

Cornell University



4th Transatlantic Dialogue on Humanitarian Action

Uniting on Food Assistance:

Promoting an Evidence-Based
Transatlantic Dialogue and
Convergence



This project is generously supported by the European Union

Conference Booklet

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Conference Concept

4th Transatlantic Dialogue on Humanitarian Action

Uniting on Food Assistance:
Promoting an Evidence-Based Transatlantic Dialogue and Convergence

Location: Hotel am Griebnitzsee, Potsdam (close to Berlin),

8 – 9 July 2010

Food aid volumes have been falling over the past twenty years as donor countries increasingly find more flexible and efficient means of responding to food insecurity in low-income countries. Over the same period, demand for food assistance in response to natural and manmade disasters has grown substantially. Changing policies and practices, and greater scarcity of food aid resources, have opened important gaps among donors.

Increased resource flexibility associated with reduced food aid “tying” has also created new challenges for food assistance agencies, which must take care when identifying what sorts of responses are most appropriate in attempting to address food insecurity in a given place and time. And as the deleterious effects of micronutrient deficiencies have become better understood, concerns about the nutrient mix in food assistance packages, as well as broader food safety and quality standards, have become prominent issues as well.

In the face of these structural changes, the Food Aid Convention (FAC), the core international treaty addressing global food aid, has remained largely unchanged over the past fifteen years, partly due to failure to date in reaching a new World Trade Organization agreement and partly due to transatlantic differences about the changing landscape for global food aid and food assistance policies. A renegotiated FAC as a key element in the reform of the global governance of food aid and food assistance will require greater convergence between major humanitarian donors such as the European Union and the United States.

The transatlantic donors, particularly the US Government and the European Union have recognized the need to discuss reform options for global food aid and food assistance more closely. In November 2009, the EU and the US put the issue on the agenda of the next EU-US Summit.

In April 2010, the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) and Cornell University launched a new research program that seeks to create an evidence-based dialogue on shifting best practice in food aid and food assistance in order to assist the transatlantic



partners in identifying points of prospective agreement and to inform the upcoming FAC renegotiations. This first conference is designed to present the research framework and, in close collaboration with researchers, policymakers, humanitarian practitioners and other stakeholders, to further refine key research questions for the program.

Starting with an opening speech outlining transatlantic perspectives on current issues and challenges to food aid and food assistance, panel discussions will proceed to examine several groups of issues that will need to be addressed in the context of the FAC renegotiations: 1) How to organize food assistance: needs assessments, situation analyses and donor coordination mechanisms 2) How to provide food assistance: challenges and opportunities of various modalities of food assistance, and 3) Food quality and safety. There will also be two sets of parallel working group sessions. The first set will draw on relevant country case studies to explore on-the-ground experiences in food assistance programming. Toward the end of the conference, participants will meet in the second set of working groups that parallel the panel discussions to inform and debate research and policy agendas for the upcoming case studies. The conference will conclude with a keynote speech and a panel discussion to solicit additional input on transatlantic policy options.

The Global Public Policy Institute's Transatlantic Dialogues have emerged as an important, high-quality forum for transatlantic discussion regarding key global governance issues (e.g. energy security and humanitarian assistance). These highly selective, invitation-only meetings, which encourage the participation of experts representing government, business, the research community and civil society, are work-oriented with high networking potential among different communities in the food assistance and food security debate.

This Transatlantic Dialogue on Food Assistance is being conducted in collaboration with Cornell University. It is the first of two meetings. A second conference will bring stakeholders together in Washington, DC, in March 2011 to develop and refine recommendations that will be presented to the European Commission and the United States Government in 2011 to inform their positions regarding Food Aid and Food Assistance for the FAC renegotiation process and the wider EU-US Summit. Furthermore, the recently re-launched EU-US Development Dialogue has put food security as one of three key priority areas for cooperation. Given this context, the Uniting on Food Assistance project will provide an invaluable opportunity for making substantive progress.

We aim to have an informal working atmosphere and it has been agreed that the conference follows *Chatham House Rules* to allow for open discussions. This means that participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed if information is used externally.



