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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-ninth Session - Cent soixante-neuvième session -
169.º período de sesiones**

**Hybrid meeting, 8 April 2022
VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLenary MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Réunion hybride, 8 avril 2022
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL**

**Reunión híbrida, 8 de abril de 2022
ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Sixty-ninth Session Cent soixante-neuvième session 169.º período de sesiones
Hybrid meeting, 8 April 2022 Réunion hybride, 8 avril 2022 Reunión híbrida, 8 de abril de 2022
FIRST PLENARY SESSION PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
8 April 2021

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 09:10 hours
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 10
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 09.10
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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las correcciones a: Verbatim-Team@fao.org

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, I would like to call the first meeting of the 169th Session of the Council to order. I would like to warmly welcome the Council Members and Observers in the Session, both those who are present in the room and those who are virtually present, and of course, I warmly welcome the Director-General of FAO, Dr QU Dongyu. Welcome.

The war in Ukraine has severe consequences for global food security. It adds suffering to many countries above the suffering already caused by the COVID-19 crisis, and I adhere to the statements made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of FAO related to the war in Ukraine, quoting, *"We deplore the loss of life and displacement of populations."* We join the call of the UN Secretary-General to end the war, restore peace and protect people's lives. We stand on the side of the suffering people in the Ukraine crisis and express our solidarity with the people, in particular the ones deriving their livelihoods from agriculture. Of course, we are all aware of the Resolution ES-11/1 adopted by the General Assembly on 2 March of this year, with the title *Aggression against Ukraine*. In this Resolution, and expressed amongst others, its concerns about the potential impact of the conflict on increased food security and grave concerns at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine, with an increasing number of internationally displaced persons and refugees in need of humanitarian assistance. We and I support the tireless efforts of the Secretary-General and all others, including international organizations, to bring an end to this conflict, the de-escalation of the current situation as well as efforts of the UN to respond to the humanitarian efforts and the refugee crisis.

The war has taken a heavy toll in Ukraine and its people and could have serious effects on the food security of millions around the world. Already in several regional conferences over the last two weeks, we discussed the consequences in many regions because of this war, and what we have seen is that the most vulnerable, the poorest and the most excluded people and communities will be hit hardest. We do not know when the conflict will come to an end, but today we are here at the Council of FAO to discuss the consequences for food security all around the world and to see what we, as Council, and what we can ask of FAO to do, to find and to help those who have suffered the most, and of course, to do it within the mandate of FAO.

Before going into the session, I would like to call a minute of silence for all those who have lost their loved ones in the war in Ukraine and for all victims of other wars and conflicts all over the world. May I ask you for a moment of silence and to stand.

Minute of silence

Minute de silence

Minuto de silencio

As you are aware, this unscheduled Session of the Council has been called on the basis of Rule XXV.1 of the General Rules of the Organization, which states that the Council shall hold a session as often as it is considered necessary or on the call of its Chairperson or Director-General or on the request submitted in writing to the Director-General by 15 or more Member Nations.

Such a request by 43 Member Nations was received by the Director-General and myself, and even more when you count not only the Council but also the other Members, but it was the 43 Members on 21 March, which called by a letter for an extra Council on the basis of Rule II.4 of the Rules of Procedures of the Council, which states that in case of great urgency the notice period of two months may be reduced to two weeks.

That is why this session has been called already for today. The session is taking place in a hybrid modality in light of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated containment measures in place in the host country and in FAO headquarters. I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraph 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. The declaration made by the European Union and its Member States is contained in information document *CL 169/INF/4*.

We are going to discuss the substantive issue today, may I ask all to respect each other in our statements, may we be focused and may we focus on the issues which are on the table for today, that is

how within the mandate of FAO, we can ask or recommend FAO to take measures to support those who are suffering from the war in Ukraine.

Allow me now to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, and invite him to address the Council this morning.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now more than two years that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to negatively impact our lives, our health and our economies, hitting the poorest the hardest as they face greater exposure to the pandemic and are the most affected by rising food and fuel prices.

This month, food prices, as we measure them by the FAO Food Price Index, reached a new all-time high, is up 12.6 percent from February, with a large increase for the cereals price sub-index up 17.1 percent and vegetable oils sub-index up 23.2 percent. Particularly, prices for staple foodstuffs such as wheat and vegetable oils have been soaring lately, imposing extraordinary costs on global consumers, particularly the poorest.

The war in Ukraine has made matters even worse. With energy prices rising in parallel with food prices, the purchasing power of vulnerable consumers has further decreased.

This additional burden comes at a time when higher health spending and the costs of controlling the pandemic are already squeezing the budgets of many governments. Higher fertilizer prices today could lead to lower fertilizer use next season and possibly beyond, with the real prospect of lower food productivity resulting in even higher food prices. This would potentially result in even more undernourished people in 2022 and months to come.

The Russian Federation and Ukraine are important players in all three markets of concern, together they account for nearly 30 percent of global wheat exports, and about 80 percent of global sunflower exports, and the Russian Federation is the largest exporter of fertilizers. Supply disruptions in these two countries will be felt across global agrifood systems.

Who will bear the burden? First, and foremost, Ukraine, because of the ongoing destruction that is forcing people to be displaced, with enormous human suffering, and is destroying all its production value chain and supply chain. Second, it will affect countries that are highly dependent on Ukraine and the Russian Federation for their food (including raw material for feed), fuel, and fertilizer supplies and will have to resort to alternate suppliers, but that will take time. Third, it will affect all consumers worldwide as the increase in food, energy and fertilizer prices is putting at risk the next harvest globally.

Dear Colleagues, this Session of the Council is an opportunity to discuss these problems, the prospects, and possible approaches to prevent an even further escalation of the crisis. Allow me to offer a few thoughts before you start the discussions. The supply situation on global food markets is tight and we have reason for concern, but there is also evidence that the current problems can be contained, and a global food crisis like in 2008 can be averted.

Let me first underline what is similar to 2008: we have high food, fuel and fertilizer prices, and high transportation costs. What makes matters worse today is the two years-pandemic had severe comprehensive consequence and need to manage its global effects, while coping with Conflict and with Climate in the short, medium and long term. The poorest countries have been severely affected by the pandemic, which has increased the level of inequality and this makes them more vulnerable relative to 2008. Second, we have not yet seen the level of export restrictions as in 2008, and we must ensure this does not happen - but we also see the big global logistic problem. Third, the major difference from 2008 is that today we are facing the big risk that our planting season for next year will be drastically affected - in 2008 the shock was due to a drought and did not put at risk the next planting season.

This will not only affect Ukraine and the Russian Federation, but all the major producing countries. Most importantly, we know the mistakes made in 2008, especially counter-productive policies, and we know that we can avoid them today – to avert a global food security crisis. Above all, we must not

shut down our global trade system, and exports should not be restricted or taxed; producing more and better in other countries and regions of the world is urgently needed. Food needs to be accessible, but making starchy food cheaper relative to high value commodities will lead to poor nutrition, with poor resource use, and deprives others of their basic supplies.

Each of us can contribute: Firstly, we need to appreciate the foods produced by farmers with sweat, the real cost of labour involved, agri-inputs and our natural resources; secondly, consumers must stop food waste; and finally, we must improve market transparency and market intelligence so that decision-makers can make the right choices.

As host of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) Secretariat, FAO has played a key role in this regard. Our Information Note, presented two weeks ago to Members, to the G7, and the G20, shows how FAO has effectively provided market intelligence. We will continue to keep the Information Note updated and Members informed of latest developments in a timely manner.

Dear Colleagues, FAO is staying and delivering in Ukraine, and has reinforced its team on the ground. FAO has completed nationwide needs assessments in Ukraine, targeting local level administrations and commercial farmers, as well as an ongoing household survey in areas with a significant influx of internally displaced people.

Preliminary results show a worsening trend in food security, especially in areas with active ongoing fighting, and those with the highest numbers of displaced people (up to 15 percent of their total population). Twenty percent of host households lack cash to meet their basic food needs, with destocking of small farm animals, and in some cases large ruminants. In terms of agricultural production, data indicates limited availability of critical agricultural inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, equipment, fuel and livestock supplies, arising from a combination of logistic and financial issues.

Almost one-third of farmers reported facing non-functioning supply chains and input supply networks, with small commercial producers and subsistence farmers affected the most. Only 10 percent of the USD 50 million initially requested under the Rapid Response Plan for Ukraine has been received to date. An updated Rapid Response Plan for May-December 2022, requests USD 115 million to reach almost 1 million individuals - which means approximately 330 000 households. The Plan has been developed in coordination with the Government of Ukraine and civil society partners across targeted areas, and requirements will be included in the revised UN Flash Appeal.

It is anticipated that the Plan be continued beyond 2022, based on the evolution of the current crisis.

The focus of the Rapid Response Plan is on: one, maintaining food production, through providing cash and inputs for cereal crop production in October, and the Spring vegetable and potato production, as well as supporting harvesting of the 2021 winter crop in July and August; and includes providing livestock production and health inputs and services. Two, supporting agrifood supply chains, value chains and markets by engaging government and the private sector to provide technical support services to household level and smallholder producers through public-private partnerships. Three, coordinating the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster, in particular through continued assessments of food security, markets and value chains.

Dear Colleagues, to address the impacts of the war in Ukraine on global food security, FAO has developed a detailed technical note on a global Food Import Financing Facility, which aims to present a mechanism to respond to rising food import and input costs. Tapping into the Facility would allow vulnerable countries to mitigate long-lasting impacts on their agrifood systems and reduce future needs for emergency assistance.

We have also developed a proposal on the implementation of our Food Insecurity Experience Scale at national and sub-national level in the most vulnerable countries to better target their social protection assistance.

Additional concrete proposals by FAO include: fast implementation of detail soil maps, supporting most vulnerable countries to use their fertilizers efficiently, following lessons learned from the soil mapping experience in Ethiopia for example; efficient and well-targeted social protection plans based on previous evidence, and that respond to specific needs of countries. In countries hosting refugees,

access to existing social protection systems and job opportunities should be facilitated by lifting legal access barriers and, where needed, by increasing the capacity of host countries' social protection systems. Improvement of biosecurity measures in Ukraine's neighbouring countries to minimize the spread of African Swine Fever and other animal diseases, by taking steps to facilitate early detection, timely reporting and rapid disease containment; and strengthened market transparency and policy dialogue to minimize disruptions, ensure continued functioning, and the smooth flow of trade in food and agricultural products. In this respect, we are proposing the continued strengthening of AMIS.

All our proposals are now uploaded on our website, in a section specifically on Ukraine and latest FAO response.

Dear Colleagues, the document submitted for this Council session provides an overview of all major issues, risks, and policy recommendations, and it offers a solid basis for transparent and open discussions, in line with the FAO mandate and in accordance with the FAO Basic Texts.

Let us work together today in an efficient, coherent and technical manner to ensure better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all, leaving no one behind – now, more than ever.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Director-General Dr QU Dongyu, for your remarks, especially focusing on what we can do within the mandate of FAO to support all those countries which are in need of support because of the Ukraine war and crisis. I do hope that we have a very fruitful meeting, an effective meeting, to look to the future, and indeed we always say leaving nobody behind and it is rightly so what you have stated. If there was one moment where we have to focus on making sure that we leave nobody behind, it would be today.

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda

Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Tema 1. Aprobación del programa

(CL 169/1; CL 169/INF/2; CL 169/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

With that, I would like now to continue our Session and the first Agenda Item is the *Adoption of the Agenda*. As indicated in my pre-Session letter of 29 March, this one-day session, the 169th session of the Council has started at 09:00 hours this morning. The Adoption of the Report is tentatively scheduled for this evening at 20:00 hours and I do hope that we can be, as was called by the Director-General, as effective and efficient as possible today.

For that reason, we have set a time limit for statements of three minutes per Member and five minutes for regional statements. I will do my utmost to uphold those time limits, because only then we can make sure that we are as inclusive as possible and that every Member of the Council who wishes to speak can also speak. You will blame me afterwards if you speak longer than three minutes, as I will intervene and ask you to conclude, but that is my task and I already apologise for it, but that is the only way we can finalise our meeting today. We have only one day, and we also have to respect, as I said yesterday, those Members who need to stop because of Ramadan later today.

Given the short nature of the Council Session, with only one substantial Item at hand, there is no Drafting Committee for this Session, consistent with the practice of the regular one-day Council sessions in the past, following the regular Session of the Conference. The Council is invited to confirm that participation by virtual means constitutes attendance at this Session, which is held at the seat of the Organization in accordance with Rule II.3 of the Rules of Procedures of the Council. The Council is also invited to suspend any rules incompatible with this hybrid setting in accordance with Rule VIII of the Rules of Procedures of the Council.

We have a long-standing tradition within the United Nations and that is the strength of the United Nations, which is also the tradition and the strength of FAO Council and Conference that we try to

take decisions by consensus, and we are all aware today that we have a very difficult issue at hand with different proposals, but I will try to do my utmost to see whether or not we could arrive at a consensus or come as close as possible to a consensus. However, in the case that we have to vote, I will explain how the voting would go. Decisions by the Council are made by simple majority, except for two instances in which two-third majority is required. The first one is where the Council wishes to add an Agenda item to the Agenda during the Session, and secondly, in case of approval and submission to Members by the Council for agreements or supplementary conventions by the Council. Of course, the latter exception is not valid for today. The default vote in the Council is a show of hands. However, if a Member so requests, a roll-call vote can take place. In an electronic setting, the roll-call is called a nominal vote and a show of hands is a vote without recording names. Finally, the Council may also decide to use a secret ballot to vote on any matter, but, again, as we have seen in the past with elections, if we have a secret vote, it will mean that probably we will not have enough time today to finalise our meeting.

Now, as we are all aware, we have different proposals on the table for the agenda and the relevant document *CL 169/5*, *CL 169/7* and *CL 169/INF/2*, but when it comes to the *Adoption of the Agenda*, I really would like to make an appeal to you, an appeal of cooperation and an appeal for flexibility. I really would like to urge you to adopt the Agenda as it is without any changes, because if we go into trying to change the Agenda Item, it means that we have a long discussion and probably it will end in a vote and probably we will lose a lot of time this morning. So, I appeal to you, let us honour the spirit in which we are working and focus on the substantive item which is in front of us.

May I ask you that the Council approves the Agenda of the Session?

I see no objections, so decided.

It is so decided

Thank you for your flexibility and your cooperation. The Agenda is approved.

Approved

Approuvé

Aprobado

Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons

Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents

Tema 2. Elección de los tres vicepresidentes

CHAIRPERSON

Now, we turn to Agenda Item 2, *Election of three Vice-Chairpersons*. We have had nominations for three Vice-Chairpersons. The first is Mr Khaled Ahmad Zekriya of Afghanistan, the second Vice-Chair is Ms Demitu Hambisa Bonsa of Ethiopia, and the third one is Ms Michèle Pranchère-Tomassini of Luxembourg.

May I ask the Council to approve these nominations for the Vice-Chairperson?

I see no objections, so decided.

It is so decided

Thank you so much.

Item 3. Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Point 3. Impact du conflit russo-ukrainien sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et questions connexes relevant du mandat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO)

Tema 3. Repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización

de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)

(CL 169/3; CL 169/3 Add.1; CL 169/4; CL 169/4 Add.1; CL 169/5; CL 169/6; CL 169/7)

CHAIRPERSON

Now, we turn to Agenda Item 3, but before going into the discussion, I wish to remind Members to submit a copy of their statements in advance, if possible, to assist the interpreters and the verbatim reporters to do their work as efficient and effective today. A statement should be submitted to FAO-Interpretation@fao.org.

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, now we begin our substantive work this morning with Item 3, *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*.

As stated, we have several documents in front of us for discussion and I would like to repeat them, that is CL 169/3, *Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*, and there is a document provided by Management, as I said, CL169/3 with an Addendum.

We also have document CL 169/4 which is the letter from the group of Members of FAO with a proposal for discussion and decision by the Council with an Addendum and the Addendum is the signatories to the Council and the count until now is 80 Members of FAO.

We have document CL 169/5, *Letter from the Russian Federation - proposal for the 169th session of the Council*, and CL 169/6, *Letter from the Russian Federation - proposal for draft conclusions for the Council*, and the last document is CL 169/7, *Letter from Nicaragua - proposal for the agenda of the 169th Session of the Council*. These are the documents in front of us and you have seen that there are two sets of draft conclusions in front of us to be discussed and decided today.

But first, I would like to give the floor to Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, for a brief introduction to this Item, followed by Ms Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General, focusing on other aspects of the war and crisis.

Mr Torero Cullen, thank you in advance for all the work you have done until now to give us the facts and figures around the consequences. As I have seen your statements, they are all clear and focused, and of course, the presentation given by both Mr Máximo Torero Cullen and Ms Beth Bechdol will be circulated and put on the web so all the Members of the Council, all the Members of FAO can study them and see them.

Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)

The war that began on 24 February, 2022 has caused extensive damage and loss of life in key population centres, spread across rural areas and sparked massive displacement. More than 4.3 million people, as of today, have been forced to abandon their homes and flee across borders for safety. Millions more are internally displaced.

It is clear that the war has resulted in massive and deteriorating food security challenges and disrupted livelihoods during the agricultural season in Ukraine, that has also affected the global food security, as it was explained by the Director-General.

It is important to note that already prior to the war in Ukraine, international food prices had reached an all-time high. This was mostly due to market conditions, but also to high prices of energy, fertilizers and also all other agricultural services. As the Director-General mentioned, this month, the month of March, food prices as we measure them by FAO Food Price Index, reached a new all-time high, particularly prices for staple foodstuffs such as wheat and vegetable oils, have been soaring of late imposing extraordinary cost on consumers, particularly the poorest.

Our Food Price Index is up 12.6 percent from February with a large increase for the cereal price index up 17.1 percent, and vegetable oils index up 23.2 percent. It is extremely important, not only within Ukraine, but also for the world because both Russian Federation and Ukraine are a key exporter of cereals (30 percent of exports in the world), but they are also a key exporter of oil seeds and

sunflower, which they represent around 55 percent of the world, and also of fertilizers, where Russian Federation is first in the exports of, second on potassium and third on phosphorus fertilizer in the world.

Now, nearly 50 countries depend on Russian Federation and Ukraine for at least 30 percent of their wheat import needs. Of this, 26 countries source over 50 percent on their wheat imports from these two countries. This war will have multiple implications for global markets and food security, representing a challenge for food security for many countries, and especially for low-income food import dependent countries and vulnerable population groups.

As you all know, we have run two scenarios that are presented in the note. One we call the moderated scenario where we basically reduce 10 million metric tons for wheat and maize, and also for other commodities, and a severe shock where we will reduce 25 million metric tons for wheat and maize and other commodities.

The results of these scenarios show an increase in international reference prices of main commodities compared to the projected baseline values, so we must understand that they are relative to the baseline values which were already high, and that expected increases have a significant effect on food security.

The medium-term simulation indicates that over time these compensation rates increase alternative producers' step up and they will be reducing the price increases, but prices remain elevated for potentially the next five years. Globally, under the moderate shock scenario, the number of chronic undernourished people will increase by 7.6 million people, while this level will raise to 13.1 million people under the more severe shock, set in 2022 and 2023. This, of course, could be exacerbated, if the policies implemented are not the proper ones and if we do not act immediately, as the Director-General said, to avoid a potential food crisis.

In this sense, FAO has developed a very concrete set of proposals. First, FAO is constantly updating our humanitarian response and today at 10:00 hours you will have the new update of the rapid response plan, which is being uploaded as we speak.

Second, we are supporting the concept, as we did in COVID-19, that we need to keep trade in food and fertilizers open by preventing the war from negatively affecting productive and marketing activities in both countries in order to enable them to meet domestic production and consumption needs, while also satisfying global demands. In order to ensure that supply chains continue to function properly, or are in position to resume operation swiftly, such as efforts to include steps to protect productive assets, including the standing crops, livestock inputs and all the value chain and food value chain needs in these countries.

Third, FAO's technical teams have developed a detailed technical note on global food import facilities, what we call the Fifth, which aims to present a mechanism that will respond to soaring food import costs and input costs addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in a very transparent way, by tapping into the Fifth, vulnerable countries will mitigate long-lasting impacts on their agrifood systems and reduce future needs for emergency assistance.

As a first step, a technical background paper was prepared defining the eligibility criteria for countries that are in prospective need of this Fifth. The background paper also assesses the overall costs of the facility and the different eligibility assumptions. This suggests a funding volume between USD 6.3 billion to USD 25 billion depending on how much we want to cover these costs and these are revolving funds so that they be sustainable over time and will increase resilience in the future for this type of shock.

Eligible are food importing countries in low income to extend eligibility to food importing either international development association countries outside of these two country interests. The maximum that these 25 billion represent requires to be covered and it covers the needs of financing for 25 percent of the current import costs, and a funding volume of USD 6.3 billion will be required for just covering this level of cost.

This amount is provided on a full-time basis represents just a fraction of the funding available from other sources. For instance, the August 2021 allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs) of them have reached a volume of 456.5 billion SDRs, which is equivalent to about USD 650 billion, 25 percent

compensation of the Fifth with a volume of USD 6.3 billion will merely amount to 1 percent of this most recent SDR allocation. The background note, which is already uploaded in our web page, has all the details and looks country by country eligibility.

Our fourth proposal that we have developed is on the implementation of our food insecurity experiences case. We have learnt from the past that it is essential to target at the country level, not only at the country, but also at the subnational level. So, we have the tools to implement and accelerate the implementation of this domestically and scale across the different countries which are the most vulnerable countries.

Our fifth proposal is to have fast implementation of detailed soil maps, because we need to increase the efficiency on the use of fertilizers, and this is targeted to vulnerable countries, so that they can use fertilizers efficiently following the lessons learned from the Ethiopia initiative, which has been extremely successful in improving the blending of the combination of MPK to the needs of the soil.

In the Latin American Regional Meeting, we had a very good meeting with all the Central American regional countries and the Caribbean and they are taking this up to their system of integration of Central America so that they can establish processes, and we hope this will be the same in our regional meeting of Africa.

Our sixth proposal is an efficient and well targeted social protection design based on previous evidence and responding to the specific needs of countries. In countries hosting refugees, access to existing social protection systems and job opportunities should also be eased by lifting legal access barriers and, where needed, by increasing the capacity of host countries' social protection systems to absorb additional caseloads.

FAO has identified three main ways in which social protection can be helped to address the current crisis and its aftermath. First, enhancing the capacity of Ukraine's social protection systems to respond to the crisis and help rebuild agricultural livelihoods after the war. Possible responses in the context of an additional call for this rapid response plan.

Second, we are looking into strengthening social protection systems to support the socioeconomic integration of refugees and vulnerable host communities in host countries, in coordination with agricultural sector actors, especially responses in neighborhood host countries, with a particular focus on Moldova, and this is something that we detail in the note that we already uploaded in the web page. And third, responding to increases in food and fertilizer prices in net food importing countries and a reduction of remittances in Central Asia, and for that we propose very concrete mechanisms of response in that.

The seventh proposal is the improvement of biosecurity measures in neighbour countries to Ukraine to minimise the risk of the spread of African swine fever and other animal diseases.

And finally the market transparency and policy dialogue should be strengthened. This plays a key role when agricultural commodity markets are under uncertainty and disruptions need to be minimised to ensure that international markets continue to function properly and that trade and food agricultural products flow smoothly. In this respect, we are proposing continuous strengthening of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).

Instead of creating new initiatives, we need to strengthen existing initiatives which have shown to work and to play a crucial role in past crises. AMIS needs support to be expanded also to markets in key countries so that we can better understand not only the exports of cereals and the stocks of cereals, but also to include all import markets, which now we understand are central for assuring food security in the world.

Chairperson, let me just finish by alerting all the members that we have already developed everything and uploaded everything in our web page that you can observe in the screen and if you click in the front web page of FAO and you go to the FAO response to Ukraine, you will see the new platform that we have developed and that will allow us to basically show everything we have been working up to now in this topic.

Basically in this web page, we have uploaded the latest documents on the impacts on gender, the impacts on land, and we will keep uploading those documents, but we also have uploaded the briefing notes on the ground in Ukraine, the work that we are doing on the ground in Ukraine, and all the policy proposals that I was referring, with all the technical documents attached to those.

We have also uploaded the tools, the FAO Food Price Index, which will be immediately uploaded with the March data, the FAO data lab which is looking at prices within the countries real time, and the policy decision tool that also creates all the policies and brings all the policies being implemented at the country level. This will be an ongoing updated website, and is dedicated for this topic.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, for your presentation and for all the hard work you and your team have been doing to come forward with these eight proposals for discussion this morning, on how to tackle the consequences of the Ukrainian war for so many countries.

Now, I turn the floor to Ms Beth Bechdol for her presentation.

Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)

I would like to present Members of the Council with information requested regarding funding resources available to FAO. We note the request for a distinction between emergency response and recovery and agriculture sector development. FAO tracking of resource mobilisation does not currently distinguish between the first two, which are therefore aggregated.

In *Addendum 1*, you will find four sets of tables, each with data covering our 2020 to 2021 biennium, as well as current figures for 2022 up to the end of March. These tables detail resources, which are envisioned in the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) through assessed and voluntary contributions and also include a specific focus on funding resources for emergency programmes. Allow me to share with you a bit more of what is presented.

The first table summarizes funding received by donors. This table includes aggregated, assessed and voluntary contributions from all FAO Members and all voluntary contributions from non-Members, including development banks, vertical funds, the UN system, and non-state actors. This includes the totality of resources available to FAO as per the PWB.

The second table includes voluntary contributions by FAO resource partners, again of all types, but is focused on the subset of emergency funding. This is identified by specific marker in the FAO internal project cycle. The third table includes all funding delivered in recipient countries, as well as in subregions and regions through FAO projects, including both the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP), which comes from assessed contributions, and also projects supported by voluntary contributions from FAO Members and non-Members.

Finally, the fourth table highlights funding delivered in recipient countries, which is directed to emergency response projects. Again, these are identified by a specific marker in the internal FAO project cycle.

The FAO core budget has remained relatively static for many years. Voluntary contributions, mobilised by FAO, have increased over the last decade, moving from USD 818 million in 2012 to a record USD 1.42 billion in 2021. In the absence of increased regular programme contributions, greater efficiencies could be achieved through unearmarked or lightly earmarked contributions. FAO currently has five major platforms available to accommodate such funding, however contributions to these still make up a very small share of the total.

Voluntary contributions for humanitarian and emergency programming through FAO have increased significantly, along a relatively constant trend for the past decade. This category of funding accounts for on average 43 percent of this extrabudgetary category. The funding peaks closely mirror major crises, such as the desert locust crisis in 2020, when emergency funding reached 47 percent of the total.

FAO participates in global humanitarian appeals and humanitarian response plans and is currently active in 34 countries with total funding in these countries of USD 431 million in 2021, in addition to

USD 174 million in funding for other emergencies. You have heard this morning details of the appeal and rapid response plan for Ukraine.

It is also notable that a large part of the growth in FAO voluntary contributions in recent years has come through non-traditional partners, including vertical climate funds, joint UN programmes, and international financial institutions. We are receiving a growing share of funding for direct implementation by international financial institutions in emergencies and fragile states, including major agreements recently signed for Yemen and Afghanistan with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

While these are critically important and increasing amounts of contributions, FAO manages and implements approximately 1.2 percent of annual global official development assistance (ODA) and 2 percent of global humanitarian aid. For this very reason, FAO focuses on leveraging the technical knowledge of the Organization in critical countries, including Ukraine, and important programmatic areas that can have a multiplier effect and bring our programmes to impact at scale.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some context and explanation of the data that is presented in *Addendum 1*.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ms Beth Bechdol, about the financial means, the financial background and resources needed and available.

Now I would like to open the floor for Members to comment on the presentation, not only on the presentation of the proposals of FAO, but also on the Draft Conclusions which are proposed in document *CL 169/4* as well as *CL 169/6*.

I would like to remind all colleagues and friends, please stick to the three minutes time limit and if you speak on behalf of a Regional Group, the five minutes. As I said before, and of course, you will not like me anymore if I do but I have to uphold the time limits to make sure that everybody, all the Council Members and Observers, can speak today and of course, that we can come to decisions and Adoption of the Report also today.

This session will continue until 11:30 hours, then we have a break of half an hour. We have to break for the interpreters and I want to thank them for all their hard work, which you are doing not only already now, but for the whole day. Then we start at 12:00 to 14:30 hours for our second session of the extra session of the Council, and then we will see where we are at 14:30 hours.

Work together, work in the spirit of the Council, as we have been working for the last 75 years, the spirit of listening to each other, the spirit to see how we can support those who need it the most for food security within the mandate of FAO, in the spirit of cooperation, in the spirit of trying to find consensus as we have been working for so many years within FAO, and I would say that is the strength of the UN, that is the strength of the Council of FAO.

Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)

J'ai l'honneur de m'exprimer au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 27 États membres, la Macédoine du Nord, le Monténégro, l'Albanie, la Bosnie-Herzégovine, la Norvège, l'Ukraine, la République de Moldavie, la Géorgie, Andorre, Monaco, et Saint-Marin se rallient à cette déclaration. Compte tenu du temps limité, la déclaration qui fait foi est la version écrite diffusée dans son intégralité.

Cette session extraordinaire du Conseil de la FAO, tenue à la demande de 22 membres du Conseil et de 58 observateurs a une cause: l'agression illégale, non provoquée et injustifiable de la Fédération de Russie contre l'Ukraine. Elle a également un objectif, examiner comment la FAO peut apporter son soutien à l'Ukraine, contribuer à prévenir ce que le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies a décrit à juste titre comme le risque d'un ouragan de la faim, et d'un effondrement du système alimentaire mondial, mettant plus particulièrement en danger les plus pauvres. Depuis cette agression, nous assistons à une flambée des prix des denrées alimentaires, des engrais et de l'énergie.

Avant même la guerre, la Russie avait introduit des restrictions à l'exportation d'engrais qui ont porté le prix mondial à des niveaux sans précédents. L'Union et ses États membres condamnent fermement

la guerre menée par la Russie contre l'intégrité territoriale, la souveraineté et l'indépendance de l'Ukraine. L'agression de la Russie contre l'Ukraine constitue une violation flagrante du droit international et cause des pertes massives en vie humaine et des blessures aux civils. Nous exprimons notre forte solidarité et notre soutien à l'Ukraine et à son peuple.

Nous appelons fermement à la cessation immédiate de l'usage de la force contre l'Ukraine, y compris le ciblage des civils et de leur approvisionnement en nourriture, de leurs productions agricoles, ainsi que des infrastructures clés de transports et d'exportations, contraires au protocole additionnel aux Conventions de Genève et à la Résolution 24-17 du Conseil de Sécurité. La Russie et l'Ukraine sont tous deux d'importants producteurs et exportateurs de produits agricoles de base. L'invasion de l'Ukraine par la Russie porte atteinte à la sécurité alimentaire tant dans la région que dans les pays qui dépendent fortement des produits agricoles et des entrants agricoles ukrainiens.

