

168th Session of the Council
Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - original version
Item 4 – FAO’s Response to COVID-19: Building to Transform

Member Name	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;">Australia (Wed 17/11/2021 7:03)</p>	<p>Australia appreciates FAO’s ongoing efforts to address the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition and we respectfully provide the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. While recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic has undeniably been a major setback to achieving the SDGs by 2030, we highlight the important opportunities for renewed collective progress which have stemmed from the crisis, such as improving global collaboration, building resilient markets and agri-food trade opportunities, and expanding the use of innovative technologies and digitalisation tools. 2. We appreciate the significant efforts by FAO to understand and seek to mitigate the different impacts of COVID-19 at a global, regional and country level, including through the use of real-time monitoring systems and data information platforms, such as AMIS. 3. Acknowledging the highlighted need for FAO to further balance regional focus, we welcomed advice provided at the Joint Meeting of the 132nd Programme Committee and 188th Finance Committee that expanded efforts to support Small Island Developing States, with their unique challenges related to being tourism- and import-dependent, are underway, and we look forward to receiving future updates. 4. We acknowledge the work on Trade and Food Safety Standards as a clear example of FAO using its comparative advantage to improve livelihoods and ensure the movement of safe food across long and short supply chains alike. 5. We reaffirm our commitment to FAO’s work on One Health, as referenced in paragraph 43, and we encourage other Members to contribute voluntary funding to support these efforts.
<p style="text-align: center;">United States of America (Wed 17/11/2021 17:20)</p>	<p>The long-term impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition continue to be a concern for the United States. The new U.S. Global Food Security Strategy, which was released in October, fully integrates a food systems approach, as advanced by the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit, and prioritizes programs that counter the negative impacts of the pandemic, such as disruptions in food systems, economic downturns, and slowing growth.</p> <p>The United States welcomes the work FAO is doing to address the short-term and long-term effects of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition.</p> <p>We recognize FAO’s key role in the production and dissemination of information and assessments of the impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture, food security and nutrition, especially given the challenges that COVID-19 has presented for data collection. We encourage FAO to continue its excellent monitoring and analytical work.</p> <p>We also encourage FAO to continue working closely with other organizations, such as the World Bank and the International Food Policy Research Institute, to track the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition. In order</p>

	<p>to effectively prepare for and respond to the secondary impacts of COVID-19, it is important for FAO members and other stakeholders to have timely and reliable information that is consistent across sources.</p> <p>Many countries, including the United States, have been contributing through bilateral and multilateral channels to prevent and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on food security and nutrition. We recognize the important role FAO should continue to play in supporting the global response. In addition to the provision of data, analysis, policy advice, and technical support, we welcome FAO's efforts to match countries in need with the resources available to meet those needs. We look forward to continued reporting on the Food Coalition and other FAO efforts to match needs with resources.</p> <p>The United States strongly supports the One Health and Tripartite-Plus. We encourage FAO, with its counterparts in One Health, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), to actively participate, within its areas of mandate (such as pandemic response and recovery, zoonotic disease prevention, and other technical areas of expertise), in the next phases of origin studies led by the WHO.</p> <p>Finally, we welcome FAO's partnership with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) to assess the impact of national emergency laws on access to affordable and nutritious food, particularly for vulnerable groups including women and youth. We look forward to the results of the joint FAO-IDLO global assessment and national assessments in Honduras and Uganda.</p>
<p>Japan (Fri 19/11/2021 13:20)</p>	<p>Japan expresses its appreciation for various FAO's works on the impact on food systems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic increased global food insecurity both in developed and developing countries. Therefore, FAO's role, which has various information and data, is becoming more and more important. Japan recognizes the importance of the FAO COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme, and providing emergency assistance to impoverished and vulnerable communities in Bangladesh for improving food production and nutrition conditions, and strengthening food systems in cooperation with FAO.</p> <p>Also, in response to the various challenges caused by the pandemic such as the disruption in the food supply chain, it is becoming more important to build resilient and sustainable food systems than ever before.</p> <p>Japan emphasises the importance of free and open and fair trade rule to have a smooth flow of foodstuffs, improving productivity through digitalization and innovation with appropriate protection of intellectual properties and privacy, and no one-size-fits-all approach. We will continue to focus its activity through FAO with the other countries. Now we are supporting FAO through voluntary contributions to develop guideline principles to strengthen the food production and supply system and the free, open, and fair trade for building a more resilient and seamless global food supply chain, which includes improving global food security by strengthening food production and supply through voluntary contributions to FAO. It is requested that FAO will consider allocating such resources effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>The importance of the One Health approach based on regional and international cooperation in preventing and mitigating future pandemics is increasing. As the paragraph 15 (g) of the Report of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee expressed, Japan hopes for FAO's continued proactive activities in close collaboration with</p>

	international organizations such as other Rome-based Agencies to prevent gaps and overlaps between initiatives and organizations.
<p>Spain (Fri 19/11/2021 19:05)</p>	<p>En lo relativo a la respuesta de la FAO a la COVID 19, construir para transformar, quisiéramos destacar lo siguiente:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manifestar nuestro total apoyo a la intervención de la UE y sus 27 EEMM. • Alentamos a la FAO, debido a la urgente necesidad de construir sistemas alimentarios resilientes y sostenibles, a fortalecer la resiliencia de los trabajos y medios de vida rurales, y a acelerar los procesos de transformación a nivel nacional, prestando especial atención a los grupos más vulnerables como los pequeños agricultores familiares, los jóvenes y las mujeres. • La pandemia de la COVID-19, crisis de salud pública resultado de un virus con un posible origen animal, ha destacado la importancia del concepto “Una sola salud”. Es por ello que acogemos con agrado el establecimiento del Panel de expertos de alto nivel de “Una sola salud” en el que participan estrechamente la FAO, la OIE, la OMS y el PNUMA, destacando la importancia, a la hora de prevenir y abordar amenazas globales, de la interrelación entre salud humana, sanidad animal y medio ambiente. • Solicitamos a la FAO que garantice, dentro de su mandato, una cooperación más estrecha con otros órganos de las Naciones Unidas, incluido el Comité de Seguridad alimentaria y su Panel de Expertos de Alto Nivel, con valiosa información sobre el impacto de la COVID 19 en la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición.
<p>France (Fri 19/11/2021 20:56)</p>	<p>La France s’aligne sur la déclaration de l’Union européenne et ses 27 Etats membres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Concernant la partie II. Programme d’intervention de la FAO, 2 remarques</u> <u>Au f) – para 43 à 47 - sur l’approche Une seule santé (« One Health »)</u>: nous saluons l’engagement de la FAO dans la prévention des pandémies zoonotiques par le renforcement de l’approche Une seule santé, et rappelons l’importance que l’inclusion du PNUE à l’Alliance tripartite soit formalisée au plus vite. Nous saluons également la mention du Panel d’experts de haut niveau Une seule santé au para 44. Nous souhaiterions que le document mentionne la participation de la FAO à l’initiative internationale PREZODE, dont le but est d’opérationnaliser l’approche Une seule santé sur le terrain pour prévenir les risques d’émergence zoonotique et de pandémie. <u>Cependant au para. 47</u> du document nous soulignons que la mention du Fonds mondial une seule santé comme initiative G7/G20 n’est pas correcte car cette proposition de Fonds de la part de la présidence italienne du G20 n’a pas été adoptée. <u>Nous proposons donc de supprimer cette phrase.</u> Nous rappelons à ce titre que de nombreux fonds existent déjà et qu’il est important de ne pas créer de doublons. La priorité doit être de renforcer l’existant. • <u>Concernant le point IV, « les principaux enseignements et mesures à prendre »</u> : 3 propositions pour mieux refléter les enseignements du document : 1-Nous soulignons l’importance de la durabilité des actions à entreprendre pour améliorer la résilience des systèmes alimentaires, notamment face aux pandémies. Les approches durables et résilientes doivent être promues, notamment l’agroécologie, à laquelle la FAO a manifesté son soutien en rejoignant la coalition politique pour l’agroécologie lancée au Sommet des Nations unies sur les systèmes alimentaires les 23 et 24 septembre derniers. Nous proposons ainsi d’ajouter en section IV un paragraphe qui, parmi les enseignements tirés de la crise COVID, mentionne la nécessité de

	<p>transformation vers des systèmes alimentaires durables : « <i>The Covid 19 pandemic has highlighted the need of achieving sustainable food systems</i> ».</p> <p>2-Un autre enseignement à la lecture du document est l'importance de l'approche Une seule santé. Dans la lignée du rapport de la dernière session de la réunion conjointe du Comité du programme et du Comité financier, nous encourageons la FAO à veiller à ce que cette approche soit intégrée dans ses travaux, en mettant l'accent sur la prévention des maladies zoonotiques.</p> <p>3-En outre, nous considérons que la COVID-19 n'a pas mis en avant seulement le rôle des « technologies numériques » (cf. paragraphe 62) mais celui de l' « innovation sous toutes les formes » (sociales, politiques, institutionnelles, financières...). Nous souhaitons donc que la FAO, dans sa réponse à la COVID-19, accorde une attention égale à toutes les formes d'innovation, qui doivent être adaptées aux besoins exprimés sur le terrain et au contexte local.</p>
<p>Africa Regional Group) (Mon 22/11/2021 14:05)</p>	<p>La Guinée et la République Démocratique du Congo interviennent sur ce point de l'ordre du jour au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique.</p> <p>Le Groupe Régional Afrique félicite le secrétariat de la FAO pour l'élaboration et la brillante présentation de la version révisée de ce point intitulé « Action menée par la FAO pour faire face à la COVID-19 : construire pour transformer ».</p> <p>Au regard de la récente publication sur l'état de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition dans le monde, entre 720 et 811 millions de personnes souffraient de la faim en 2020, sous l'effet de la pandémie de COVID-19, soit 161 millions de plus qu'en 2019.</p> <p>Dans ce contexte, le Groupe Régional Afrique est préoccupé par l'augmentation considérable du nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition, affectant davantage la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable 1 et 2 à l'horizon 2030.</p> <p>Malgré toutes les préoccupations suscitées, nous notons avec satisfaction que la production, les marchés et les échanges agroalimentaires se sont avérés résilients grâce aux efforts de toutes les parties prenantes et de la Coopération multilatérale.</p> <p>Le Groupe Régional Afrique voudrait manifester son soutien au programme d'intervention et de redressement de la FAO dans le contexte de la COVID-19 et encourage les pays donateurs et les partenaires techniques et financiers à poursuivre la mobilisation des ressources en sa faveur au grand bénéfice des populations vulnérables de la région.</p> <p>Nos délégations, au nom du Groupe Régional Afrique, souscrivent aux principales activités menées par la FAO dans chacun des sept domaines de travail énoncés dans le rapport.</p> <p>Lesdites activités ont largement contribué à mieux gérer les effets de la pandémie sur les plans mondial, régional et national ainsi qu'à prévenir d'éventuelles pandémies zoonotiques dans l'approche « d'une seule santé ».</p> <p>Par ailleurs, nous saluons la collaboration étroite entre la FAO et la Présidence italienne du G-20 qui a permis de lancer, en novembre 2020, sous la direction de la FAO, la coalition en faveur de l'alimentation en vue de créer et de coordonner un mécanisme de soutien politique, financier et technique pour relever les défis posés par la COVID-19.</p>

	<p>Le Groupe Régional Afrique remercie la FAO pour son soutien à la mise en œuvre de la Zone de Libre-Echange Continentale Africaine (ZLECA) qui permettra l'intensification du commerce interafricain de biens et de services agricoles.</p> <p>A la suite de ces commentaires, le Groupe Régional Afrique souhaite que le Conseil prenne note des progrès réalisés par la FAO dans sa riposte contre la pandémie de COVID-19.</p>
<p>European Union (Mon 22/11/2021 20:42)</p>	<p>I am honoured to write to you on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States regarding item 4 on the agenda of the 168th Session of the FAO Council.</p> <p>The Candidate Countries Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia¹ and Turkey, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of San Marino, align themselves with this written statement.</p> <p>We commend FAO for its tireless efforts in tackling the pandemic's multiple negative effects on food systems, including through its comprehensive COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and its role in the African Union-FAO COVID-19 Task Force on food security and nutrition in Africa.</p> <p>We wish to highlight the crucial role of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) in providing valuable data to ensure well-informed and timely decisions.</p> <p>The COVID-19 crisis has more than ever demonstrated the urgent need to build resilient and sustainable food systems for healthy diets within the planetary boundaries. This comprises the need to strengthen the resilience of rural jobs and livelihoods, grant access to markets and to social protection programmes, keep trade flows open and pay particular attention to supporting the most vulnerable groups such as smallholders and family farmers, indigenous peoples, young people and women.</p> <p>In this regard, we call on FAO to ensure, within its mandate, a closer cooperation with other UN bodies, including the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE), which has produced relevant analyses on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on food security and nutrition. We also stress the importance of the One Health approach and encourage FAO, based on the existing Tripartite partnership, to formalise its collaboration with UNEP, as the leading global environmental authority. In this respect, we welcome the establishment of the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP), involving FAO, OIE, WHO and UNEP, as well as the participation of FAO in the PREZODE Initiative.</p> <p>As we all strive to learn and to be better prepared for the future, we encourage FAO to present to Members specific lessons learned from the pandemic and how these lessons could be applied elsewhere.</p> <p>We thank FAO for having this item updated and discussed on a regular basis.</p>

¹ The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.