Agenda

DAY 1

- 12:00pm** Arrival and Registration
- 12:30pm** Lunch
- 13:45pm** Welcome: *Dr. Julia Steets, Associate Director, GPPi*
- 02:00pm** Opening remarks: *Markus Löning, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid*
- 02:15pm** O P E N I N G S P E E C H
- Transatlantic perspectives on food aid and food assistance: overview of the issues and current challenges*
- Speaker: *Catherine Bertini, Syracuse University, former Executive Director, World Food Programme*
- Discussants:
- *Mary Chambliss, former Deputy Administrator for Export Credits in the Foreign Agricultural Service, US Department of Agriculture*
 - *Etsuo Kitahara, Executive Director, International Grains Council*
 - *Edward Clay, Senior Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute*
- 03:15pm** Coffee/Tea break
- 03:30pm** P A N E L D I S C U S S I O N I
- How to organize food assistance: needs assessments, situation analyses and donor coordination mechanisms*
- Issue: It would be an important task of a new global document on food assistance to set a framework for guiding donor decisions relating to the food assistance interventions and ensuring that different interventions are complementary. Harmonized needs assessment and situation analysis systems are key to this. While there are many international initiatives currently ongoing in this field, there is an urgent need to link them to each other. Beyond this, other mechanisms to facilitate donor coordination could be created or strengthened.
- What measures are necessary to enhance coordination between donors and to foster consensus over needs assessments and response tools and practices?
- Panelists:
- *Paul Harvey, Partner, Humanitarian Outcomes*



- *Per Byman, Team Director, Humanitarian Team, Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (Sida)*
- *Jeff Tschirley, Chief, Emergency and Rehabilitation Policy Unit, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*

Moderator: *Jennifer Clapp, Professor, Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Waterloo*

05:00pm WORKING GROUP SESSION I

Goals of the working groups: Familiarize guests with specific case studies and identify crucial issues in each case that are relevant to the topics addressed in the panel discussions. Participants will discuss the lessons and issues that have arisen in each case study, and also what the gaps in our understanding of the case are.

- WORKING GROUP “HAITI”

Introduction: *François Grünwald, Executive Director, Groupe URD*

- WORKING GROUP “ETHIOPIA”

Introduction: *Getachew Tesfaye, Senior Resource Mobilization Officer, Disaster Management/Food Security Sector, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia*

- WORKING GROUP “SAHEL/NIGER”

Introduction: *Hélène Berton, Food Security and Livelihood Adviser, Save the Children UK*

06:00pm Feedback from working groups

06:30pm Break

07:00pm Dinner



DAY 2

09:00am PANEL DISCUSSION II

How to provide food assistance: challenges and opportunities of various modalities of food assistance

Issue: Food assistance for humanitarian purposes is becoming increasingly flexible. Some donors have moved away from in-kind food aid to food assistance approaches such as cash and voucher distributions and local and regional procurement (LRP) has grown exponentially over the past decade as well. In addition, a wide range of pilot innovations like index insurance, technology-based transfers and strategic reserves are currently being piloted and enlarge the food assistance toolbox. Such new modalities of food assistance have advantages and disadvantages, which need to be clearly assessed to create convergence on the adequacy of response tools if food assistance is to complement or replace in-kind food contributions. What are the steps necessary to foster consensus on assistance best practices and facilitate donor coordination and the complementarity of approaches among donors with differing assistance options?

Panelists:

- *Jan Van Elst, General Secretariat of the Council of the EU*
- *David Tschirley, Professor, Michigan State University*
- *Ugo Gentilini, Policy Adviser, Policy, Planning and Strategy Division, World Food Programme*

Moderator: *Emmy Simmons, Independent Consultant, former Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade, USAID*

10:30am Coffee/Tea Break

11:00am PANEL DISCUSSION III

Food quality and safety

Issue: Food safety issues are becoming more important as local and regional procurement operations attempt to engage smallholder farmers who may not be able to meet international quality standards while local procurement officers in assistance agencies may not have reliable means to ensure the safety of locally procured commodities. Issues of food quality and safety also necessarily touch on questions surrounding the role of genetically modified foods in food aid and food assistance programs, as well as the nutritional content and safety of food available through commercial markets on which cash transfer or voucher recipients necessarily rely. A key point in the FAC renegotiation will be over



whether to measure food aid by tonnage or by nutritional content. How and in which areas can the stakeholders reach agreement over these multiple and overlapping issues?

Panelists:

- *Bertrand Salvignol, Director, Food Safety & Quality Assurance Unit, World Food Programme*
- *Bruno Kistner, Director, Nutrition Improvement Programme, DSM Nutritional Products Ltd.*
- *Nathalie Ernoult, Nutrition Policy Advisor, Médecins Sans Frontières*

Moderator: *Anne Swindale, Director, Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project, Academy of Educational Development*

12:30pm Lunch

02:15pm WORKING GROUP SESSION II

Goals of the working group: Review main points that have arisen so far in the panel discussions and during the first working group session and set the agenda for the subsequent research conducted by the “Uniting on Food Assistance”-Project. Working groups review the short agendas for the suggested studies, indicate where adjustments or changes are necessary and formulate hypotheses on the topic.

• WORKING GROUP A

How to determine which approach to use: needs assessments, situation analyses and donor coordination mechanisms

Introduction: *Justus Liku, Food Security Analyst, CARE International*

• WORKING GROUP B

How to provide food assistance: challenges and opportunities in various modalities of food assistance

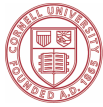
Introduction: *Megan McGlinchy, Global Food Crisis Advisor, Catholic Relief Services*

• WORKING GROUP C

Food quality and safety

Introduction: *Constanze von Oppeln, Food Aid and Food Security Policy Advisor, Welthungerhilfe*

03:45am Coffee/Tea Break



04:00pm CONCLUDING PANEL DISCUSSION

Food aid and food assistance: the future of the FAC with transatlantic leadership

What have we learnt so far? Where are the key issues and what kinds of research and further evidence are necessary?

Opening remarks/moderator: *Chris Barrett, Professor, Cornell University*

Discussants:

- *Jan-Artur Sienczewski, Head of Unit, Food Aid, European Commission DG ECHO*
- *Dale Skoric, Chief, Policy and Technical Division, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, USAID*
- *Stuart Clark, Senior Policy Advisor, Canadian Foodgrains Bank*

05:00pm Q &A

05:15pm Farewell



List of Participants

NAME	INSTITUTION	POSITION
Barbara ABBENTHEREN	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GTZ)	Food Assistance Policy Advisor
Chris BARRETT	Cornell University	Professor
Catherine BERTINI	Syracuse University	Professor
Hélène BERTON	Save the Children UK	Food Security and Livelihoods Adviser
Andrea BINDER	Global Public Policy Institute	Project Manager
Corinna BRAUN- MUNZINGER	German Parliament	Parliamentary Assistant
Patterson BROWN	U.S. Mission to the EU	Humanitarian Assistance and Food Security Advisor (USAID)
Per BYMAN	Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA)	Team Director, Humanitarian Team
Mary CHAMBLISS		Consultant
Jennifer CLAPP	University of Waterloo	Professor
Stuart CLARK	Canadian Foodgrains Bank	Senior Policy Advisor
Edward CLAY	Overseas Development Institute	Senior Research Associate
Nathalie ERNOULT	Médecines sans Frontières	Nutrition Policy Advisor
Kerstin FÄHRMANN	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Head of Division, Emergency and Transitional Aid, World Food Programme, Crisis Unit
Irene FELLMANN	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)	Desk Officer
Alexander GAUS	Global Public Policy Institute	Research Assistant
Ugo GENTILINI	World Food Programme	Policy Adviser, Policy, Planning and Strategy Division
Jean-Jacques GRAISSE	World Food Programme	Consultant



François GRÜNEWALD	Groupe URD	Executive Director
Charles HANRAHAN	Congressional Research Service	Senior Specialist in Agriculture Policy
Paul HARVEY	Humanitarian Outcomes	Partner
Samuel HAUENSTEIN SWAN	Action against Hunger	Senior Policy Advisor
Mark HIRSCHBOECK	U.S. Embassy Berlin	Intern
Bruno KISTNER	DSM Nutritional Products	Director, Nutrition Improvement Programme
Etsuo KITAHARA	International Grains Council	Executive Director
Christian KUHLGATZ	University of Kiel	Research Assistant
Nicolas LAMADÉ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GTZ)	Food Assistance Advisor
Chris LEATHER	OXFAM	Food & Agriculture Policy Adviser
Norbert LEMKEN	Bayer CropScience	Representative, Liaison Office Berlin
Erin LENTZ	Cornell University	Research Support Specialist
Justus LIKU	CARE International	Food Security Analyst
Markus LÖNING	German Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid
Cynthia MATHYS	Cornell University	Research Support Specialist
Megan McGLINCHY	Catholic Relief Service	Global Food Crisis Advisor
Christopher J. MURILLO	Global Public Policy Institute	Intern
Leslie NORTON	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	Director General, International Humanitarian Assistance Directorate
John ROBINSON	U.S. Embassy Berlin	First Secretary, Economic Section
Charles RUSH	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Counselor for Agricultural Affairs



