



Policies against Hunger XI Responsible Agricultural Investments - an Expert Meeting

30 June and 1 July 2014, Berlin
(as per 06.05.2014)

Responsible investments in the agricultural sector and food systems are key to ensuring food security and to realising the human right to adequate food. However, investments need to be initiated and conducted in a responsible manner in order to have the desired positive effects on food security and sustainable development. The subject of this year's conference builds on the 2013 Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Summit which was held in Berlin as part of the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture. The final communiqué adopted by the attending ministers of agriculture reaffirmed the need to raise the level of responsible investments and highlighted the importance of having an environment conducive to investment.

The United Nations Committee on World Food Security is currently negotiating principles for responsible agricultural investment (rai principles). These principles constitute a voluntary and non-binding instrument. Different political, social and economic forces at national and international levels must therefore combine in order to ensure the successful adoption and implementation of these principles.

This year's "Policies against Hunger XI" conference is intended to contribute to a successful adoption of the rai principles by the UN Committee on World Food Security in October 2014 and to their far-reaching implementation in the immediate future. The aim is to analyse central obligations and responsibilities of states, the private sector and other stakeholders and to identify measures and strategies for the dissemination and application of the principles. To this end, the meeting is to address in particular the experience gained with other thematically related instruments (e.g. OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, UN Global Compact, Global Reporting Initiative) and to discuss ways of feeding the principles into other ongoing international processes.



Following negotiations on the rai principles, the conference is intended to provide the participating stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society, science and international organisations a platform for engaging in a further exchange of views. The main work at the conference will be carried out in four working groups. This work will be preceded by an opening panel discussion on the rai process and a presentation and panel discussion on the relationship between private and public investments.

Working groups

WG 1: With regard to establishing a framework for investments, what obligations arise for the states on account of human rights and the principles of good governance?

WG 1 will deal primarily with the states' obligations, in respect of agricultural investment, which arise from human rights and the principles of good governance and which are also reflected in the normative basis of the rai principles.

The WG will subsequently discuss how these obligations can be implemented by states in practice and how states can help promote the positive effects of investments on the realisation of human rights. Here, the WG will differentiate between states' obligations with regard to investments at home and those with a foreign dimension.

WG 2: What are the states' duties and tasks with regard to the shaping of their agricultural and rural development policies?

WG 2 will address the states' options and instruments for utilising or steering investments in agriculture and food systems, forestry and fisheries in a targeted manner as a driving force for rural development and thus also for food security. The Working Group will discuss what public investments in rural regions are needed in order to create an enabling environment for private investments and how states can promote responsible private investments in the agricultural sphere via the regulatory framework they provide. It will also examine the issue as to how it can be ensured that the interests and needs of small-scale farmers, women, pastoralists, the landless,



and indigenous and other marginalised or endangered groups are taken into account, that these stakeholders are included in value-adding chains, and that income opportunities can be generated for them.

WG 3: What responsibilities do private investors have?

WG 3 takes account of the fact that private investors, through the type of investment they make, exert a major influence on potential positive effects of investments being realised and on negative effects being avoided. The Working Group will ask what key responsibilities ensue for investors from the rai principles and other international normative foundations and how these responsibilities can be implemented via corporate governance.

WG 4: Rai principles in action

WG 4 will focus on the concrete implementation of the rai principles, especially at international level. To this end, WG 4 will review the lessons that can be learned from thematically similar international instruments for the implementation of the rai principles, and identify opportunities of embedding the rai principles in ongoing international processes, for instance the G8, the G20 and the post-2015 agenda. The focus will be on the roles played by international organisations and civil society in promoting the dissemination and application of the rai principles. To be able to measure the success of the implementation activities, the Working Group will also look at options for monitoring the application of the rai principles.