Le cesser le feu immédiat et le retrait de l'armée russe d'Ukraine devrait donc être la toute première recommandation de la FAO dans sa liste de recommandations de son document CL-169/3. Le Conseil ne doit pas se laisser abuser par les tentatives de la Russie, de détourner les critiques en rejetant la faute sur les autres et en particulier sur les sanctions. Les sanctions visent la capacité de la Russie à financer l'agression, elles ne visent pas son secteur agricole.

Tout impact négatif sur la production agricole en Ukraine, et donc sur la sécurité alimentaire, est le résultat des effets déstabilisants de l'agression et des activités militaires de la Russie sur le sol ukrainien. S'agissant de l'objectif de la session extraordinaire, il est essentiel que la FAO, conformément à son mandat, mobilise pleinement son personnel et ses ressources pour faire face aux conséquences de cette agression sur la sécurité alimentaire, la nutrition et l'agriculture mondiale. Nous remercions la FAO pour les informations et les documents, et reconnaissons le travail acharné de son personnel et nous le remercions.

L'Union et ses États membres souhaitent souligner les actions à mener par réponse au contexte actuel. Tout d'abord, il est de la plus haute importance de veiller à ce qu'en Ukraine les semis, les cultures et la récolte des prochaines cultures de printemps et d'hiver se déroulent dans de bonnes conditions. Nous demandons à la FAO de collaborer avec le gouvernement ukrainien pour trouver des solutions adaptées à la situation des petits comme des grands agriculteurs. Nous demandons également à la FAO d'inclure dans ses briefings une évaluation des dommages causés à la production agricole et aux infrastructures de soutien de l'Ukraine.

Deuxièmement, la FAO a un rôle essentiel à jouer en fournissant des informations et des données détaillées, neutres, précises et régulièrement mises à jour sur les effets de la guerre sur les systèmes alimentaires, y compris les tendances des prix des produits agroalimentaires et des engrais. Elle a un rôle essentiel à jouer dans l'identification des situations et des populations à risques d'insécurité alimentaire.

Nous demandons à la FAO de soutenir pleinement le système ANIS et d'exhorter les membres de la FAO à fournir une transparence totale et toutes les informations nécessaires sur les flux et les stocks. Nous demandons également à la FAO de travailler en étroite collaboration avec le PAM, le FIDA, le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et toute autre organisation pertinente. Nous attendons de la FAO qu'elle informe et consulte régulièrement ses membres, y compris ses organes directeurs. Elle doit tenir compte de l'impact de la guerre lors de l'ajustement de son cadre stratégique et programme de travail.

Enfin, nous soulignons la nécessité d'une coordination internationale, pour éviter l'emballement des marchés et assurer leur bon fonctionnement. Il faut encourager la production locale durable dans les pays en situation vulnérable et renforcer la résilience des systèmes alimentaires. Ce sont les objectifs de l'initiative FARM lancée au G7.

Le prochain Conseil de la FAO, en juin devra inscrire ce point à son ordre du jour. En conclusion, permettez-moi de référer au projet de décision figurant en annexe de la lettre que les 22 membres et 58 observateurs du Conseil de la FAO ont envoyée pour demander cette session. Nous attendons du Conseil, qu'il approuve en bloc ce projet de décision.

Ms Margaret TWOMEY (Australia)

Australia appreciates the Director-General and yourself calling this important Session of the Council, as requested by 80 Members, including Australia.

Australia condemns in the strongest possible terms, the Russian Federation's unprovoked, unjust and illegal invasion of Ukraine. Australia calls on the Russian Federation to immediately withdraw its forces from Ukrainian territory, consistent with the legally binding decision of the International Court of Justice.

Australia has imposed trade measures, including targeted sanctions, to inflict heavy costs on those in Russian Federation and Belarus who bear responsibility or hold levers of power. They are not directed at the general population. And they are not intended to halt the international flow of food or agricultural inputs. They have been adopted in a transparent manner in coordination with our international partners to achieve a legitimate public policy objective – that of stopping Russian Federation's unlawful, unjustified and unprovoked actions against a sovereign country.

We have all heard the UN Secretary General's remarks of the living hell the Ukrainian people are enduring, and of the reverberations being felt worldwide with skyrocketing food, energy and fertilizer prices that are threatening to spiral into a global hunger crisis.

This is why Australia is here today. This is why, as part of Australia's humanitarian response, we have provided direct funding to the FAO's Ukraine Rapid Response Plan.

This is why we urge all Members to work constructively and collaboratively to help establish concrete actions to enable the Organization to address this crisis, while delivering against the Strategic Framework.

Our number one priority is to end the invasion. Yet, even if troops were to withdraw today, the information presented by the FAO has made it abundantly clear the impacts of the invasion on global food security will be significant and long lasting. It is also clear that the immediate impact will be on import-dependent regions, such as Africa and the Middle East, but that medium- to long-term spill-over effects will be felt in all regions, including the Southwest Pacific.

Australia supports the six policy recommendations which have been presented in Council document *CL 169/3* and we highlight the ongoing importance of the FAO's response being grounded in data and science. In this regard, we welcome the rapid response efforts of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and of the Chief Economist and his team. We reaffirm our commitment to keeping trade in food and fertilizers open, avoiding ad hoc policy decisions, such as illegitimate export restrictions, and strengthening market transparency and dialogue. We also reaffirm our commitment to engaging constructively in governing body and technical committee meetings, to efficiently and effectively determine the programmatic and resource trade-offs required to respond to this crisis.

In conclusion, Australia strongly supports the draft decision presented in Council document *CL 169/4*, but we do not support the draft decision in Council document *CL 169/6*. Australia endorses the recommendations made by other Members for each of these draft documents to be tabled for decision *en bloc*.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Australia. I now give the floor to the United States of America, followed by Sweden. United States of America.

Ms Cindy MCCAIN (United States of America)

The United States of America proposes for decision Council document *CL 169/4*, co-sponsored by 80 FAO Members, to be approved in the Report of the 169th Session of the Council. We deplore the human suffering shown in horrific images and first-person testimony emerging from Bucha and other towns, documenting apparent atrocities committed by the Russian forces in Ukraine.

Ukraine is a world breadbasket. Russian Federation's unjustified, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is affecting the entire global food supply chain. It is essential that the UN organization with the lead mandate for food security step forward to lead the response. FAO must align itself with the UN Secretary-General and the vast majority of UN Members to condemn Russian Federation's actions,

demand its immediate withdrawal from the Ukraine, and explicitly link Russian's actions to exacerbating global hunger.

Ukraine's importance in global agriculture production and food supply cannot be overstated. Russian Federation's war has destroyed Ukraine's roads, railways, grain silos, food storage and export facilities as well as civilian ships carrying food to the world.

Russian Federation's war directly affects civilians in Ukraine and far beyond. During my recent visits to FAO projects in both Kenya and Madagascar, I met the families who are all but certain to face increased hunger.

Russian Federation is attempting to distract us by insisting sanctions are the problem. That is false. Food and agriculture exports by Russian Federation are not directly sanctioned. The facts are clear. Russian Federation's war is preventing Ukrainian farmers from planting, harvesting and exporting. Russian Federation's war is driving up prices of key food commodities. Russian Federation's war has already affected one growing season and according to FAO, could threaten the next five growing seasons. Russian Federation's war will prolong hunger for years.

Fellow Council Members, Russian Federation's war must end.

Turning to today's Council, we need to focus on how FAO and its Members can most effectively respond. I have a few brief comments on this. We agree with FAO's policy recommendations that countries should avoid export bans that restrict trade in food and agricultural products and exacerbate already high prices.

The United States of America strongly urges FAO to continue providing data and analyses about the impacts of the crisis on global food security, to develop immediate, medium and long-term plans to respond to Ukraine's agricultural recovery and the needs of the world's most vulnerable and to coordinate among the UN system members, donors and other stakeholders to identify and prioritise actions to prevent increasing global food insecurity.

Finally, the United States of America is committed to help all those affected across the globe by rising prices, and food and agriculture disruptions. President Biden recently announced USD 1 billion in new humanitarian assistance, specifically for those affected in the Russian war in Ukraine. The United States of America stands with Ukraine, the Ukrainian people, and all those around the globe affected by hunger and food insecurity as a direct result of this senseless war.

Mr Jan BJÖRKLUND (Sweden)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and my own country, Sweden. We fully align ourselves with the statement by France on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States.

On 24 February, the Russian Federation initiated military aggression against Ukraine in violation of the UN Charter. The humanitarian consequences are grave. We watch with shock the latest footage from Bucha. We underline our full solidarity with the people of Ukraine, and condemn, in the strongest terms, the aggression by the Russian Federation, including the involvement of Belarus.

The consequences go far beyond the European region and has a strong impact on global food security, which is why we need to discuss it today in this setting. As France, on behalf of the EU, and others, have already underlined, the increased global food insecurity is a direct effect of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and is not caused by the sanctions. We urge Russian Federation to immediately stop the aggression against Ukraine and put an end to its negative consequences on global food security.

We thank the Director-General and the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) for organising this special Session in response to the request from 80 Members, including the Nordic countries. We hope for a solutions-oriented session, focusing on what Members expect from FAO. We also want to express our appreciation of the hard work of the FAO staff under challenging circumstances. We welcome the FAO Rapid Response Plan, and underline FAO's role in implementing the Humanitarian-

Development-Peace-nexus in Ukraine. The next phase must be developed in close collaboration with Ukraine stakeholders and have a long-term perspective, focusing on building resilience.

Russian Federation's military aggression has global negative implications on food security – particularly for the poorest countries – and it calls for a strong and coherent UN response. We welcome the Secretary General's establishment of a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance and appreciate the Director-General's promise that FAO will be actively engaged.

We appreciate that FAO will continue to provide updated assessments, on a regular and timely basis of the rising levels of global food insecurity. Equally, we call on FAO to provide information, analysis and data, disaggregated by gender and age. The importance of the Agriculture Markets Information System (AMIS) and continued collaboration with all relevant partners, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), must be highlighted.

We request FAO to develop a plan on how the Organisation, within its mandate, can support countries to mitigate consequences for global food security.

In performing these tasks, we expect FAO to coordinate closely with the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and other relevant UN actors as well as with international financial institutions (IFIs). Collaboration with civil society organizations and other stakeholders is also necessary. Even though our current focus is on the immediate consequences for global food security, it is necessary to increase resilience and apply a systemic approach to achieve sustainable food systems. This is in line with the FAO Strategic Framework and aims of the UN Food Systems Summit.

Alleviating the worst consequences of Russian Federation's aggression takes collaborative efforts. The Nordic countries have, as of today, allocated more than EUR 350 million to meet the immediate humanitarian needs in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. The Nordic countries are major donors to the UN development system, including to the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs). This long-term support promotes development and enables relevant bodies to scale up actions where needed. We will continue our support to other humanitarian crises around the world, which now risk deteriorating further.

I would like to end my intervention by supporting those who have asked for the Annex to the letter from Members, dated 21 March, to be regarded as a formal proposal for decision *en bloc*.

Sr. Alfonso María DASTIS QUECEDO (España)

España suscribe la intervención realizada por la Presidencia francesa, en nombre de la Unión Europea (UE) y miembros asociados.

España, como ya lo he expresado en otras ocasiones, condena firmemente la injustificada agresión militar rusa sobre Ucrania, que está causando, además de muerte y destrucción, efectos muy negativos sobre la seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura, en la región y en todo el mundo.

España es uno de los 80 Miembros de FAO que ha firmado la carta solicitando la celebración de esta sesión especial del Consejo y apoyamos el borrador de decisión que esperamos sea aprobado por este Consejo.

Como hemos hecho en otras ocasiones, valoramos enormemente el papel de FAO como institución fuente de conocimiento y asesoramiento a los países sobre los sistemas agroalimentarios y, en estos momentos, consideramos que su labor es imprescindible para conocer y analizar las implicaciones de la guerra sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial, sobre la agricultura y sobre la estabilidad de los sistemas alimentarios.

En este sentido, sostenemos la información subministrada por el Director General, así como por Sr. Máximo Torero Cullen y Sra. Beth Bechdol anteriormente. En particular, FAO deberá ser capaz de adaptar la implementación de su Marco Estratégico y de su Programa de Trabajo a las circunstancias, y desarrollar planes para contrarrestar los efectos del conflicto sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Tenemos que minimizar las dificultades que tendrá Ucrania para salvar lo que quede de producción agraria de este año y que pueda sembrar, cultivar, cosechar y comercializar la producción del año que viene, sin dañar la cadena de suministro alimentaria, respetando así los Protocolos Adicionales de la Convención de Ginebra y la Resolución 2417/2018 del Consejo de Seguridad de Naciones Unidas.

Asimismo, será imprescindible evitar las restricciones al comercio internacional y los comportamientos especulativos, que pongan en peligro la seguridad alimentaria, especialmente en los países más vulnerables.

Pedimos a FAO que nos tenga a todos los Miembros puntualmente informados y redoble sus esfuerzos de coordinación con las otras agencias y organizaciones de Naciones Unidas (NN.UU.) y especialmente con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y su Grupo de Alto Nivel de Expertos (HLPE), para conseguir, entre todos, minimizar los efectos de esta agresión.

No quisiera terminar esta intervención sin expresar la solidaridad de España con el pueblo ucraniano y mostrar nuestro apoyo a las víctimas de esta barbarie.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)

Before I proceed with my statement, I just want to tell the colleagues as well as you, Chairperson, since you mentioned more than once that we must stick to the format of the meeting and to discuss the issues that are under the Agenda of FAO, the questions of invasions and so on and so forth, they are subject to other foras and not to the FAO Agenda Item. If it will proceed with the same statement each and every time, I will have to take the point of order in order to stop the interventions which not necessarily fall within the mandate of FAO. I look forward to your cooperation and the cooperation of other colleagues.

So, now I will proceed with my statement.

Continues in Russian

Director-General, Independent Chairperson of the Council, the Russian Federation should like to thank the Director-General of FAO Dr QU Dongyu, as well as the Secretariat of the Organization, in particular the Chief Economist Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, for preparing this Council Session, including the information provided on the state of the global food market. We also wish to thank Ms Beth Bechdol for the information she provided on behalf of the Director-General.

Having said that, we are compelled to point out that the urgency with which this Session was convened did not allow for the Independent Chairperson to conduct the necessary consultations with the participation of all Members of the Council regarding the Agenda and the decisions and documents presented for discussion and decision, our proposed draft decision, including our proposal for the draft decision, as contained in document *CL 169/6*.

Proceeding from the FAO's mandate as a specialised agency of the UN family, I would like to make the following comments. The Russian Federation, as one of the biggest producers of agricultural products, is closely following and analysing recent trends in the global food market. The Russian Federation is prepared to participate in the development of practical measures to improve the situation.

We consider the current state of affairs, the deterioration in food security over the course of the last five years, to be the result of a whole host of factors. This is something that was mentioned by the UN Secretary-General at the UN Food Systems Summit held in September of last year, Mr David Beasley, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) at the Security Council in 2020. There was also information provided by Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in November 2021 at the G20 Summit in Rome. Moreover, at the peak of the pandemic, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 74/306, Member States including the United States of America voted against two more Member States, including Ukraine, abstained on this very important Resolution, and I think that is quite telling.

Based on consolidated data from the UN, at the start of this year already, over 350 million people around the world might face hunger. A large proportion of them are in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. The reasons for this are the large-scale conflicts and the repercussions, specifically the conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as a number of other states. As a result, over 60 million people in the aforementioned countries have come against the urgent need for food as they are going hungry. The information provided about Ukraine is at odds with the real food security situation we are seeing. Unfortunately, colleagues are not saying anything about this.

