **United Nations' Humanitarian Response Plans** for the Horn of Africa for 2023 total **about 7 billion dollars**.

The **European Union and its Member States** together play a **prominent role in the international humanitarian action**. The severity of the crisis in the Horn Africa concerns us all and must be addressed swiftly and with determination.

Italy, alongside the United Kingdom, the United States and Qatar, is **co-organizing an International Donors' Conference on the humanitarian crisis** in the Horn of Africa, which will **take place in New York on May 24th**. The objective of the event is to **raise awareness** on the magnitude of the crisis and **gather financial support** to the international response in order to **address not only the most urgent needs**, but also **tackle the root causes** of the crisis in order to develop **sustainable and longer-term solutions**.