

International Grains Council (IGC)

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Executive Director of the IGC

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1. I am honoured to be here today to provide an update on the activities of the International Grains Council (IGC).
2. The IGC is a unique entity in that it administers two Conventions, both of which are closely related to global food security.
3. Firstly, under the mandate of the Grains Trade Convention, 1995, which is the only international treaty on grains trade, the IGC provides member governments and other stakeholders with daily updates on developments in global markets. Its central aim is to enhance market transparency.
4. In recent years, the IGC has significantly expanded its commodity coverage by formally adding rice and oilseeds under the Convention. This has strengthened the ability of the Council to undertake comprehensive analysis of global markets for grains, rice and oilseeds, which is particularly important given the increasingly interrelated nature of these sectors.
5. Secondly, the IGC Secretariat provides administrative services to the Food Assistance Committee, which is currently composed of 13 donor governments. The Committee was established under the new Food Assistance Convention, which entered into force in January 2013, with the objective of delivering food assistance more effectively to people in need.
6. In October 2012, the IGC became a member of the Secretariat of the AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System), contributing supply and demand estimates, and market prices for inclusion in AMIS reports and the AMIS website alongside information from other participants in the initiative.
7. Finally, I would like to conclude my statement by drawing your attention to a recent development with respect to AMIS. Next month the IGC, together with other

members of AMIS and invited experts from the private sector, will participate in a seminar on stocks measurement to be held in London. Despite being an integral component of supply and demand, there is very little official information available on stocks, so more work in this area is crucial. The Council is committed to working more closely with other stakeholders to provide timely and relevant market intelligence to governments and other participants in the global grains economy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.