We can also mention the sanctions. I would imagine that representatives of Cuba and Nicaragua...

Yesterday, there was an IFAD meeting and there we raised the issue of sanctions specifically. An IFAD representative confirmed that two financial transactions have been frozen. This is in the agricultural sphere; this is aid going to developing states. Here is a concrete example of sanctions, which purportedly have no impact on humanitarian assistance, are doing just that.

I will now wrap up. Unfortunately, those who requested this session are using this event to politicize the situation. They could not find the strength within themselves to partake in dialogue and the common quest for solutions to this situation. In the spirit of the goals and purposes set out in the preamble to the FAO Constitution, on our side, we are prepared to participate in such a dialogue. We examined the INF document prepared by the Secretariat very carefully. We believe that the measures listed therein can help craft real practical solutions to the problems we face. On the other hand, approaches shorn of consensus may actually block this process.

Mr Barend Jacobus LOMBARD (South Africa)

At the outset, South Africa expresses deep concern at the loss of life, the humanitarian impact and the forced displacement of people as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. We urge all to uphold and protect human rights and abide by the obligations in terms of international law and international humanitarian law.

South Africa welcomes the initiatives from both countries to dialogue. We further urge the two sides to redouble their efforts towards finding a peaceful resolution of this conflict. All conflicts result in human suffering and destruction, the effects of which will not only affect Ukraine, but also reverberate across the world. As stated by the UN Secretary-General, the conflict will have a huge impact on, and I quote, *“the global economy in a moment when we are emerging from COVID pandemic and so many developing countries need to have space for their recovery.”*

The Council is therefore meeting at an opportune moment to consider the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on world food security. The world relies on certain key agricultural commodities flowing from the Black Sea area and there is a need to ensure the continued unimpeded flow of such commodities.

We are concerned about the increasing prices of certain commodities, such as those used in fertilizers as well as of wheat and sunflower oil. These increases in prices will lead to unaffordability and restricted availability, and thereby impact negatively on food security. This has the potential to cause instability in countries that rely on importing these commodities. The Rome-based Agencies should proactively consider steps to mitigate this growing food security concern. To this end, it is important that the flow of agricultural related commodities remains unhindered.

In conclusion, South Africa values the information and updates provided by FAO on the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on food security, and encourages FAO to continue to provide such in-depth updates and develop relevant emergency response and long-term resilient plans.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN ANTHONY (Malaysia)

Malaysia, as the Vice-Chair of the Asia Regional Group, delivers this statement on behalf of Members of Asia Region, which Japan does not participate in.

We appreciate and welcome FAO's analysis and information contained in Council document *CL 169/3* and the technical briefing on “The impact of COVID-19 and the conflict in Ukraine on the outlook for Food Security and Nutrition” which was held on 25 March.

We take note of the multiple implications on global food security, nutrition, health and other related matters, especially for the most vulnerable people and low-income, food deficit countries (LIFDCs).

We recall that international food prices had already reached an all-time high and that the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) reached a new historical record in February 2022.

We request FAO to continue closely monitoring the implications on global food security and agricultural commodity markets and to continue regularly reporting to Members in line with its mandate of specialized knowledge institution.

We underline the importance to ensure proper functioning of global food supply chains and avoid measures that would disrupt international trade. We hope that all countries will keep their trade open, particularly in food, agricultural products, fertilizers, and other agricultural inputs, and avoid unnecessary and unjustified trade restrictions to trade in agricultural markets.

In this regard, we recognize the crucial role FAO can play in analyzing, monitoring and regularly reporting the effects of the current situation to promote evidence-based decision-making and its important role as a neutral and technical platform for policy dialogue and coordination to minimize the potential risks of food supply chain disruptions to ensure that international trade of food, agricultural commodities and inputs in particular grains, animal feed, fuel, and fertilizer can flow efficiently in order to meet global demand and safeguard global food security and nutrition.

We also request that FAO take all necessary and appropriate actions under its mandate to step up collaboration with other UN agencies and relevant bodies, especially Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), to continue providing policy recommendations to prevent the global food crisis that may occur and support humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable groups, including internally displaced people and migrants, with particular focus on the recovery and resilience of the food and agricultural sector in all regions.

With this statement, we are looking forward to a fruitful discussion at the 169th Session of FAO Council.

Mr Pierre-Emmanuel DE BAUW (Belgium)

Belgium aligns itself with the Joint Statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. Belgium welcomes today's special Session of the Council to discuss the impact of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine on global food security. The unprovoked and unjustified Russian aggression violates the objectives and purposes of our Organization and must stop immediately.

Belgium cosponsored the request to hold this special Session and fully endorses the draft decision, which is the basis of our discussions today, document *CL169/4*. We call on all Members of this Council to adopt this decision as a whole, *en bloc*, today.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has disastrous consequences on global food security, in Ukraine but also for the most vulnerable countries. This further reverses development progress and makes it more difficult to attain food and nutrition security goals. We therefore call for an immediate end to Russian Federation's aggression. Only this cessation will help stabilize global food prices and improve global food security.

Let me turn now to how FAO can address the current situation. We call on FAO to continue monitoring the impacts of the invasion of Ukraine on all the components of global food systems. We call on FAO to share information regularly and transparently with its Members on the developments in global agricultural markets, including the evolution of commodity and fertilizer prices.

We call on FAO to alleviate human suffering in Ukraine and to support Ukraine so as to secure its agricultural contribution to the global markets, since the devastation in Ukraine is almost beyond description and endangers this season's agricultural production.

We call on FAO to support the most vulnerable countries suffering from an increased level of food insecurity deriving from the aggression by Russian Federation.

We also believe that the Committee on World Food Security needs to play a central and coordinating role of the policy responses to this crisis as it is well positioned to address the crisis in its multiple aspects.

Belgium for its part will continue to provide support to FAO and WFP to take actions addressing global food security impacts.

We are committed to pursue its humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and its support to multilateral organizations. This year, more than 60 percent of Belgian humanitarian funding will be granted

through flexible funds and core funding, which allows humanitarian organizations to respond quickly to sudden crises.

Before closing, let me express Belgium's full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, and with the people in need worldwide because of the aggression by Russia. The best remedy to prevent a global food crisis from developing is for the Russian Federation to immediately end its aggression against Ukraine.

We need peace, for the people of Ukraine, for the world. We need it now.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)

At the beginning of my statement, I already asked you kindly and the other colleagues to refrain from accusations and to bring issues that are not relevant to the mandate of FAO. I do not know how those urges to stop the war can help and can be implemented within the FAO mandate.

If we are going to do so, let us stop war in Syria or let us stop war in Lebanon, let us stop war in many other conflicts in the Arab world, in the Yemen, in Africa and other places. So, if we are ready to do that here in this room, let us do it now and let us do it all over the globe.

Otherwise I will be asking for the point of order each and every time.

CHAIRPERSON

I think within United Nations and certainly within FAO, I think it is the responsibility and the right of every Member Nation to address the Council in the way they wish. Of course, when we come to our conclusions, we should focus on the mandate of FAO, but I think today we are discussing the cause of the problem as well as how to, within the mandate of FAO, support countries who need the support because of this crisis and conflict.

I would like to urge everybody, but also the Russian Federation, to respect the right of every Member Nation of FAO to address the Council in the wording they wish to. That is the fundamental right of every Member Nation of the FAO, but also every member of the United Nations.

Mr Fernando Jose MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)

If the path to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was already disrupted by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, now, with the Russian Federation-Ukraine conflict, the world faces new challenges, amongst which are losses of lives; forced displacement; serious implications to the humanitarian situation on the ground; repercussions to food prices and trade; diminished access and affordability of fertilizers and threats to food security at global level. Brazil deeply deplores the violence in Ukraine.

Brazil is deeply concerned with the serious consequences of the conflict on agriculture and on global food security, if we restrict ourselves to the subjects related to the mandate of FAO. We, therefore, commend the work of the Organization, in collaboration with other entities and competent organs of the United Nations, especially the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), in fostering Members' dialogues, examining the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine on food security and agriculture and gathering common efforts to put in place emergency policies.

In this aspect, Brazil understands that within its mandate, FAO has a key role to play in the context of the crisis in Ukraine, helping the mobilization of the international community to avoid that the conflict creates an enlarged and permanent threat to global food security, particularly in developing countries; regarding agriculture and food security, the conflict has directly impacted, on the ground, the production and trade of commodities and its inputs, like fertilizers - a situation that deserves careful attention. We praise the fact that Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) are already putting in place measures to provide technical and humanitarian assistance in Ukraine and neighboring countries; the international community should be concerned with the humanitarian situation of the civil population engulfed by the conflict. Our attention must also be directed to the vulnerable populations in third world countries that suffers the consequences of lack of food and higher food and input prices.

Furthermore, we would like to underscore that the right forum to discuss matters related to peace and international security is the UN Security Council (UNSC), and, on a subsidiary manner, the UN

General Assembly (UNGA). Brazil has actively engaged in discussions held in these fora in order to try to mitigate the effects and contribute to lasting solutions to the conflict. In that sense, issues concerning attacks against civil population or civil infrastructure escape from FAO's mandate and its discussions here could negatively contaminate the agreements that could be reached.

Finally, Brazil does not favor initiatives that aim at including extraneous matters in the agenda of FAO's Council. With that in mind, we underline that FAO should not extrapolate its mandate and shall continue to support Members to implement actions and policies with the aim to placate or moderate the negative, undesired effects of the conflict on agricultural production and on global food security.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)

Agradecemos el informe preparado por la FAO y la presentación sobre la situación económica y humanitaria realizadas por el Economista Jefe, Sr. Maximo Torero Cullen, y la Directora General Adjunta, Sra. Beth Bechdol.

Nicaragua ve con gran preocupación el incremento vertiginoso de los precios mundiales de alimentos, insumos agrícolas, cadenas de suministros y los daños que ya están provocando en el funcionamiento de los mercados a nivel mundial. En particular, esta situación está afectando sobremanera a los países en desarrollo, a los productores e importadores netos de alimentos y, por consecuencia, a los consumidores en general. No es una novedad que la inseguridad alimentaria mundial se viene agudizando desde hace algunos años, producto de fenómenos como la pandemia y la crisis climáticas, aunadas a los conflictos invisibilizados que han recibido menos atención y ayuda internacional.

En el actual escenario, el conflicto entre la Federación de Rusia y Ucrania ha escalado hasta alcanzar una dimensión global y la comunidad internacional, el multilateralismo, son hoy, más que nunca, imprescindibles. Nicaragua siempre ha considerado que las sanciones y medidas coercitivas unilaterales son perjudiciales para la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional y ese tema debe ser profundizado en el ámbito de nuestro mandato como Organización.

Recordamos que la resolución A/RES/74/306, *Respuesta integral y coordinada a la pandemia de enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19)*, del 11 de septiembre de 2020 aprobada con 169 votos a favor, 2 votos en contra y 2 abstenciones, la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas hizo encarecidamente a los Estados Miembros a que se abstuvieran de promulgar y aplicar de modo unilateral medidas económicas, financieras o comerciales incompatibles con el derecho internacional y la Carta de las Naciones Unidas.

Actualmente, las sanciones contra la Federación de Rusia superan las cien mil, producto de una histeria de agresión las cuales ya están provocando grandes daños en el mercado mundial de alimentos creando una crisis económica, alimentaria, productiva sin precedentes. Cómo hablar de conflictos y crisis prolongadas pero no de bloqueos y medidas coercitivas unilaterales, persecución financiera e instigación al conflicto que sostienen algunos países, incluso contra pequeñas naciones y que provocan serias dificultades alimentarias y que hoy lamentamos.

Esa medida coercitivas unilaterales se han convertido en una práctica empleada de forma vertiginosa y alarmante en un arma de coerción política con consecuencias devastadoras, no solo para Europa y Rusia, sino también para la economía mundial, perjudicando el comercio internacional, el abastecimiento de alimentos, las exportaciones y operaciones internacionales de los sectores financiero, energético y de transporte y que representan un desafío adicional para el cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible, lo cual se está alejando cada vez más.

Nicaragua continuará abogando por una solución diplomática seria, constructiva y realista de la actual crisis en Europa, pero sin olvidar todas las otras crisis utilizando los medios pacíficos que garanticen la seguridad y soberanía de todos, así como la paz, la estabilidad y la seguridad regional e internacional. Alentamos a la FAO a no politizar su labor dentro de su mandato y como institución de conocimiento a seguir proporcionando asistencia, datos y análisis fiables sobre las implicaciones de los conflictos en curso para seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura mundial, aplicar el marco estratégico y revisar y, si es necesario, modificarlo en su plan a plazo medio y plan de presupuesto para 2030.

Al Consejo, aprobar un proyecto de decisión consensuado que tome en cuenta las legítimas preocupaciones de todos los Miembros.

Sr. Julio Eduardo MARTINETTI MACEDO (Perú)

Al entrar a formar parte de la FAO, los Estados Miembros asumimos compromisos internacionales sobre seguridad alimentaria y agricultura, contenidos en el Preámbulo de la Constitución de esta organización, que se orientan principalmente a desarrollar esfuerzos individuales y conjuntos para “liberar del hambre a la humanidad”.

Hoy nos enfrentamos a una crisis alimentaria severa, especialmente en los países en desarrollo que vieron acentuar sus vulnerabilidades a causa de la pandemia. La situación se está viendo agravada por conflictos graves, en particular por la agresión de la Federación de Rusia sobre Ucrania, que tiene implicancia directa sobre la seguridad alimentaria mundial, por cuanto ambos países desempeñan un rol clave en el abastecimiento de los mercados mundiales de productos alimenticios y de insumos para la agricultura.

El documento técnico preparado por la FAO para esta reunión retrata elocuentemente esta preocupación, que el Perú comparte. Vivimos momentos de una gran volatilidad económica mundial, en particular, por el incremento de los precios de la energía, de los alimentos y de los insumos agrícolas - que se ven seriamente agravados por el mencionado conflicto – y que provocan, aún en las más distantes sociedades, perturbaciones sobre sus medios de vida y serias repercusiones en su seguridad alimentaria, afectando especialmente a los segmentos más vulnerables de nuestra población.

En este contexto, necesitamos asegurar un comercio abierto, justo, transparente y previsible para garantizar y respaldar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. En el escenario actual urge adoptar medidas para asegurar la producción mundial de alimentos. Por ello, instamos a la FAO a continuar proporcionar orientación a los Estados Miembros, en la búsqueda de soluciones eficaces para afrontar la inevitable escasez de alimentos básicos que se producirá en los próximos meses. Asimismo, apreciaremos que la FAO continúe proporcionando información sobre la dinámica de los mercados y que apoye a los Estados Miembros a encontrar suministros alimentarios alternativos.

Es en el marco del mandato de la FAO y, en el de este Consejo, que el Perú suscribió la carta mediante la cual se solicitó la realización de esta sesión especial para considerar las implicancias para la seguridad alimentaria y la agricultura en el mundo derivadas de la situación generada por la agresión de la Federación de Rusia contra Ucrania.

En ese entendimiento la Delegación del Perú apoya el proyecto de decisión propuesto en el documento *CL169/4*, e invoca a los Miembros del Consejo para que consideren favorablemente su adopción.

Creemos que, a través de esta decisión, el Consejo de la FAO contribuirá a elevar la conciencia internacional sobre las diversas consecuencias de esta agresión armada y, ojalá también, a paliar el agravamiento de la crisis alimentaria mundial que está generando.

A través de las Resoluciones de la Asamblea General, mi país ha rechazado el uso de la fuerza y demandado el cese inmediato del fuego y de todas las hostilidades. Deseo concluir haciendo referencia a la grave situación humanitaria y de seguridad alimentaria que se vive en Ucrania, haciendo un llamado para fortalecer la asistencia alimentaria de emergencia para su población civil en las áreas más afectadas por el conflicto.

Mr Kiryl PIATROUSKI (Belarus) (Original language Russian)

Distinguished Members of the Council, distinguished Observers, the Republic of Belarus believes that it is unacceptable and damaging to introduce here at FAO of the United Nations political discussions. In light of the above, we would like to call on you to avoid levelling any accusations, either within the framework of our discussions, or in decisions of FAO Governing Bodies.

Furthermore, here at this Session, focusing on just one of the factors threatening global food security appears to be deliberately counterproductive. FAO experts have on numerous occasions proven using figures the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the unprecedented food price increase. It is obvious that this impact will continue to be felt in the coming years. Despite the conflict in Ukraine, there are conflicts ongoing in Syria, Afghanistan, and a number of other countries. What is more is almost all such hotspots on the world map are sources of migration and hotbeds of hunger.

Last but not least, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the sanctions policy being wielded by some countries and unions is doing irreversible damage to the global agricultural and food trade system. We need not look any further than the European Union's ban on sale of Belarussian fertilizer, or Lithuanian's ban on Belarussian fertilizers transiting to its seaports.

Belarus, as you know, is a land-locked country. How can we say that such sanctions have no impact on food security? Disconnecting Belarussian and Russian banks from the Swift system means that payments cannot be made for these food stuffs. These food stuffs therefore cannot be sold, the very food stuffs global demand for which is rising rapidly. In order to address this problem, we need to impartially analyse current threats hanging over global food security.

We need clear-cut, universally acceptable mechanisms for minimising the impact of all of these threats. We would like to call once again to adopt a responsible approach to the multi-faceted problem of hunger, which humanity is currently facing. Just how well the FAO is able to pinpoint the threats and set objectives is going to determine the fates of hundreds of millions of people all over the world, whereas opportunistic decisions are best left to other.

Mme Elissa A. GOLBERG (Canada) (Original language French)

Nous sommes ici aujourd'hui parce que les événements mondiaux exigent que nous nous rencontrions. Comme le Directeur général avait noté, avant cette crise, l'indice des prix alimentaires avait atteint un niveau record. La sécurité alimentaire mondiale était déjà menacée et la faim augmentait. L'invasion non-provoquée par la Fédération Russe de l'Ukraine, que le Canada condamne fermement, a déclenché une catastrophe humanitaire et a provoqué une nouvelle crise alimentaire mondiale. En tant que membres de la FAO, c'est notre devoir de nous rencontrer et discuter des impacts de la crise ainsi que des solutions qui sont possibles. La FAO peut jouer un rôle essentiel en fonction de son mandat en aidant à mieux comprendre les implications de la crise et en appuyant des réponses plus efficaces à court, moyen et à long terme.

Continues in English

Canada certainly intends to be a solutions partner in this context. We will continue to support the people of Ukraine while helping find ways to improve global security and get back on track for Sustainable Development Goal 2. In this regard, Canada calls on FAO to continue its analysis of impacts and consequences, including cataloging damage to agricultural infrastructure, developing a more detailed analysis of fertilizers and inputs, and explicitly identifying policy tradeoffs relating to trade measures.

We expect FAO to speak clearly about innovations to increase food availability. Opportunities to increase productivity through climate-smart agriculture, identifying alternative nutritious foods, and developing concrete plans to reduce food loss and waste. To develop new partnerships, including across the private sector, to crowd capital, capacity, and insight, and to be an active participant in the Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance (GCRG).

We call on FAO Governing Bodies to effectively advance these goals and respond to the urgency of the situation. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) can contribute constructively, given its multi-stakeholder approach. Further, we call on FAO and its Members to support women and girls throughout this crisis, to ensure that no one is left behind. Rural women and girls cannot bear the brunt of this crisis.

Finally, we call on Members to consider increasing support to agricultural sectors globally. For our part, Canada will continue to support the countries most impacted, be it through humanitarian or development funding. For example, such as what we recently announced for the Sahel, or applying systems approaches to address climate and gender equality dimensions of food security.

We are already allocating USD 800 million annually for actions in food systems. The draft decision submitted on 21 March under CL 169/4 covers these considerations, and we recommend that they form the basis for today's conclusions and be adopted *en bloc*.

Before I conclude, a few clarifications on sanctions. The sanctions that have been imposed on Russian Federation are intended to stop the war and are not the principal reason for the agricultural disruption,

the conflict is. Sanctions are never pursued lightly. When the Charter of the UN was established, it recognized that there were times such as these when tools would be necessary to address threats to global peace and security short of war. They are meant to change behavior and enable accountability.

Thus, let us not be distracted by suggesting that they are the reason for food insecurity at the moment. It is the actions that have been taking place to invade Ukraine that are exacerbating an already dire situation.

In conclusion, let us focus on working together in Rome to support the impacted agricultural systems in Ukraine, ensure that trade remains open, and protect global food security, and make it resilient, all based on reliable information for effective decision-making. Together we can find a way to mitigate the worst impacts of this crisis and find a constructive way forward.

Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)

Eritrea, is honoured to present a statement on the 169th Session of the FAO Council; and appreciates FAO Secretariat, Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) and Director-General Dr QU Dongyu for the interactive interventions.

At present, agricultural food systems of the world are under tremendous stress from loss of biodiversity, climate change, pandemic crises, conflict and wars. Hence, to meet the challenges of growing enough food for everyone while protecting the planet is becoming very difficult from time to time.

In times of conflict, crisis such as COVID-19 pandemic, FAO and other UN organizations need to coordinate themselves and take consistently fast action in solving the problems. Because conflict, pandemic and other crises have tremendous negative impact on achieving the agenda of food security and nutrition. At present conflict has already aggravated the already considerable food security challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, FAO needs to coordinate and work with all relevant international organizations and other stakeholders in an urgent manner to push for better production, better nutrition and better environment.

However, most of the time it is not practical. For example, at this point of time vaccines anti COVID-19 is progressing fast in the developed countries; but due to allocation problems and unfair trade it is so far behind in developing countries, and definitely this could impact on food security and nutrition. Therefore, access to markets and specially reducing barriers to trade to boost global and intraregional trade is essential. Hence, FAO need to tackle the complex challenges in cooperation with other relevant UN Organizations and lead the efforts to bring together and accelerate peace on top of innovation and technology for sustainable food system and create world without hunger.

At present, hundreds of millions of people are suffering from hunger, and billions are malnourished, with no access to healthy diets. At the same time, there are many countries that are highly dependent on imported foodstuffs such as wheat, maize, barley, rapeseed, fertilizers, gas, oil, etc. And many of these countries, particularly the developing countries, prior to the Ukrainian and Russian conflict, have been grappling with the negative effects of high international food and fertilizer prices, which have serious effect on the food security of millions around the world.

In Africa, noting the multiple and overlapping shocks and threats induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts, climate extremes, political instabilities and economic downturns, made the whole population under stress. To that extent, the importance of Russian Federation and Ukraine for global agricultural is very high and pertinent. They are among the most important producers of agricultural commodities in the world, both countries are net exporters of agricultural products, and they both play leading supply roles in global markets of foodstuffs and fertilisers. For example, East Africa imports more than 90 percent wheat from Russian and Ukraine, which at present is difficult and impossible to import as required.

Therefore, to achieve the long term Sustainable Development Goals, with a view to eradicating poverty and leave no one behind, FAO with other UN partner organizations need to find peaceful, constructive solutions to the current situations of conflict in the field of food security, and need to review and make recommendation in all conflict's implications for the Strategic Framework 2022-31,

and to develop immediate plans to address the global food security impacts of existing conflicts and recovery assistance.

Mr Defu GUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

We agree with the statement made by the Asia Regional Group. China supports all the initiatives and measures conducive to alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, has provided many consignments of humanitarian relief, and will continue to do so.

FAO, as the UN's specialized agency in charge of global food and agriculture, should strictly adhere to its mission, policies, and procedures, and conduct operations in strict compliance with its mandate, as stated in the Basic Texts. FAO should focus on global food and agriculture and pursue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to achieve poverty reduction and Zero Hunger, ensuring its neutrality as a technical platform for inter-governmental policies, discussion, and coordination.

FAO is not the appropriate forum to discuss regional political issues and should avoid politicization of its work, especially when it comes to development matters. China encourages FAO to fully leverage its organizational advantages and technical expertise to closely monitor the state of global food security, conduct full and comprehensive analyses of supply and demand, prices, trade, and agricultural commodities, in order to provide support for the food security of its Members, especially developing countries.

President Xi Jinping has proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI) at the 76th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which prioritizes poverty reduction and food security, highlighting that international communities should face global threats and challenges hand in hand and leave no one behind. We should jointly be a global community of development. We call on all parties to emphasize the important role of international cooperation and addressing food crises and keep strengthening food security cooperation on the GDI and contribute to achieving the UN's 2030 Agenda.

Sr. Carlos Bernardo CHERNIAK (Argentina)

La Argentina está alineada con la esencia de la propuesta presentada hoy que ha motivado este 169.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, por lo que adelantamos nuestro respaldo. En esa línea, consideramos que es necesario formular algunos mensajes que, entendemos, son esenciales para permitir explicar nuestra racionalidad en esta cuestión.

Con relación a la propuesta presentada, queremos llamar la atención sobre la diferencia que hay en las versiones del texto en español y en inglés. En el primer caso, en español se refiere a que "[El Director General] examinase las implicaciones del conflicto sobre la aplicación del Marco estratégico para 2022-2031 y el Programa de trabajo y presupuesto (PTP) para 2022-23" y en inglés, "to review and make recommendations". En este entendimiento, nos alineamos con la propuesta en el espíritu de que el texto no es reabrir los debates sobre los documentos estratégicos acordados, ni sería legalmente posible que el Consejo revise documentos que fueron adoptados por la Conferencia de la FAO en su 42.º período de sesiones. Por lo tanto, pedimos que se incluya esta afirmación en el informe del Consejo.

La paz no es solo ausencia de conflicto; lo hemos dicho siempre. En el contexto actual, no solo no hay paz en Ucrania sino tampoco en aquellas poblaciones en situaciones de vulnerabilidad en el mundo que no pueden garantizar un plato de comida al día por el precio de los alimentos y de los insumos para producirlos. La paz es urgente. Cuando todavía el mundo padece el impacto de la pandemia es inhumano producir más sufrimiento y se deben tolerar más muertos. El multilateralismo es para la Argentina su ámbito natural de ejercicio diplomático. Reiteramos nuestro compromiso con la negociación y el diálogo; son nuestros instrumentos como comunidad internacional. Resulta imperioso detener la presente situación mundial para que los seres humanos no deban ocuparse de enterrar más muertos por bombas o por hambre.

Compartimos las preocupaciones por los efectos globales de la situación actual, incluso para los grandes exportadores. En el último mes se ha podido observar que muchos Miembros han adoptado distintas medidas, algunos incrementar los subsidios. Han autorizado la siembra en áreas denominadas ecológicas y otros han adoptado otro tipo de políticas conforme sus posibilidades.

Con relación al crítico mercado internacional del trigo, en Argentina se ha producido un aumento de la producción, que pasó de 17 millones de toneladas en 2020-2021, a 22 millones en la campaña que está terminando en estos días, con un aumento del área sembrada y de las exportaciones. Es decir que la Argentina como productor y exportador de alimentos está asumiendo su responsabilidad en esta crisis. Es por ello que no coincidimos con lo mencionado en el documento CL169/3, *Repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)*, en el párrafo 28, ya que el mismo no toma en cuenta las cifras que mencioné antes y que resalta el rol clave de la Argentina en el abastecimiento mundial del trigo. Por lo que nos comprometemos a trabajar con la Secretaría de la FAO para poder corregir el documento.

En cuanto a las recomendaciones presentadas por la FAO, se aborda un solo tipo de medidas soslayando algo clave para los países productores de alimentos, que es la necesidad de avanzar en la liberalización del comercio agrícola, que desarme las distorsiones imperantes para que los productores puedan invertir en sus sistemas alimentarios proveyendo a la seguridad alimentaria global. Argentina, como siempre, está dispuesta a cumplir su rol central como proveedor mundial de alimentos sanos, nutritivos y de calidad, de conformidad con la Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Lo hizo antes del COVID-19, lo hizo durante la pandemia y lo seguirá haciendo en este contexto también.

Por último, creemos que es la FAO la que debe continuar liderando con sinergia con los demás organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) la atención y seguimiento de la crítica situación actual, pero cada uno aportando desde sus ventajas comparativas.

CHAIRPERSON

May I ask the technicians not to block my microphone, so that I can intervene if we are going overtime.

Sr. Miguel Jorge GARCÍA WINDER (México)

La posición de México en torno al conflicto en Ucrania ha sido claramente presentada en el marco de la Asamblea General y del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas.

México condena toda forma de violencia y exige el cese inmediato de las hostilidades y de cualquier ataque contra la población civil o contra la infraestructura de carácter civil. Hemos señalado la importancia y la urgencia se tiene para que la asistencia humanitaria llegue en forma expedita, segura e irrestricta.

Al mismo tiempo, mi país ha expresado la grave preocupación que tenemos por los importantes impactos que la guerra ha tenido para la seguridad alimentaria a nivel global, con efectos tanto en lo inmediato, como en el mediano y el largo plazo.

Agradecemos a la FAO la presentación del documento que analiza las repercusiones que este conflicto ha traído para la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Los datos presentados nos confirman que el mundo está en una situación crítica, y que no se encuentra en condiciones de sufrir impactos adicionales.

Consideramos que el papel de la FAO es fundamental para encontrar salidas sostenibles a esta crisis, en el corto, mediano y largo plazo. En este sentido, enfatizamos la importancia de las resoluciones que se están haciendo a la FAO en esta sesión de Consejo y esperamos se les dé la atención cumplida y se aprueba en su integridad.

Quisiéramos proponer algunos elementos adicionales que creemos, la FAO puede hacer suyos, y que nos ayudarían a enfrentar esta crisis y la creciente situación de inseguridad alimentaria en el mundo. Que la FAO, continúe proveyendo información periódica, oportuna, precisa y prospectiva sobre la seguridad alimentaria en todas las regiones del mundo y particularmente en aquellas más vulnerables, desagregando la información por regiones, causas y conflictos. De preferencia sugerimos que la provisión de información y datos se haga de manera conjunta con otras organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas (NN.UU.) y en un mismo reporte, para evitar confusión y duplicación de datos. Ante esto, enfatizamos la necesidad que se tiene de fortalecer la cooperación entre las agencias basadas en Roma.

Que la FAO, colabore con los Países Miembros, particularmente aquellos más afectados y en mayor estado de vulnerabilidad, para implementar proyectos y planes de corto y mediano plazo, incluyendo intervenciones para atender la emergencia y la implementación de mecanismos urgentes de protección social.

Sugerimos que la FAO, dé particular atención a intervenciones orientadas a reducir la dependencia alimentaria y buscar la diversificación de dietas, orientadas a alcanzar mayores niveles de autosuficiencia, por lo que habría que trabajar en el desarrollo de los sistemas agroalimentarios locales y regionales, para lo que se considera necesario fortalecer proyectos de inversión y de innovación a nivel territorial. Es necesario hacer realidad la transformación de los sistemas agro-alimentarios partiendo de la base y del conocimiento.

Tenemos particular interés en conocer, cómo es que este conflicto impactará en la instrumentación del actual Marco Estratégico, así como en el programa de trabajo y en el presupuesto 2022-2023.

México reconoce los esfuerzos que la FAO ha venido ya realizando y tiene confianza en que la experiencia y el conocimiento técnico de la Organización, con el apoyo de todos sus Miembros, seguirá facilitando diálogos y alternativas que permitan acercarnos a una paz duradera. Reiteramos nuestra disposición para seguir colaborando con todos para encontrar una solución sostenible.

Señor Presidente, permítame terminar parafraseando uno de nuestros héroes nacionales, que nos dijo: “Entre los individuos, como entre las naciones, el respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz.”

Sra. Cecilia Beatriz CÁCERES VALDEZ (Guatemala)

En nombre de Guatemala, deseo expresar solidaridad al pueblo y gobierno de Ucrania por las pérdidas humanas y materiales. Mi país de vocación pacifista, apela a buscar una solución diplomática mediante el diálogo para el cese inmediato de todos los actos bélicos que amenazan contra la vida de las personas, impidiendo el pleno goce de sus derechos humanos, y asimismo hacemos un llamado para el desalojo inmediato de los territorios ocupados por las fuerzas armadas rusas.

Reconocemos que nuestras discusiones no deben ser politizadas, sino enfocadas a cómo esta Organización, con las capacidades que cuenta pueda analizar los datos, presentar propuestas y proporcionar recomendaciones a los Miembros para hacer frente a las consecuencias del conflicto, que de continuar afectará aún más la seguridad alimentaria, no solo de la región sino de todo el mundo, con repercusiones para las personas más vulnerables.

Es momento de intensificar nuestros esfuerzos. La actual crisis nos ha demostrado los impactos negativos que puede causar en el mundo, reflejados a través de la espiral inflacionaria en los mercados del petróleo, productos agrícolas, alimentos básicos y otras materias primas.

Agradecemos el documento *CL 169/3* preparado por la Secretaría que nos da una visión de los riesgos para la seguridad alimentaria que conlleva la invasión rusa en los territorios de Ucrania. Además, resalta como la actual situación ha afectado aún más los mercados mundiales, cuando parecía se comenzaban a reponer de las consecuencias de la pandemia de la COVID-19. Acogemos la respuesta humanitaria de la FAO en Ucrania e instamos a que continúe trabajando de la mano con otras agencias de Naciones Unidas dentro del contexto de su mandato.

Guatemala junto a más de 70 países co-patrocinó el proyecto de decisión bajo el número *CL 169/4*, el cual consideramos recoge nuestras preocupaciones y brinda orientaciones claras, en ese sentido solicitamos que la misma sea aprobada íntegramente.

Finalmente hacemos un llamado para facilitar el suministro de alimentos a la población civil en Ucrania y a que no se vea afectada la infraestructura agrícola del país.

Ms Yael RUBINSTEIN (Israel)

It is very unfortunate that the 169th Session of FAO Council is happening under these disappointing and dreadful circumstances. Israel condemns the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine.

As other countries have mentioned, Israel is extremely concerned about the ongoing conflict. This is especially troubling in light of the fact that, over the last two years, humanity had to deal with the

COVID-19 pandemic, as well as escalating climate crises. We still did not overcome the latest crises we have incurred.

Consequently, under the recent crisis, we have seen an increase in food insecurity. As the conflict continues, the impact of rising food and fuel prices, and shortage of essential crops would be felt by the world's most vulnerable countries and populations. According to FAO Council document *CL 169/3*, many countries in the Middle East are dependent on wheat from both countries, therefore we must express our concern that rising food prices and food insecurity are everything but optimistic and accumulating another burden.

Indeed, facing this phase of suffering, Israel and its citizens have not stood still. Israel sent 100 tons of humanitarian aid, including medical equipment, winter pants, generators, and more. We were also the first country to set up a field hospital in Ukraine territory. We wish that peace will quickly restore. We wish for an immediate end to the suffering of those affected by this conflict.

We wish for no further implications for food insecurity in Ukraine and beyond. Humanity will succeed only if we work all together.

Mr Khaled Ahmad ZEKRIYA (Afghanistan)

First and foremost, Afghanistan aligns itself with the Asian Regional Group's statement. Afghanistan appreciates and welcomes the FAO's analysis in the document *CL 169/3* and the technical briefing on "The impact of COVID-19 and the current Ukraine-Russia conflict on food security and nutrition", which was announced on 25 March 2022.

Afghanistan also welcomes the FAO's continued support to Members and requests that FAO closely monitor the effect of the current Ukraine-Russian conflict on food security and commodity markets. Additionally, it is imperative to report the implications of the current situation and take all necessary measures under FAO's mandate to minimize the risk of food supply chain disruption, including the best ways and means of humanitarian assistance delivery to the most vulnerable, displaced people, and migrants.

The current Ukraine-Russian conflict has already sent shock waves through the commodities markets, pushing up prices of grain, fuel, and fertilizers. Together, Ukraine and the Russian Federation account for 30 percent of wheat supply and the Russian Federation exports most of the world's fertilizer. This conflict is also expected to hit harvests and yields, not only in Ukraine, where grain planting this year could be cut off by half, but in countries that have relied on Russian fertilizer to boost their own outputs.

Moreover, the impact of this conflict goes beyond Ukraine and Russia, even affecting vulnerable countries such as Afghanistan, where millions of Afghans are short of food and babies are dying of malnutrition. Other vulnerable countries can also expect serious ramifications at least for the coming year, possibly longer.

In conclusion, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in line with its foreign policy of neutrality encourages constructive dialogue between Member Nations at FAO without politicizing but rather prioritizing our work in this regard.

CHAIRPERSON

We are now going to break for half an hour. Then, we still have nine Council Members who have asked for the floor and ten observers. Again, I would like to press everybody to obey the three minutes time limit, so that we will have the possibility to finalize our accounts today, also with the conclusions and report. I would like to thank already the interpreters for their hard work this morning. We give them a break now. We reconvene at 12:00 hours sharp. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting is suspended from 11:32 to 12:03

La séance est suspendue de 11 h 32 à 12 h 03

Se suspende la session de las 11.32 a las 12.03

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome back to our next session of the 169th Session of the Council. This session will continue until 14:30 hours. Then we have provided for you downstairs something to eat for a half an hour break, and that is free of cost, because it is an exceptional Council. Do not think that it will be done every Council.

Then, we continue from 15:00 to 17:30 hours at least, and then, hopefully, we have done our main work for today, so that we can draft the report and come back at 20:00 hours for the Adoption of the Report. That is how we foresee the course of today. But, it very much depends on the cooperation and the support of you all.

We now continue our list of speakers.

Mr Masao MATSUMOTO (Japan)

Firstly, Japan strongly condemns the Russian aggression against Ukraine as a serious violation of international law and a grave breach of the Charter of the United Nations. We do not accept such a situation, which infringes upon Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Russian aggression against Ukraine results in damage to agricultural land and related infrastructure, the trade restrictions on exports of cereals and other basic foodstuffs, and an increase in food and agricultural input prices. We are concerned to prolong this order to international food markets, so an immediate response by the international community is required; especially it is a serious problem that aggression has affected wheat and other crop production in Ukraine.

More than 50 net importers of wheat are dependent on Russian Federation and Ukraine, and the aggression has caused serious food insecurity, especially in countries with low international purchasing power. We are concerned strongly that food insecurity will be the cause of political instability and need to avoid further poverty and terrorism hubs that are caused by food insecurity.

In addition, we consider it a key towards establishing better global agrifood systems to maintain a strengthened free and fair trade. In this regard, we support the FAO recommendation to keep the trade in food and fertilizers open. Japan reaffirmed the importance of refraining from introducing any unjustified restrictive measures on trade.

Japan has concern on the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and neighboring countries caused by the Russian aggression and decided to provide USD 200 million in emergency humanitarian assistance, responding to urgent needs in such areas as health and medical care, food assistance, and food security to international organizations and Japanese non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

As a part of the assistance, Japan provides USD 3 million to FAO for recovering agricultural production in Ukraine and ensuring global food security. The current situation caused by the recent aggression has increased the prices of food and agricultural inputs, including fertilizers.

Japan reiterates that the Russian aggression is deteriorating global agrifood systems. We need to accelerate the transition towards more resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, balancing agricultural productivity and sustainability as an essential factor. We look forward to FAO playing a pivotal role in strengthening agrifood systems, especially in developing countries. Food vulnerability has been built by the crisis.

Finally, Japan supports the proposal and resolution in *CL 169/4* and requests the Council to adopt the decision mentioned in the document *CL 169/4 en bloc*, as a resolution of this Special Session.

Mr Shameem AHSAN (Bangladesh)

Bangladesh fully aligns itself to the statement made by Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Regional Group, excluding Japan.

At the outset, we would like to commend FAO for their excellent analysis on the current situation of global food security due to the situation in Ukraine as depicted in document *CL 169/3*. This helps to generate significant attention and focused discussion among the Members on the topic, which is timely, relevant, and may guide us for a probable pathway for future actions.

Today, the world is under severe challenge due to more than two years of COVID-19 pandemic and is trying to recover from the fallouts of its devastating impacts. The global food prices are on the rise since mid-2020 and it reached a new all-time high in February 2022 according to FAO's Food Price Index (FFPI). The Ukraine crisis aggravated the situation and impacted on various fronts. The situation is indeed a matter of grave concern for the international community.

Bangladesh is also closely following the developments. With global economic integration and a very concentrated market, many countries are suffering with the disruption of global food supply chain making the world trade costlier. Let me use some statistics that has been presented by the World Food Programme (WFP) on their Emergency briefing last Tuesday 5 April 2022. Only seven countries supply 86 percent of global wheat exports, five countries supply 78 percent of global rice exports, 2 countries supply 87 percent of global soybean exports, and very few countries, two to four, hold the reserves of these commodities.

Bangladesh is impacted by the Ukraine crisis, as evidenced by the rising fuel and food prices in our domestic market. Bangladesh largely depends on the Russian Federation and Ukraine for the bulk of its wheat and oilseeds imports. Disruptions in imports have hiked up the staple prices in Bangladesh. Our government is giving it a priority to bring food prices under control, offer essential food items at subsidized prices for people in the low-income bracket, expand the coverage of social safety net, and keep the inflationary pressure low. Government is forced to launch a special food subsidy program for ten million people. We express our serious concern on this issue.

Keeping this in mind, Bangladesh fully supports the policy recommendations presented in the document and would like to emphasize on the following points:

FAO, as a specialized knowledge institution, should coordinate with other UN agencies, particularly with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), to monitor the situation more closely, its impact on the countries, and brief the Members in a frequent manner. In addition, FAO should provide updates on the funding situation in order to mitigate the crisis and avoid the shortfall in funding.

We urge all countries to keep their trade open, not to close the borders to create gaps in the supply chain, thus help to facilitate free flow of international markets without any disruption. Necessary measures should be taken to avoid any interruption in agricultural products, fertilizers and other agricultural inputs.

The concentrated markets of global supplies and reserves give us the signal of creating alternative markets for the highly consumable foodstuffs and FAO with its technical expertise and knowledge can assist the Members in this regard.

We remain convinced that it is not through divisions, but only through a unity of purpose that we can collectively find ways to address any disruption of or threat to international peace and security.

Ms Demitu Hambisa BONSA (Ethiopia)

As part of the international community, we in Ethiopia have been following very closely recent developments on the crisis in Ukraine. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine has created an immediate humanitarian crisis. It also poses a threat to global food security in the form of rising prices, a decrease in production capabilities, and the disruption of the global value chain.

This crisis is a clear demonstration that we are all affected one way or another by this conflict. Calling the need to joint efforts by the international community and find a sustainable solution to the conflict will always remain of paramount importance. Its impact has definitely been felt in my country, Ethiopia, as elsewhere in the world, and we want this crisis to find its resolution at the earliest possible time.

We are of the view that a lasting solution to this crisis can be found through peaceful political engagements and negotiations. In this regard, we strongly encourage and support ongoing diplomatic efforts and negotiations between Russian Federation and Ukraine. As a country that has experienced the devastating effects of wars and conflicts, Ethiopia acknowledges the immediate and enduring efforts that are felt by families, communities, livelihoods, and economies at large. It is from this sad

experience we urge all parties to the conflict to explore peaceful avenues and cease actions that may lead to further escalations.

We believe the international community has a duty and a moral obligation to prevent the loss of life and destruction of different forms by assisting the parties reach a solution through negotiations.

My country, Ethiopia, fully subscribes to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter. We strongly believe and are committed, to protecting the principle of sovereignty, sovereign equality of all Member States, and the need to settle international disputes by peaceful means. It is from this firm conviction that we call upon all parties to exercise utmost restraint and desist from engaging in rhetoric and actions that risk further intensifying the crisis.

Finally, I would like to express my country's sincerest wish for peace to prevail as all concerned parties explore peaceful alternatives through dialogue and negotiation.

Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to express our thanks to the Director-General and the Secretariat, and the FAO's team for their efforts to organize this Session. Egypt believes that this Session is held at a critical time and Egypt is heavily reliant on wheat from Ukraine.

As mentioned in the report by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen in *CL 169/3*, there are many concerns for the international community, particularly when it comes to the harvesting season. The labor force will not be available due to displacement, and agricultural inputs will not be there. Disruptions to the supply chains will aggravate the food insecurity crisis.

Egypt confirms the necessity to have FAO playing its role within its technical mandate without giving a political dimension to its work. We are taking into account the consequences of this crisis on food security, and this is thanks to the briefings provided by FAO to its Members. We would like to mention that the policy recommendations provided by Mr Torero Cullen are of crucial importance, particularly those relating to the trade of food and fertilizers.

This trade should be open, as it will help us avoid humanitarian and trade crises. Many restrictions are being imposed on the trade of food and fertilizers. Egypt would like to mention that FAO needs to coordinate with various UN agencies, especially the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs), to have new innovative funding mechanisms that will help us achieve sustainable development and face the adverse impacts of this crisis, including COVID-19, climate change and other disasters and crises.

We urge all parties to invest more into building capacity and helping developing countries achieve this transformation.

Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)

We align ourselves to the statement of the Asia Regional Group. Our meeting today sends a clear message to the international community... that FAO and its Members need to continue working closely together to address the potential impacts of current situations to the global food security.

This situation becomes more pertinent, taking into account that recent conflicts in Ukraine and the region as one of the world's important producer for grain and other staple agricultural commodities, may potentially lead to worldwide global food crises.

Indeed, we have a common responsibility to minimize the potentials of the conflict to have a spillover effect on other global emergencies. At the same time, we need to continue our common endeavor in ensuring that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) envisaged in the 2030 Agenda is on track, especially SDG 2.

To this end, Indonesia supports FAO assessments and concrete actions in addressing emerging challenges in today's global food security situation.

We thank the management for the document and the update provided. Indonesia further invites FAO members and relevant partners to support FAO Appeals in the recommendations included within its findings and assessments. However, we note that there are four recommendations, which were no

longer included in the current FAO assessments before us. Therefore, we would like to seek clarification from the Chairperson of the reasons for eliminating these four recommendations.

With regard to the expectation of our meeting today, cushioning detrimental impacts arising from the situation, especially with regard to global food security should remain as the focus of FAO in line with its mandate as a UN specialized agency.

In this connection, Indonesia hopes that any outcome will be done through an inclusive process, taking into account all opinions we heard today.

We also hope the Council will encourage FAO to actively monitor and provide periodic analysis of the global agricultural commodity situation and technical policy recommendations, including through AMIS (Agricultural Market Information System).

