



## **Emergency Ministerial-Level Meeting on the Horn of Africa**

### **Summary of the Co-Chairs**

1. This Emergency Ministerial-Level Meeting on the crisis in the Horn of Africa, called at the request of the French Presidency of the G20 demonstrates united national and international resolve to urgently address the current famine in Somalia and the hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa. This meeting builds on the G20 priority agenda on food security and the adoption (on June 23, 2011 by their Ministers of Agriculture) of a five point Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture.
2. These crises threaten 12 million people and risk leaving a generation of children in jeopardy of irreversible physical and cognitive impairments, due to the devastating impact of malnutrition and disease.
3. Populations in the region have been weakened by acute and chronic malnutrition, with Global Acute Malnutrition rates as high as 50 percent in some areas. We must work with governments to establish safety nets, to protect the most vulnerable – pregnant and lactating mothers, children in their first 1,000 days of life and the old, chronically ill and disabled and to reduce disaster risk through high-quality productive safety net programs and to ease women's workloads and address their lack of control of productive resource. Safety nets must also strive to keep children, especially girls in school, even in times of crises.
4. It is crucial that those who control the areas in southern Somalia, the epicenter of the emergency, provide unrestricted access to a wider range of humanitarian organizations so that the nearly 2 million people on the verge of starvation may receive immediate aid. It is critical to expand financial and technical support for those organizations that have been operating effectively throughout Somalia (including southern Somalia).
5. Participants highlighted the importance of an immediate response to ensure that affected countries and communities have the capacity to save lives, protect people from malnutrition, reduce human suffering and protect.
6. This crisis must be immediately contained and reversed by bringing emergency food assistance and support to the productive sector, as we work

to rebuild livelihoods and improve resilience and agricultural production. The coming months will be critical to prevent further loss of lives and livelihoods.

7. The participants stressed the importance of sustainably improving productivity and production of small farmers and pastoralists in providing inputs (seeds, fertilizers, animal feed and vaccinations) and infrastructure (roads, utilities, water supply and village stores).
8. Enabling farmers, fishers and herders to help themselves through these difficult times, particularly within their own communities is important, because displacement diminishes productive capacity and makes subsequent recovery more difficult and costly; empowerment builds resilience to better withstand the inevitable droughts of the future, the risks of which are exacerbated by climate change and natural resource degradation.
9. The participants stressed the importance of pastoralism and agropastoralism as dynamic and sustainable livelihood systems in the Horn of Africa and recognized that the need to be mobile within countries and across borders is essential to save lives and to preserve the foundations of food and nutrition security. With targeted support, the pastoral economy can thrive and contribute extensively to national economies, to preserving indigenous cultures and to managing harsh landscapes in the Horn of Africa region.
10. The participants stand ready to assist, as needed, the Governments in the Horn of Africa as they respond to this crisis and encourage the global and national Food Security Clusters, guided by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Horn of Africa Plan of Action, to support country-led processes through coordinated assessments. Long-term food and nutrition security in the Horn of Africa requires a comprehensive perspective on a range of issues, including the impact of conflict, preservation of the humanitarian space, disaster risk reduction, access to essential health and education services, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
11. The participants highlighted the need to have efficient food assistance instruments available and supported the G20 request to WFP and other international organizations to develop of a proposal for a targeted emergency humanitarian food reserves system to complement existing national food reserves.
12. The participants stressed the need to support and strengthen the initiatives led by the African Union, IGAD and the HLTF and its members, to promote, as stressed in the G20 Action plan on food price volatility and agriculture, policy coordination on food security between countries and international organizations. Efforts to address food security in the region must build on global efforts to reduce food price volatility, enhance country-led plans of

action, and ensure aid coordination and harmonization, with predictable commitments in support of multilateral action. These actions must be in line with the AU/NEPAD CAADP<sup>1</sup> process, the principles agreed by the G8 at the L'Aquila Summit in July 2009 and by Member States at the Rome World Summit on Food Security in November 2009, and the G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture. Furthermore, they must encourage the implementation of the updated Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA).

13. Participants welcomed the commitment of Governments in the Horn of Africa to prepare agricultural development strategies for growth. These strategies and associated investment plans must be implemented quickly through substantial increases in public and private national and international investment, in particular in irrigation, input supply, sustainable land management and critical infrastructure, in addition to research and innovation. Collectively, we know what must be done and how governments can be supported to take action, so we encourage the implementation of the Action Plan on Food and Water Security, by November 2011, through the Multilateral and Regional Development Banks Working Group.
14. FAO, WFP, IFAD, the African Union, IGAD and the HLTF, supported by their Member Countries and all participants, including civil society, investment banks and private foundations, have been asked to provide all possible assistance to the Horn of Africa Countries in responding to the crisis, meeting the humanitarian needs, while providing long term solutions. Progress will be monitored and reported on at the next session of the Committee on World Food Security in October 2011.

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<sup>1</sup> NEPAD: New Partnership for Africa's Development; CAADP: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme