



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States**

**171<sup>st</sup> session of the FAO Council**

**(5-9 December 2022)**

**Item 3 – Update on FAO’s work on the global food crisis**

Mr. Chair,

1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland and Norway align themselves with this statement.
3. The alarming increase in the number of people facing acute hunger and malnutrition is a matter of great concern for all of us, as reflected in the recent update of the 2022 Global Report on Food Crisis and the SOFI report. [The drivers and root causes of the food crisis are all too well known: climate change, conflicts, economic downturns, and increasing inequalities.] Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine has severely deepened the crisis and exacerbated an already alarming situation.
4. Russia’s war has disrupted supply chains, increased food prices and driven fertiliser prices up to record levels. Future crop yields are at risk. Restoring food and fertiliser exports is crucial to bring down prices and ensure availability and affordability in vulnerable countries. [The thirty-third session of FAO regional conference for Europe stressed the implications on world food security arising from the aggression of the Russian federation against Ukraine.]
5. The European Union and its Member States appreciate FAO’s role in monitoring the global food security and nutrition situation, provide timely information, and address the impacts of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine in affected countries. We request that FAO fully implements the decisions and recommendations of its 169th and 170th FAO Council

sessions and the decision of the thirty-third session of the FAO regional conference for Europe.

6. [The international community has launched multiple initiatives and pledges to address the food security crisis, including the G7 Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS) and the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM). We call for effective coordination and cooperation in the international response to the food crisis. We welcome the important work of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.]
7. [Improving the transparency of global agricultural commodities markets and promoting an open and predictable trade environment remain critically important to stabilise markets. We therefore support the strengthening of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).]
8. The EU and its Member States remain fully committed to addressing the immediate needs resulting from the crisis, as well as supporting partner countries in enhancing sustainable production and resilience in the longer-term. EU funding commitments for global food security amount to EUR 8 billion. A significant part of this assistance will be implemented through the Rome-Based Agencies, notably in countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean.
9. We reaffirm our strong support for the Black Sea Grain Initiative. Keeping the Black Sea maritime route open is crucial for bringing grain and fertilisers to the world. The Istanbul Agreement must be implemented in all its provisions and prolonged for as long as necessary.
10. The EU and its Member States also remain fully mobilised to help Ukraine export its agri-food production through alternative transport routes. More than 17 million tonnes of grain and food commodities have been exported through EU Solidarity Lanes.
11. This acute crisis must not let us lose sight of the urgent need to continue addressing the long-term sustainability, climate and biodiversity challenges our agriculture and food systems are facing. Transforming our food systems to enhance their sustainability and resilience is the only way to avert future crises. We call on FAO to intensify its cooperation with other UN organisations, including the CFS, to promote the food systems transformation.

12. The EU and its Member States are among the [XX] co-sponsors of the draft decision submitted on 17 November. It clearly requests that FAO continue to monitor the impact of Russia's war against Ukraine on global food security and scale up its response to the global food crisis with a specific emphasis on the most vulnerable countries.

The EU and its Member States condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's continuing aggression in violation of the UN Charter and international law, including FAO's Constitution. We strongly call for the immediate cessation of the use of force against Ukraine. Targeting civilians and their food supply, disrupting agricultural production and destroying key energy, transport and export infrastructure are all totally unacceptable. We again stress that negative impact of this aggression on world food security, as already addressed by this Council at its 169th and 170th sessions.

13. The draft decision submitted by the Russian Federation incorrectly points at sanctions as related to global food insecurity to divert attention from the true causes and Russia's responsibility of the current situation. We thus oppose this Russian draft decision.
14. The EU sanctions target Russia's war machine and not the trade in agricultural and food products, including grain and fertiliser, between Russia and third countries. We have made this very clear to industry and partners by issuing a detailed and updated guidance on the implementation of the EU sanctions. There are no EU sanctions banning the export of agri-food products, including fertilisers from Russia to anywhere in the world, except the EU. Some of us (EU Member States) even finance the shipment by WFP of Russian fertilizers in Europe to third countries.
15. In conclusion, the EU and its Member States request that the Council adopt *en bloc* the draft Council decision set out in document CL 171/3 Add 1.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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