Furthermore, Indonesia stresses the importance of strengthening technical cooperation aimed at protecting rural communities from the impact of the current crisis and situation. Indeed, rural communities will remain vulnerable to the dire impacts of the on-going conflict situations.

We also urge that all actions and decisions that we intend to take must contribute towards maintaining the global food security, by among others: creating a conducive environment and platform for dialogue and diplomacy, including in addressing global food security challenges; ensuring the well-functioning of food supply chain and trade – avoid unnecessary restriction as well as trade distortion policies, particularly taking into account the importance of international agrifood trade to global food security and nutrition; and strengthening FAO's cooperation with relevant international organizations in addressing humanitarian and deliver food assistance on the ground.

Once again, let us do our best to engage in dialogue, diplomacy, and concrete actions in making sure that “there is enough food for everyone” – Fiat Panis!

Mr KIM Hyungsik (Republic of Korea)

We are gravely concerned about the humanitarian situation in both Ukraine and its neighboring countries caused by Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine, on which we reiterate our commitment to the strong condemnation of the international community. Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence must be respected.

When considering the share of Ukraine and Russian Federation in the global agricultural market, this situation is expected to have a significant impact on the global food security, in particular, low-income countries and countries vulnerable to food shock.

We need to find a humanitarian way so that we can take actions to address the food crisis.

Korea is willing to further strengthen cooperation with the international community through food assistance and Official development assistance (ODA) projects.

FAO should analyze the impact of this crisis on global food security in an accurate and prompt manner, and strengthen cooperation system with other UN organizations and relevant communities on humanitarian grounds.

In particular, FAO needs to take an active role in minimizing the impact of the crisis on global food security by sharing the responsibilities with other Rome-based Agencies, including the WFP and IFAD.

Moreover, FAO needs to work in conjunction with the initiatives such as G20's Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), by analyzing global food price and supply status, and share accurate and timely information with the Members so that they can establish appropriate measures based on objective information.

In this difficult time, it is important that each country keeps the function of the global food supply chain to sustain food security.

The international community including the Members should join forces and work together to provide practical support to nutritionally vulnerable countries and vulnerable groups.

Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)

Italy totally aligns itself with the statement delivered by the French Ambassador on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. We share each word of concern and condemnation of the brutal Russian aggression against Ukraine. We continue to stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

As our Prime Minister recently said, *“Ukraine is not only defending itself, it is defending our peace, our freedom, our security. It is defending the rule-based and the right-base multilateral order that we have worked hard to build since the end of the Second World War.”* It is now our duty to defend human and civil rights, and our democratic values.

We are living in an unprecedented world where the global pandemic, frequent climate shocks, and wars take the highest toll on those who suffer the most. Our intention here today is not to politicize the debate but, first of all, to immediately and constructively discuss the response of FAO to the evolving crisis.

Therefore, we should immediately concentrate on how to develop a short- and long-term plan to address the global food security impact of the war in Ukraine, including emergency response and resilience-building input systems. We strongly believe that we must work together for the sake of those around the world who cannot afford the bear and additional acute food insecurity. Italy, therefore, calls upon FAO and its Members to fight back food insecurity and to help all the affected countries to mitigate the consequences of such a catastrophe.

We ask FAO to review and make recommendations on the war’s implication for the Organization’s implementation in its Strategic Framework and Programme of Work and Budget (PWB). Italy will be glad to work together with FAO to reach this target. We hope that this Council will adopt en bloc the draft decision signed by Italy and other 79 countries.

M. Moez Eddine SINAOU (Tunisie)

La Tunisie s'appuyant sur ses principes et ses constats en matière de politique étrangère, a constamment appelé à faire prévaloir la logique du dialogue, de la négociation et du règlement pacifique des différends.

La Tunisie considère que le conflit Russo-ukrainien a aggravé la situation d’insécurité alimentaire dans le monde qui ne cesse déjà de s'empirer à cause de l'exacerbation des conflits dans les différentes zones, des effets de la crise économique et ceux de la pandémie de Covid-19, ainsi que du changement climatique. Cette crise qui survient pendant que l'économie mondiale pâtie encore des impacts de la Covid-19 a ébranlé les filières de production, d'approvisionnement et d'acheminement des produits agricoles, compte tenu des dimensions énergétiques, logistiques, financières et commerciales associées à ce conflit.

C'est ainsi qu'une crise alimentaire de grande envergure se profile à l'horizon, particulièrement dans les pays en développement, bien que la communauté internationale soit appelée plus que jamais à œuvrer davantage et de façon concertée en vue de concrétiser les objectifs de développements durables à l'horizon de 2030.

La Tunisie salue l'analyse élaborée par la FAO portant sur les effets de la crise Russo-ukrainienne sur la sécurité alimentaire et l'agriculture mondiale et considère que les recommandations présentées dans le document 169/3 pourraient constituer une voie à même d'atténuer les effets de la crise. Tout en rappelant que la Tunisie considère que la stabilité et la paix dans le monde constituent un tout indivisible, je voudrais renouveler l'appel de mon pays au dialogue et le recours aux réponses concertées et communes pour faire face aux répercussions de ce conflit sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO BIN (Malaysia)

In the spirit of Ramadan and timeliness, I will be brief. Malaysia associates itself with the joint statement of the Asia Regional Group, excluding Japan, and we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to FAO for the timely analysis of the conflict on global food security as contained in document CL 169/3.

Malaysia places great importance on treasuring and safeguarding food production, food security, and nutrition, especially for the most vulnerable people and the low-income food-deficit countries. In light of this, Malaysia encourages FAO to continue providing the Membership on a regular basis and within its mandate relevant analyses and current insights, as well as capacity building on the implications of the conflict on global food security and agricultural commodities markets. Holistic policy recommendations regarding food security and nutrition are critical in ensuring that food and nutrition outcomes remain a priority.

Malaysia remains deeply concerned of the worsening situation in Ukraine and continues to closely monitor developments, including the humanitarian situation on the ground. In the face of the conflict, the international community must step up efforts to avoid a global food crisis against the backdrop of our own commitment towards the implementation of the agrifood system transformation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Towards this end, Malaysia encourages FAO with the assistance of other UN agencies in the UN system to provide humanitarian support and assistance as appropriate by focussing on emergency and humanitarian needs related to food security and nutrition.

Sra. Patricia Jacqueline ARAYA (Chile)

Chile agradece al Consejo, la elaboración y circulación del documento *CL169/3*, titulado “*Impacto del conflicto entre Ucrania y Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos relacionados bajo el mandato de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO)*”.

Él da cuenta de las implicancias que dicho conflicto tiene y tendrá en el mediano y largo plazo para el comercio de alimentos y productos agrícolas, incluido el tema de semillas, fertilizantes y combustibles, así como de sus impactos en el mercado mundial de alimentos y por ende en el acceso de nuestras poblaciones a alimentos para su consumo.

Chile quisiera recordar al Consejo que nos encontramos en el Decenio de la Agricultura Familiar y el Decenio de Acción sobre la Nutrición. Razón por la cual, instamos a que las acciones para enfrentar esta crisis mundial alimentaria, tengan consecuencias directas en un mayor acceso, disponibilidad y calidad de la alimentación de los grupos más vulnerables, y con prioridad en los grupos de niños, niñas, mujeres y adultos mayores.

Conociendo los datos de dicho informe, así como las circunstancias actuales, marcadas no sólo por el conflicto en Ucrania, sino que también por la pandemia del COVID-19 y las tendencias que se venían ya advirtiendo desde 2019, qué duda cabe que nos encontramos frente a uno de los desafíos multilaterales más dramáticos de los últimos tiempos. No podemos obviar que, como trasfondo, está la propia gobernabilidad de nuestros Estados.

En este sentido, debemos dar propuestas con soluciones concretas. La alimentación no puede esperar.

Por tales razones Chile hace un llamado a mantener abierto el comercio de alimentos y fertilizantes de acuerdo a las reglas acordadas en la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC). Al mismo tiempo que buscar suministros alternativos y diversos.

En este sentido, la intensificación de la cooperación científica y de expertos que ayuden a implementar soluciones alternativas en el corto plazo es crucial, principalmente aquella que busque apoyar el trabajo de la agricultura familiar y campesina.

Fortalecer la cooperación internacional y a la búsqueda de soluciones conjuntas dentro de las sub regiones, promoviendo la asociatividad y el cooperativismo.

En lo alimentario, no aplicar sanciones y otras medidas que puedan contraer el intercambio comercial, la circulación, disponibilidad y acceso a los alimentos, que contraviene los principios de la Seguridad Alimentaria.

Fortalecer los mecanismos de Alimentación Escolar al interior de los Estados, estos en muchos casos constituyen la única ración diaria de alimentos de miles de niñas y niños.

Promover la asistencia técnica de los grupos académicos y de investigación, en materias tales como la utilización de fertilizantes naturales como el humus y el compost para los cultivos hortícolas o el desarrollo de técnicas de hidrocultivos.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not have any other requests for the floor of Members of the Council. I now turn the floor to the Observers.

Mr Jiri JILEK (Czechia) (Observer)

Due to the limited time, I will make only a brief summary of our full statement, which was already uploaded on the Council website. Czechia fully aligns itself with the statement of France delivered on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

We fully support FAO Council to endorse *en bloc* the draft decisions contained in document *CL 169/4*, also supported by 80 FAO Members, including Czechia. We express full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russian Federation's unprovoked, unjustified and illegal aggression against Ukraine, with active involvement of Belarus.

Russian Federation grossly violates international law and the UN Charter and seriously undermines international security and sovereignty. Russian Federation's aggression is also in violation of the object and purpose of FAO as enshrined in the preamble of its Constitution.

Russian Federation's aggression has triggered an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with a massive number of casualties and injuries to civilians, with more than 10 million people displaced internally or externally. Russian Federation must immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine, and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence within its internationally recognized borders.

We demand that Russian Federation respects international law, international military, and human rights laws, and fully respect the protection of civilians, women, and children. Russian Federation's aggression has damaging consequences for the entire Ukrainian economy, including its agriculture and food sector, which is deteriorating every day as the Russian Federation continues its aggression against Ukraine.

An unprecedented worldwide surge in food, fertilizer, and energy prices, combined with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, has far-reaching consequences for the world food security, nutrition, and agricultural systems, as illustrated in FAO preliminary assessment reports.

The latest figures from the just-released FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) show a huge increase in prices again and are at the highest level ever. Russian Federation's aggression has also had negative global humanitarian impacts, as Ukraine is the major grain supplier to the WFP and to countries in several regions of the world, which have been already facing severe food insecurity. It is right that FAO continues to accelerate the scale-up of its staff and resources to address the consequences of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine on global food security, nutrition, and agriculture.

Specifically in Ukraine, we request that FAO swiftly extends the scope of its support actions to other regions in Ukraine in addition to those where it has been already present. We also request that FAO includes in its report and briefings the assessments of the damage done to Ukraine's agriculture, food sector, and related infrastructure.

Last remark on the sanctions against Russian Federation. They have an only one purpose, to target the ability of the Russian Federation to finance the aggression. They are apparently directed at the Russian government, the financial sector, and the economic allies. They do not target the Russian agricultural sector.

Mr Ricardas SLEPAVICIUS (Lithuania) (Observer)

I am speaking on behalf of the Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. We fully support the statement made by France that reported on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

Forty-four days ago, the Russian Federation launched an unprovoked, unjustified, and illegal attack on Ukraine. It was and remains an abrupt choice. We demand that the Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and we call for the immediate withdrawal of Russian military forces in the whole of the territory of Ukraine.

The Baltic States express full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The Russian Federation's aggression, with active involvement of Belarus, is now undermining the food security and the alignment of countless nations around the world, and driving up the cost of energy, fertilizers, and staple foods, with the most vulnerable hit hardest.

Furthermore, the main routes of Ukraine's export of grain through the seaports remain blocked due to the Russian Federation's aggression. The unjustified and unprovoked Russian Federation's war, of course, poses a serious threat to Ukrainian agricultural production in the coming season. In this dramatic situation, it should be made clear there is a direct consequence of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine.

The Baltic States expect more from FAO to present today their latest figures from the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI), as that may have a direct impact on the deliberations of this Council Session. Develop immediate medium-term and long-term plans to adequately address the global food security impact of the unprovoked and unjustified Russian Federation's attack against Ukraine, including emergency response, recovery assistance, and resilience building in food systems.

Keep Members notified in this regard through regular briefing, consultations, and reporting to the FAO Governing Bodies. To fully adapt its communication on the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine through the United Nations system and coordinate its communication with all involved international partners and organizations. Add the item of the implications on world food security and agriculture arising from the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine to its agenda of the next regular Session of the FAO Council in June 2022.

We fully support the draft FAO decision, as circulated in the document *CL 169/4*. We also ask not to be fooled by Russian Federation's attempts to deflect their critics by placing the blame on others and in particular on sanctions. The sanctions are targeting Russian Federation's ability to finance the aggression. They do not target the Russian Federation's agricultural sector.

The Baltic countries, together with the international community, will continue to provide support to the courageous people of Ukraine. We stand firm for the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We stand with humanity in the face of cruelty. We stand with the people, women, men, and children of Ukraine. This is our choice.

Sr. Ricardo Javier VARELA (Uruguay) (Observador)

Nuestro país ha condenado con firmeza la agresión de la Federación de Rusia a Ucrania, la que viola gravemente principios básicos contenidos en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, en particular la integridad territorial, la independencia y la soberanía de dicho país. Hemos reclamado que cesen de inmediato estas violaciones del derecho internacional y, en particular, del derecho internacional humanitario. A Uruguay no solo le preocupa el quebrantamiento de la paz, la seguridad en la región y su potencial desestabilización de países vecinos, sino que también los impactos de este conflicto sobre los mercados agrícolas mundiales.

Uruguay es un productor eficiente, un exportador competitivo de productos agrícolas y agroindustriales que ha contribuido notoriamente a la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Seguiremos cumpliendo este rol durante estos momentos de crisis y amenazas que pesan sobre el mercado global alimentario. En Uruguay, tanto el sector productivo como el exportador se han visto afectados con las inflexiones de la cadena de suministro, distribución y logística. Han existido perjuicios para las exportaciones nacionales, derivados de alteraciones registradas en los transportes internacionales para el acceso de ciertos mercados.

El abordaje de esta combinación de factores implica un desafío a las políticas públicas en materia de control de inflación, a través del incremento de los costos de producción del sector productivo, principalmente por el incremento del costo de combustible e incide negativamente en el poder adquisitivo de la población.

La Federación de Rusia y Ucrania ocupan un lugar destacado en la producción de productos fertilizantes y agroquímicos representando un importante porcentaje de las importaciones de Uruguay en la materia. Nuestro país comparte las recomendaciones contenidas en la nota informativa de la FAO, en particular, en relación a la importancia de mantener abierto el comercio de alimentos y fertilizantes para satisfacer las demandas mundiales.

Es fundamental evitar la tentación de recurrir a restricciones a las exportaciones del comercio agrícola. Estas medidas influyen negativamente en la volatilidad de los precios y limita la capacidad del mercado de amortiguar sus consecuencias. Uruguay reitera su posición tradicional en favor de un mercado internacional fluido y competitivo sin distorsiones que afectan negativamente las exportaciones e importaciones, incluyendo entre ellas el manejo artificial de los precios de los productos agrícolas. Esto permitirá a los países productores eficientes de alimentos desempeñar el rol que naturalmente les corresponde en el abastecimiento y la preservación de la seguridad alimentaria global.

Mr Pio WENNUST (Switzerland) (Observer)

Switzerland condemns Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. Russian Federation's actions violate the provision of the use of force and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine as enshrined in international law.

