

Side Event Summary: **Addressing Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises: *Implementing the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises* – July 13th, 2016**

This event gathered together experts in food security and natural resources, as well as representatives of peoples living in conflict and crises to address the specific needs of communities living in situations of protracted crises, who often suffer from distinct challenges which are not adequately met through traditional development and humanitarian approaches. The purpose of the event was to discuss the *Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises* (FFA) and its implementation, which was endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security in October 2015.

Speakers at the event included Deborah Fulton, Secretary of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS); Heather Elaydi, Advocacy Officer at Arab Group for the Protection of Nature; Jamil Ahmad, Deputy Director of the UNEP New York Office; Nuriya Oswald Project Coordinator and International Advocacy Offer at Al Mezan Center for Human Rights; Marya Farah, Legal Research at Al Haq; and Roula Majdalani, Director of the Sustainable Development Policies Division at ESCWA. The event was chaired by Arab Group for the Protection of Nature President Rami Barhoush.

Key points:

- the FFA is a timely document which includes issues and points widely discussed, including at the recent World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul in May 2016
- noted that what is most extraordinary about the eleven points in the FFA is that global consensus was reached on them by countries, civil society, the private sector, the UN agencies, and financial institutions
- civil society, through the Civil Society Mechanism working group on food security in protracted crises, was able to significantly improve the character of the document, including the need to address underlying causes as part of the main objective of the FFA, identification of climate change and foreign occupation as two of those causes, and the identification of external intervention and vested commercial, political, and institutional interests as causes of failed policies and programs
- natural resources were noted as playing a crucial role as both a source of conflict and a way to contribute to peace-building
- the relevance of the FFA to case studies in West Asia, where 11 out of 22 countries have experienced conflict since 2009 and is currently home to 15 million IDPs – 50% of them Syrian – and in particular the Palestine case (Jordan Valley and Gaza) were highlighted, particularly regarding the need to address underlying causes, and to respect human rights and international law
- key recommendations included: provision of enhanced legal support to enforce land and resource rights; identification of stakeholders' roles and how those roles are affected by or are affecting the crisis; establishing regular consultative mechanisms in developing basic service infrastructure, prioritizing improving rights to land; effective implementation and enforcement of existing legal frameworks; mitigating against food price volatility; enhancing intra-regional investment, infrastructure, trade, data, and knowledge sharing; and ending the debilitating conflicts plaguing the region