



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

172nd session of the FAO Council

(24-28 April)

Item 6 – The impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Mr. Chair,

- 1. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.**
- 2. [The following FAO Members align themselves with this statement: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Norway, the Republic of North-Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine].**
- 3. We thank FAO for producing document CL 172/5 and for putting this item on the agenda as requested in the decision adopted by the Council at its 171st session in December 2022 - highlighting the Council's strong concerns about the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in terms of increased world food insecurity and malnutrition. While we strongly underline the interrelated nature of items 5 and 6 on our agenda, in the interest of time and efficiency we will not repeat the points we raised under Item 5.**
- 4. The document CL 172/5 unequivocally reaffirms what we already knew - that Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, in blatant violation of the UN Charter, has had severe negative impact on food security, not only in Ukraine but indeed worldwide and has substantially aggravated the global food crisis. Of special concern is the impact of Russia's war on food security in least developed countries (LDCs) and low-income food-deficit countries (LIFDCs), many of which are highly dependent on imports of foodstuffs from Ukraine.**
- 5. To quote the document *"In the absence of an end to the conflict, significant uncertainty continues to surround Ukraine's ability to farm, harvest and trade in***

upcoming growing seasons” meaning the detrimental impact on food security in vulnerable countries risks continuing unless Russia puts an end to its unprovoked, illegal war of aggression.

We note with concern and consternation the information in document CL 172/5, which highlights that, in addition to damaging agricultural infrastructure and obstructing access to fields, Russia’s war has contaminated extensive areas of agricultural land in Ukraine with explosives and land mines. Targeting civilians and their food supply, disrupting agricultural production, and destroying key energy, transport and export infrastructure is totally unacceptable and constitutes “flagrant violations of international humanitarian law” according to UN Security Council resolutions on the protection of civilians, notably Resolution 2573 (2021) which also calls for all parties “to ensuring the proper functioning of food systems and markets in situations of armed conflict”.

6. In addition to the immediate impacts of Russia’s war of aggression, we take serious note of the related increase of macroeconomic risks outlined in the document, including the falloff of global growth and added strain on national budgets resulting in increased public debt and an elevated risk of debt crisis in 2023.
7. We appreciate FAO’s response to mitigate the impact of Russia’s war on global food security and in Ukraine, including the *FAO Ukraine Response Programme for January- December 2023*.
8. We recall the decisions adopted by the Council at its 169th and 171st Sessions and stress the need to continue their full implementation. We call on FAO to continue monitoring the impact of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine on the global food security and nutrition situation, particularly in affected vulnerable countries and to keep this item on the agenda for future Council Sessions, until Russia ceases its hostilities.

9. **We have collectively stepped up our efforts to support Ukraine and the most affected countries with additional financial support and shipment of grains and foodstuffs to countries most in need. Solidarity towards Ukraine and solidarity towards developing countries are not mutually exclusive, they are mutually beneficial. Thus, the EU remains committed to work with international organizations and partners to achieve food security and nutrition for all. This is, for instance, a key domain of the collaboration between the EU and the African Union which will be discussed at the upcoming EU-AU agriculture ministerial conference.**

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
