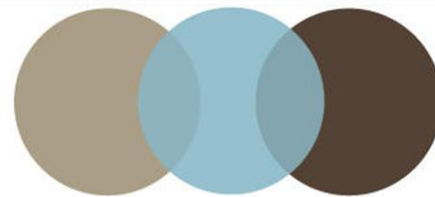


Reform of the Food Aid Convention



TAFAD
Trans-Atlantic Food
Assistance Dialogue

TAFAD coalition

- 2005- Trans-Atlantic Food Assistance Dialogue
- 14 NGOs from Europe, Canada, America
- Promote the appropriate and efficient use of food assistance to address hunger and food insecurity
- Renegotiations of the Food Aid Convention (FAC) 1999
- Multilateral institutions
- Brussels - March 2010 – follow the renegotiations at the EU level, coordinate the action of TAFAD members

What is the Food Aid Convention?

- The only multilateral treaty guaranteeing a specific annual transfer of resources in developing countries to respond to food insecurity, food crisis, chronic food insecurity
- Created in 1967 as part of the International Grains Convention, the FAC has lost its original focus on trade and concentrates on humanitarian aid
- The FAC has been renegotiated 6 times. Last negotiations in 1999. The FAC expired in 2002 - annual renewals until 2009
- In 2010 FAC renegotiations. A new FAC by 2011?
- FAC renegotiations: review the use of food aid to effectively address food insecurity and provide sufficient resources to realize this potential

Why the FAC is important?

- The only international agreement governing food aid and guaranteeing a flow of resources to Southern countries (if no FAC some donors would likely not maintain food aid programs, pledges would be affected by changes in policies and governments)
- International burden sharing: collective response based on a shared responsibility - minimum level of food aid to target vulnerable groups with timely assistance – standards for quality and delivery – procure food aid locally – respect local traditions and nutritional needs
- Food assistance: needs assessment, integration with food security, minimizing market impacts but lacks a mechanism to assess the effective response to these issues

The problems with FAC

- The current commitment structure is *supply driven* rather than *demand driven*
- Counting system – obsolete
 - Micronutrients restricted in amounts and form
 - Cash contributions to assist other countries' food aid activities are not counted (incentive to delay or reduce food)
- Evaluation and monitoring are lacking
 - No enforcement capacity
 - No mechanism to ensure discussion of food aid effectiveness
 - No systematic evaluation of donors performance in relation to commitments
 - No impact assessment of the FAC
- Donor club – outside parties like recipient governments and CS orgs do not participate to the effective use of food resources

Vision:

Global food safety net based on food assistance

Food related transfers to individuals and households

Resources in quantity and quality

TAFAD Strategy

1. Achieve Member States commitment to FAC reform (likely renegotiations)-June 2011
2. Target commitment structure
3. Aid quality aspects
4. The global food security system (CFS-CFA)