

THE FOOD CRISIS PREVENTION NETWORK

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SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

RPCA SPECIAL SESSION AND SENIOR EXPERTS GROUP (SEG) MEETING OF THE GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR RESILIENCE (AGIR)

MILAN, ITALY, 29-30 OCTOBER 2015

1. A Special Session of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) and a meeting of the Senior Experts Group (SEG) of the Global Alliance for Resilience (AGIR) – Sahel and West Africa took place from 29 to 30 October within the framework of the Universal Exposition in Milan. These events were organised as part of the Sahel and West Africa Week and brought together some 200 participants, including representatives of Sahelian and West African governments, intergovernmental organisations, farmers', civil society and private sector organisations, technical and financial partners as well as regional and international banks, etc.

2. Entirely devoted to promoting the Network, the Special Session featured a documentary film and discussion panels, giving the participants an opportunity to look back at its beginnings, its accomplishments, the lessons learned and the major challenges it faces now and in the coming years. A number of outcomes and instruments developed by the Network, including the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management (PREGEC Charter), the regional mechanism for the prevention and management of food crises (PREGEC) and the *Cadre harmonisé* (Harmonised Framework), as well as the Regional Food Security Reserve, provided a basis for participants to engage in discussions and share their experiences. The discussions highlighted a strong interest in seeing the Sahel and West Africa success story inspire other regions, both inside and outside Africa. To that end, while welcoming the presence of representatives from IGAD and the NEPAD Planning and Co-ordinating Agency, the participants recommended stronger efforts communicating around the Network and its achievements.



ABOUT THE RPCA

The Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA) is an international consultation and co-ordination platform, drawing on the political leadership of the ECOWAS and UEMOA Commissions. Its technical management is co-ordinated by CILSS, with the support of the Sahel and West Africa Club Secretariat. Created in 1984, the work of the RPCA is based on consultation, dialogue, and analysis. It reinforces the coherence and effectiveness of interventions through the implementation of the Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management. The Network brings together the three West African regional organisations (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS), regional and international information systems, bi- and multilateral co-operation agencies, humanitarian organisations and international NGOs, as well as agricultural professional associations, the private sector and civil society.

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3 ■ Brought together under the RPCA framework, farmers' and civil society organisations discussed their views on AGIR. While they expressed their appreciation for the efforts made to bolster food and nutrition security in the region, they spoke with regret of insufficient development of the potential in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishing sectors in terms of achieving food sovereignty – stemming from insufficient investment and support from the public sector, and also from inadequate policies, including trade policies favouring food imports.

4 ■ With regards to this situation, farmers' and civil society organisations reaffirmed the central role that family-based farming operations play with respect to food and nutrition security and they expressed the conviction that strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable populations requires the enactment of consistent policies and an appropriate level of financial investment as well as better accounting of the challenges associated with climate change. By reaffirming their vision and commitment to AGIR, both farmers' and civil society organisations indicated that there is an urgent need to commit to the co-ordination and convergence of initiatives that look to develop the agricultural sector and strengthen resilience. Consequently, they recommended on the one hand that ECOWAS and UEMOA work toward the enactment of truly consistent policies, and on the other hand that technical and financial partners strive to align themselves and harmonise their support of agricultural policy priorities in the region.

5 ■ Milan also provided a framework for holding the Senior Experts Group (SEG) of AGIR, and an opportunity for stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment and efforts to implement the Alliance. Having reviewed the progress made with respect to the Regional Roadmap's national resilience priorities (NRPs), the participants welcomed the engagement of the States, their technical and financial partners, civil society and the private sector; they were also satisfied that five countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Togo) have already validated their national resilience priorities and that six others (Cape Verde, Chad, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal) are planning to validate their NRPs by the first quarter of 2016. Above and beyond these encouraging efforts, AGIR stakeholders recommended strengthening support to countries (including financial catalyst) to accelerate the formulation and validation process of their national priorities. While they congratulated the SEG members, they pointed specifically to the necessity of undertaking adequate measures for fostering political, financial and technical engagement and mobilising the implementation of the priorities identified by each country.

6 ■ Close to three years after adopting the Regional Roadmap in April 2013, the members of SEG-AGIR urged all stakeholders to renew their political commitment to the “*New Momentum*” around the Alliance. To that end, AGIR stakeholders discussed the content of a Declaration by which they reaffirm their commitment to and support of the Alliance as well as their willingness to work together toward better co-ordination, convergence and synergy with respect to all resilience actions for the region. In doing so, they made specific commitments to:

1. Maintain their long-term political and financial commitment to the Alliance;
2. Provide long-term support to indispensable dialogue processes to assist States to define their national resilience priorities;
3. Insert and align their actions within the framework of resilience priorities, as identified by each country;
4. Integrate the regional co-ordination of resilience initiatives, including the “resilience components” of Sahel strategies corresponding to the AGIR mandate, within the RPCA framework;
5. Support the sustainable intensification of family farming and the development of agro-food value chains as part of the solution to underemployment, food insecurity and malnutrition, and thus contributing to resilience;
6. Promote, within the framework of international negotiations on climate, resilience to food and nutrition insecurity and AGIR as an essential tool for adapting to climate change and vulnerability in the Sahel and West Africa;
7. Starting in 2016, conduct a review of resilience-related accomplishments every two years, along with an assessment of AGIR in 2020 – the deadline year for the first generation of NRPs – based on its objectives and the results documented in the Regional Roadmap.

Milan, 30 October 2015 - *The Participants*



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