

CODEx ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEx COMMITTEE ON CONTAMINANTS IN FOODS

16th Session

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26 April 2023 (virtual report adoption)

STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES REGARDING RUSSIA'S UNPROVOKED WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

The United States would like to join other members in condemning Russia's war against Ukraine. Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and its people is taking a devastating human toll. The United States remains unwavering in its support of the government and people of Ukraine as they defend their country and their freedom. As a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the United States is committed to the Codex mandate of establishing science-based standards that protect consumer health and promote fair trade of safe food, which is critical to feeding billions of people around the world. Russia's brutal and needless war is undermining global food security and its actions run contrary to the multilateral science- and consensus- based process that is foundational to the work of Codex.

Russia's brutal war against Ukraine has increased the volatility of food, fertilizer and energy prices, further elevated inflation, and sharply increased food insecurity across the globe, particularly among the most vulnerable people. The Black Sea Grain Initiative has helped meet urgent needs and stabilize world grain prices, although the world needs Russia to fulfil its commitments and alleviate the growing backlog of ships waiting for grain. It is essential this life-saving mechanism be extended and expanded to make maximum use of existing Black Sea port infrastructure.

Reflecting its longstanding commitment to food security, the United States moved swiftly to help rally the international response to the current food security crisis. The United States committed \$13.5 billion in humanitarian aid and food assistance last year alone.

The United States encourages countries to take this time to examine barriers to trade, including rules and standards that may impede the flow of agriculture and food. We must work together to remove unnecessary barriers if we want to ensure not only seamless trade, but also the kind of cooperation via global agricultural markets that is vital to global food safety and security.

The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine and urges Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine immediately.