

Expert Roundtable

“Ensuring food security in times of climate change and politically fragile environments”

Wednesday, 3rd of October 2012

European Office
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Av. de l'Yser 11, Brussels

(Conference language: English/French)

Please register at: mned.brussels@kas.de



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Human Security¹, describes a new concept of security mainly focused on the security of the individual. Food Security forms part of the concept of human security and includes both chronic food insecurity, associated with problems of continuing or structural poverty and low incomes, and transitory food insecurity, which involves periods of intensified pressure caused by natural disasters, economic collapse or conflict.

Whereas the problem of hunger is not new to the developing world it is a problem which is regarded to be solvable as enough food to cover the needs of the worlds' population is being produced every year. The main problem is linked to the adequate distribution of this food. A fairly recent element contributing to food insecurity in the developing countries has been sharply rising food prices, especially in 2008/2009 and in 2011. There are several underlying causes for this price development and it is not yet clear whether, climate change and the increased use of biofuels or speculation at the stock exchange markets are the main drivers. Political attention on the subject has increased due to these developments and at the recent G8 summit in May 2012 in Camp David Food Security and agriculture featured high on the agenda with the launch of a "New Alliance to improve Food and nutrition security" which aims at increasing private sector involvement in the subject.

Both the international community and the countries affected by food insecurity are increasingly aware of the necessity for sustainable mechanisms against food insecurity. One example for such a mechanism has been put in place in Ethiopia. Until the 1990s, Ethiopia used to be one of the countries most associated with hunger crisis and food insecurity. Through the implementation of an effective Early Warning System and a so called Productive Safety Net which serves to increase the resilience of communities by revitalizing ground which has suffered erosions, Ethiopia has achieved an improvement in terms of supply of foods for its citizens. This resulted in a good management of the 2011 food crisis in which there were no deaths.

A lack of governance and political instability as well as instable security situation often play a negative role in regions in Africa affected by food insecurity. This is also the case in the politically unstable Sahel region, in Mali, Niger and Mauretania, where the Arab Spring, the fall of the Libyan regime in 2011 as well as the coup d'état in Mali in 2012 have provided an explosive security situation. The weak governmental structures which already before these destabilizing developments had little to no control over some parts of its territory now face severe problems in supporting its populations in the current drought and looming famine. On the other hand the humanitarian aid agencies have worked hard in providing a good level of crisis support at an early stage in order to prevent a repetition of the famine in the Horn of Africa in 2011. Their work is heavily challenged by the fragile situation of these countries. Should in this context the European Union now further increase its engagement in order to prevent a complete deterioration and to comply with its objectives of the Sahel Strategy.

Climate Change acts as a multiplier in terms of increased occurrence of extreme weather events such as the current drought in the Sahel. The Expert Roundtable will discuss with representatives from the region and the EU about the best practices experience from Ethiopia, the influence of bio fuel production and climate change as well as the conflict situation in the Sahel on food security in order to discuss policy recommendations and support a comprehensive approach towards stabilization in the region.

¹ Aspects of Human Security enclose economic security, food security, health security, environmental security, personal security, community security, and political security.



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Programme

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08:45 Registration

09:00 **Welcome Remarks, Andrea Ostheimer**, Programme Director, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue

09:15 Panel I: **Effectiveness of the measures of the EU and the International Community on countering food insecurity**

Moderated by **Andrea Ostheimer**, Programme Director, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue

Michèle Striffler, MEP, First Vice-Chair of the Committee on Development, European Parliament

Karl Deering, Climate Change and Food Security Team Leader, Care International, UK

Teferi M. DESTA, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of Ethiopia to the EU and the Benelux countries, Belgium

10:00 Questions and Answers

10:30 Coffee Break

10:45 Panel II: **The implications of climate change, price volatility of foods and biofuels on food security**

Moderated by **Elisabeth Sandfuchs**, Research Associate, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue

Philippe Scholtès, Director, Agribusiness Development Branch, UNIDO

Jean-Pierre Halkin, DG DEVCO, Head of Unit Rural Development, Food Security and Nutrition

Hugo Valin Research Scholar Ecosystems Services and Management, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria

Rob Vierhout, Secretary-General, ePURE – European Renewable Ethanol

11:45 Questions and Answers

12:15 Panel III: **Effects of food insecurity on populations in the Sahel Zone in the 2012 crisis**

Moderated by **Elisabeth Sandfuchs**, Research Associate, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue



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Claude Nankam, PhD, Food Security and Capacity Building Advisor, World Vision, West Africa Regional Office, World Vision International

Bartosz Lercel, Responsible at the Council for the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid, Unit Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU

13:00 Questions and Answers

13:15 Concluding Remarks **Andrea Ostheimer**, Programme Director, Multinational Development Policy Dialogue

13:30 Lunch and End of Event