

CFS STATEMENT ON THE FOLLOW UP AND RESPONSE ACTIONS ON THE EMERGENCY AT THE HORN OF AFRICA

18 August 2011

On behalf of the Committee on World Food Security, I would like to thank the Director General for convening this follow up meeting on response actions on the emergency in the Horn of Africa.

Since the high level meeting last July 25, it is encouraging to hear the response by member countries to alleviate the plight of those suffering in the Horn of Africa.

The initial emergency response by international agencies are commendable as they had saved lives especially those of children under the age of 5.

However the drought has deteriorated and continue to spread to wider areas.

As a result, more people are affected, making the emergency response more demanding and challenging.

Over the short and medium term period, it is necessary that these activities and their impacts should be monitored.

It is in this context that the CFS can provide the opportunity for which progress on the implementation on these actions are monitored. The distinguished ambassador the Islamic Republic of Iran had alluded to this before we broke up for lunch.

The 37th session of the CFS this October has already included in its agenda items on measuring the number of hungry and mapping out food security the current situation in the Horn of Africa.

The developments in the region will also feed into the a High-Level Expert Forum on Protracted Crises being planned no later than 2012

with a view to discussing the elaboration of a new Agenda for Action for Food Security in Countries in Protracted Crises in collaboration with other specialized agencies and humanitarian partners;

But more than short term solutions, there is also a need for longer term investments in agriculture as had been stated by all the previous speakers.

Since the Committee is a multistakeholder platform, it will be interesting for other actors such as CSOs NGOs, the private sector, and the private philanthropic foundations to converge and discuss how they can enter into long lasting and comprehensive partnerships.

It has to be emphasized though that such processes and strategies should be done within the CAADP process led by the AU and the NEPAD.

In the final analysis, the countries affected can themselves determine their strategies. But, for it to be effective, governance issues have to be addressed that will encourage national governments to devote a significant amount of their budget to agriculture and at the same time encourage investors to invest and farmers to return to agriculture.

The international community is a significant part of this effort, but they can only do so much.

We would like to take this opportunity to:

- 1) Appeal for more resources to help the affected countries of the Horn of Africa;
- 2) Appeal to every one concerned to respect and support all humanitarian workers working under extremely harsh conditions. We are also concerned about the safety of their lives. We hope they are not burdened by threats to their physical security.

- 3) Since the CFS is not an operational organization, we would ^{also} to express our political and moral support and appreciation to all the international agencies in the frontline against hunger and malnutrition.

Thank you very much for your indulgence.