

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

174th Session of the Council of FAO

(4-8 December 2023)

DRAFT

Item 6: Impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of FAO

Mr Chair,

1. I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. [XXX, XXXX, XXXX align themselves with this statement.]
3. Due to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, a leading grain exporter, Ukraine has experienced a **dramatic drop in its exports**, resulting in the destruction of almost 300 000 tonnes of grain, which has reduced Ukraine's export potential by at least 40%. This has resulted in major food security concerns for millions of people around the world, especially in vulnerable countries, as has been acknowledged in the 2023 SOFI report.
4. The EU and its MS also note with appreciation FAO's efforts to analyse, evaluate and report on **the impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on global food security and nutrition**. We recall the projections presented by FAO indicating that, as a consequence of the war, 23 million more people would suffer food insecurity by 2030 compared to in a no-war scenario.
5. Russia's unilateral decision to terminate the implementation of the Black Sea Grain Initiative and its deliberate attacks on Ukraine's grain storage and export facilities, as well as its actions to hinder the freedom of navigation in the Black Sea, show that Russia continues to weaponise food and undermine global food security. We deplore the unilateral termination of the BSGI and condemn the attacks on port infrastructure.
6. We stress the importance of security and stability in the Black Sea, which is vital for sustainable grain exports. We support all efforts, notably those of the UN, to facilitate exports of Ukraine's grain and other agricultural products to the countries most in need, especially in Africa and the Middle East.
7. We are taking steps to ensure that global food security is restored. We continue to further enhance EU's Solidarity Lanes, which have secured the export of grain, oilseeds and related products from Ukraine. We welcome and support the "Grain from Ukraine II" initiative and the related Summit of 25 November in Kyiv.
8. Furthermore, the EU is mobilising support to the most affected farmers. The EU's overall support – through the Team Europe response to global food security – amounts to EUR 18 billion between 2021-2024, with EUR 7 billion disbursed in 2022, demonstrating our tangible commitment.

9. To conclude, the EU and its MS remain committed to fostering stability by standing in solidarity with Ukraine and by taking decisive action to mitigate the consequences of Russia's war of aggression on global food security. To that end, we urge FAO to continue its hard work analysing, evaluating and reporting on the evolving situation.

10. Finally, we request that FAO keep up its efforts on the issues still ongoing from the mandate of the 169th, 170th, 171st, and 172nd FAO Council and the 43rd Conference.

Thank you, Mr Chair.