Bertrand SALVIGNOL	World Food Programme	Head, Food Safety & Quality Assurance Unit
Gerhard SCHMALBRUCH		Consultant
Jan-Artur SIENCZEWSKI	European Commission, DG ECHO	Head, Food Aid Unit
Emmy SIMMONS		Consultant
Dale SKORIC	USAID	Director, Policy and Technical Division, Office of Food for Peace
Alessandra SPALLETTA	Trans-Atlantic food assistance dialogue (TAFAD)	Coordinator
Julia STEETS	Global Public Policy Institute	Associate Director
Ralf SÜDHOFF	World Food Programme	Head of Office, WFP Berlin
Anne SWINDALE	Academy of Educational Development	Director, Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance II Project
Getachew TESFAYE	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ethiopia	Senior Resource Mobilization Officer
Phillip THOMAS	U.S. Government Accountability Office	Assistant Director for International Affairs
David TSCHIRLEY	Michigan State University	Professor
Jeff TSCHIRLEY	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Chief of Rehabilitation and Humanitarian Policies
Jan VAN ELST	General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union	Head of Unit, Development and ACP
Constanze VON OPPELN	Welthungerhilfe	Food Aid and Food Security Policy Advisor
Evamaria WEISSER	German Parliament	Parliamentary Assistant
Petra WINDISCH	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GTZ)	Team leader, Policy Advisory Project on Food Assistance



About GPPi

The Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) is an independent think tank based in Berlin and Geneva. Our mission is to develop innovative strategies for effective and accountable governance and to achieve lasting impact at the interface of the public sector, business and civil society through research, consulting and debate.

- **We are an independent and non-profit institute.** We receive project funding from foundations as well as our project partners and clients from the public and private sectors. We re-invest profits from consulting activities into our research work.
- **We build bridges between research and practice.** Our team combines research and public policy expertise with practical consulting skills. We foster the exchange of knowledge and experience between researchers and practitioners.
- **We promote policy entrepreneurship.** Our work strengthens strategic communities around pressing policy challenges by bringing together the public sector, civil society and business.

Research

GPPi is committed to high-quality research on governance, focusing on five core issues: the changing architecture of global governance due to the rise of new powers and the new roles of business and civil society, the effectiveness and accountability of international organizations, innovation in international development and humanitarian action (including the contribution of public-private partnerships and private donors), Europe's global role, and the future of transatlantic relations.

GPPi has received grants from the European Commission, the German Foundation for Peace Research (DSF), the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Volkswagen Foundation.

Consulting

GPPi Consulting translates the institute's expertise in public policy and governance into practical strategies for our clients, primarily from the public and non-profit sectors. Our services include commissioned studies as well as strategy and evaluation projects for development and humanitarian programs.

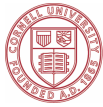
Our clients include the World Bank, the German Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and the UN Global Compact, among others.

Debate

GPPi seeks to strengthen strategic communities and policy innovation through workshops, conferences, executive education and training programs, and publications.

Our cooperation partners include the European Commission, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Dräger Foundation, the ZEIT Foundation, and the Hertie School of Governance.

For more information about our work, please visit our website at www.gppi.net



Cornell University



About Cornell University

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA is a private, Ivy League university and the land-grant university for New York State. Cornell's mission is to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge; produce creative work; and promote a culture of broad inquiry throughout and beyond the Cornell community.

Cornell also aims, through public service, to enhance the lives and livelihoods of our students, the people of New York, and others around the world. Our faculty, students, alumni, and staff strive toward these objectives in a context of freedom with responsibility.

We foster initiative, integrity, and excellence, in an environment of collegiality, civility, and responsible stewardship. As the land-grant university for the state of New York, we apply the results of our endeavors in service to our alumni, the community, the state, the nation, and the world.

More information is available at www.cornell.edu