Switzerland calls on Russian Federation to deescalate the situation immediately, cease all hostilities, and withdraw its troops from the Ukrainian territory without delay. Switzerland calls on all its parties to strictly respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Switzerland shares the concerns expressed by other Members today with regard to the current global food insecurity further exacerbated by the Russian Federation's aggression.

The large-scale damaging impact caused by the destruction of productive resources and agricultural processing and trading infrastructure, on the accessibility, availability, and affordability of food at all times and for all people, and in particular those suffering from hunger and all forms of malnutrition is of great concern to us.

To mitigate global uncertainty about international markets, we call upon Members to refrain from extra restrictions and prohibitions wherever possible. Now, more than ever, transparency and predictability in agricultural trade are crucial. Switzerland thanks FAO for its Technical Briefing of 25 March 2022 to FAO Members on the Impact of COVID-19 and the War in Ukraine on the Outlook for Food Security and Nutrition. We also appreciate the information that was shared on that occasion and we welcome the announcement of FAO management to provide FAO Members on a regular basis with updated information and the evolving situation of food security.

We call on FAO to foster collaboration with all relevant international organizations and institutions to enhance the outlook activities on relevant markets, including fertilizers and energy markets, as well as on information regarding the availability of food stocks as a contribution to stabilizing marketplaces.

Switzerland recognizes that the current conflict and other crises are enhancing existing pressure on food systems due to climate change, biodiversity loss, and soil degradation with negative consequences on food security all around the globe, and this proportionately affects the most vulnerable. Therefore, sustainable food system transformation is all the more necessary in order to make food systems more resilient and our common future more food secure.

Mr CHON GIL Kim (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (Observer)

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea supports the joint statement of the Asia Regional Group, excluding Japan. The root cause of the Ukrainian crisis totally lies in the heinous policy of the United States of America and the West, which includes themselves in highhandedness and arbitrariness towards other countries.

United States of America and the West, in defiance of Russian Federation's reasonable and just demands to provide the legal guarantee for security has systematically undermined the security environment of Europe by becoming more blatant in their attempt to deploy outright weapon systems while defiantly pursuing North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s eastern board expansion. The

greatest danger the world faces now is the highhandedness and arbitrariness by the United States of America and its followers, thus taking international peace and stability at the basis. World peace is never possible as long as there remains the unilateral and heinous policy of the United States of America, which threatens peace and security of the sovereign states.

FAO should propose the vote to the discussion of technical and emergency cooperation for solving the global food crisis. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea opposes any attempt to politicize FAO's work. Then, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea supports adding the reference to other conflicts proposed by the Russian Federation's side to the title of Item 3 of the Session's Provisional Agenda.

FAO's work should not be politicized and should not be used for geo-political purposes.

Mr Ayman RAAD (Syrian Arab Republic) (Observer)

My hope was that the Council Members would not have gone beyond FAO's mandate and would not use the Organization as a cover for some countries to achieve their political interests that are so far from the humanitarian purposes that they have suggested as a title for this Session, and they are also so far from the noble objectives of our Organization.

What confirms that these presentations of the situation are coverage of some countries' policies is the fact that no Western country has called before for a Special Session to address any war or crisis that has affected many areas in the world. These wars have had devastating effects on food security and livelihoods of the population of these areas, and my country, the Syrian Arab Republic, has been and is still exposed to foreign terrorism and unilateral coercive measures that have affected many aspects of our economy and livelihoods, undermining our food security.

All the events that the peoples of the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and Iraq have gone through did not mobilize those countries to stop the suffering of these populations. They have simply ignored all the issues related to women's rights, and here it is not worthy to mention that some countries that have called to hold this Special Session due to their concerns about the impact of this crisis on a global level of food security, they are the same players that have stood behind the outbreak of wars and they are the same countries that have imposed an embargo in order to achieve their political agendas.

The Syrian Arab Republic has always supported political and diplomatic methods and considers that dialogue is the only way to solve crises. We regret the suffering of civilians in any part of the world. However, we see that this is not a suitable space for discussing the reasons or the responsibilities of what is going on. We would like to remind that the Donbas region, since 2014, was exposed to attacks where many civilians have lost their lives, but all efforts of the Russian Federation to solve these crises have met refusal from the Western countries, especially they have refused to implement the Minsk Agreements in this regard.

My country says if there is a true will to find a solution that will put an end to the crisis which entails a humanitarian impact on many countries, especially in the developing countries, we see that it is necessary to lift the coercive measures that Western countries impose on some specific countries, especially unilateral coercive measures, including those imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic and Russian Federation. This will prevent a further deterioration of the situation.

We fully agree with FAO's Director-General when he said on 11 March that we need to keep the trade open. This will ensure the provision of the supplies and will stabilize global agrifood markets. More sanctions will not help. Providing weapons by some Western countries will further exacerbate and protract the crisis, impacting people and threatening global food security.

In conclusion, we stress that the only way to prevent a food security crisis is to support the dialogue with the Russian Federation and to take into account its concerns about its national security.

CHAIRPERSON

Before I continue with the list of observers who want to speak, I give the floor to a Member of the Council and it is the United States of America.

Ms Cindy MCCAIN (United States of America)

I request the right to reply and respond to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea regarding the false claims that were just made about sanctions. We have worked with our allies and partners to target our sanctions on Mr Vladimir Putin and his inner circle. We have tailored our actions to minimize spillover effects on other economies to the extent possible. This includes a wind-down period for certain sanctions where appropriate. We also have issued general licenses to facilitate transactions related to humanitarian needs, such as medicine and agricultural commodities as well as fertilizers. Transactions not covered by existing general licenses will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis when specific license requests are submitted.

CHAIRPERSON

I now continue the list of Observers.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)(Observer)

Germany aligns itself with the statement given by France. On behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States let me express our full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We condemn in the strongest terms Russian Federation's military aggression against Ukraine which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter, and undermines international security and stability.

Humanitarian consequences of this war are of a scale that the international community has not seen for decades and speaking of food and agriculture, as the Secretary-General rightly pointed out (and actually in contrast to the intervention of my esteemed Russian colleague), far beyond Ukraine's borders the war has led to massive increases in the prices of food, energy and fertilizers. It has disrupted supply chains and increased the cost of transportation, putting even more pressure on the developing world and the most vulnerable regions and countries.

There cannot be any doubt that the war in Ukraine has an enormous impact on global food security. Still more people in Northern Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South East Asia and the Middle East will go hungry because of this illegal war.

We appreciate today's emergency special session of the FAO Council and we thank you Mr Chairperson, and the Director-General, for having convened it. The information provided by FAO is a good step in the right direction from our point of view and we look forward to keep continuously receiving timely and comprehensive data and analysis by FAO.

We call on FAO to take advantage of all the expertise provided by the other UN Agencies and international organizations and platforms to even closer collaboration and in particular we encourage FAO to give the Committee on World Food Security the necessary support to work on the impacts of the war on global food security.

We all need to take urgent action now, we all have the means to do so. Let me recall the Group of Seven (G7) Declaration by the Ministers of Agriculture, initiated under the German G7 Presidency, to stand united and in solidarity with our partners, including in particular the developing and emerging economies which unjustly bear the cost and impact of this war.

Let us not forget that this crisis recalls the need to make our agri-food systems sustainable and resilient. All countries should contribute now in one form or the other to averting negative impacts of this crisis.

The German Government is supporting already the World Food Programme with EUR 1.2 billion in 2021, as the second largest donor alone, is allocating now EUR 370 million to humanitarian aid, and EUR 430 million to address the effects on global food security.

Allow me to say one word on the sanctions issue. We fully agree with the point made by several delegations not to politicize the discussion in FAO and to stick to its mandate, but that includes to avoid false narratives. The sanctions adopted against Russia's war are not the cause for the increase in food prices. On the contrary, the cause for the increase in food prices is the blocking and destroying of Ukraine's ports with 55 percent of its agriculture exports. It is the cause for the increase in food prices that Russian Federation intentionally destroys agricultural infrastructure and makes it impossible for Ukrainian farmers to carry on with their normal work.

Let us recall that this special Session of the Council is due to extraordinary circumstances. It is our conviction that this is an important moment for FAO. The world is watching how the international organizations fulfil their mandates given by the membership to respond and help avoid that the crisis will lead to a hurricane of hunger. FAO's expertise and our constructive cooperation are needed more than ever.

Ms Catalina Maria CONSTANTIN (Romania) (Observer)

Romania welcomes the meeting today, as response to the pressing need to address the challenges posed by the aggression of the Russian Federation on Ukraine over the global food security. We have endorsed the request for the meeting today and we also support the draft decision encompassed in document *CL169/4*.

We believe that FAO should play an important role in monitoring the situation, as well as in implementing adequate and sustainable solutions for trying to alleviate as much as possible the impact of the war in Ukraine on regional and global food security.

We align ourselves to the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States and strongly condemn the aggression of the Russian Federation on Ukraine. We stress the fact that the best possible solution to address the consequences of it is to stop it as soon as possible.

The implications of this war are already high, both when considering its intensity, as well as its coverage, and they will continue to grow.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), prior to the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, most key global macroeconomic market indicators were expected to return to normality this year and in 2023.

However, these positive evaluations are becoming useless at this point, due to the occurrence of the war in Ukraine. The FAO assessment has shown that this war has already generated a significant impact on global agrifood markets, with the prices of oil, gas and commodities surging.

Just to complement the conclusions of the FAO assessment, according to the OECD, if sustained, these changes in commodity prices and the impact on the financial markets could reduce global gross domestic product (GDP) growth by over 1 percentage point in the first year and push up global consumer price inflation by approximately 2.5 percentage points. On top of this, the aggression of the Russian Federation on Ukraine has led to more than 4 million people being displaced from this country, thus generating probably the most important refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

Romania has been actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine together with its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and with the European Union.

Only in Romania, as of yesterday, more than 670 000 Ukrainian people have entered our country and the numbers are growing. We have taken all the necessary measures to ensure proper assistance to these persons.

At the same time, we have supported and will continue to support our neighbouring countries. An example is the Moldova Support Platform, a joint initiative of Germany, France and Romania.

However, the situation in Ukraine redefines all the variables of our economies and societies.

Therefore, today, our main goal should be identifying a set of concrete actions for the immediate implementation, as well as possible ways forward to address the longer-term impact of this war.

As a knowledge-based organization, FAO should play an important role in further monitoring, assessing the effects of the conflict, as well as identifying urgent need of assistance.

FAO should implement actions aimed at assisting farmers – both small and large-scale ones, so as to minimize the impact on the upcoming cultivation and harvesting seasons in Ukraine.

Last but not least, FAO should continue the work on the Rapid Response Plan for Ukraine and set the basis for the Recovery Plan, as previously announced.

In concluding, we would like to stress that, as any other multisectoral crisis, cooperation and joint action remain key in addressing the challenges posed by the crisis, which is rapidly transforming into a global one. Rome-based Agencies (RBA)'s collaboration remains crucial, together with other UN and international organizations.

We need to act united, coordinated and in full compliance with the UN principles and values. This is the foundation of the UN system and we, as Members, have the responsibility to act within these boundaries.

M. Papa Abdoulaye SECK (Sénégal) (Observateur)

Le Sénégal se félicite de la tenue de cette importante session. Comme vous le savez tous, moins d'un an après le Sommet mondial sur les systèmes agroalimentaires, visant à les transformer positivement et durablement, l'équation se complexifie. Elle se complexifie par la crise sanitaire, élément majeur de la réflexion du Sommet mondial sur les systèmes agroalimentaires, voit s'inviter d'autres crises, en particulier les conflits en Irak, en Ukraine.

Par conséquent, la baisse du taux de sécurité alimentaire risque de s'accélérer et la matérialisation de l'Objectif de développement durable (ODD)-2 d'avantage compromis, particulièrement en Afrique. N'oublions pas deux choses: la première, le coût d'une reconstruction agricole est toujours plus élevé que celui d'une construction agricole.

La deuxième chose à ne pas oublier, sans une sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, une paix juste et durable est impossible, et notre volonté de vivre ensemble remise en cause. Fort de tout cela, le Sénégal formule quatre recommandations. La première recommandation: la FAO doit confirmer son intention particulière au continent africain, qui sera le plus affecté, compte tenu de son statut d'importateur net de produits agricoles.

La deuxième recommandation: la FAO déjà présente, doit assister les pays africains dans le cadre de la préparation de leurs prochaines campagnes agricoles, pour que la productivité agricole africaine, déjà si faible ne diminue davantage faute d'engrais et d'autres facteurs de productions. La troisième recommandation : les pays s'engagent à ne pas faire de restriction sur leur exploitations.

Contrairement à ce qui a été observé en 2008, et qui avait conduit à des émeutes de la faim dans plusieurs capitales africaines. La quatrième recommandation: la FAO entame dès à présent une évaluation de l'impact pour que des mesures plus ciblées soit prises en temps opportun face à la situation extrêmement grave que nous connaissons actuellement. Pour conclure, le Sénégal félicite la FAO pour ses pertinentes analyses et pour les efforts déployés et plaide conséquemment pour leur intensification.

Le Sénégal félicite aussi les donateurs qui se sont déjà manifestés et vous félicite vous Monsieur le Président de cette session. Pour terminer, je vais conclure en citant le Président et poète Léopold Sédar Senghor, ancien Président de la République du Sénégal qui disait, je le cite : "L'orgueil d'être différent ne doit pas empêcher le bonheur d'être ensemble."

Sra. Sonia Silvia BRITO SANDOVAL (Bolivia)

El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia como país pacifista, ha manifestado en otros foros internacionales su preocupación por la escalada del conflicto entre la Federación de Rusia y Ucrania y lamenta que la falta de diálogo y entendimiento entre las partes no avance, mientras que se agrava la situación humanitaria de la población afectada.

Bolivia nuevamente hace un llamado a la paz y exhorta a las partes a la pronta solución política diplomática del conflicto en el marco del derecho internacional humanitario y el respeto a los derechos humanos. Promoviendo soluciones pacíficas que aborden las cuestiones legítimas de seguridad de las partes, pero en base a un diálogo constructivo y de buena fe que permita acuerdos mínimos que deberían ser respaldados por toda la comunidad internacional.

El Proyecto de decisión denominado "Propuesta de Acciones de la FAO en Relación con las Implicaciones en la Alimentación Mundial, Seguridad y Agricultura desde la agresión rusa contra Ucrania", consideramos que no es neutral en el lenguaje que utiliza y no ayuda a coadyuvar en espacios de diálogo y concertación de las partes en conflicto.

El mandato de la FAO es apoyar a los Miembros para que alcancen la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional y es importante que nos enfoquemos en el mismo sin politizar nuestro trabajo. El Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia impulsa la soberanía alimentaria, la vida sin hambre y sin sometimiento de ningún tipo. El conflicto actual puede afectar el derecho humano a la alimentación para todos y todas, así como otros conflictos bélicos actuales en el planeta, que también están generando hambruna para otros pueblos y por ello la FAO debe asumir una misma línea para todos los países de manera imparcial.

El gobierno y pueblo boliviano venimos de una cultura milenaria que se basa en el diálogo para alcanzar consensos y avanzar hacia el vivir bien. Nuestro interés en la FAO es impulsar la seguridad y soberanía alimentaria para nuestros pueblos en el marco del respeto a todos los Estados. Por lo expuesto Bolivia convoca a las partes en conflicto al diálogo, a la solución pacífica, a las acciones de distensión para consensuar la seguridad alimentaria de las partes.

Con el conflicto que nos preocupa a todos y que tiene implicancias en la seguridad alimentaria en todo el mundo, debemos actuar con cautela y en consulta con todas las partes para alcanzar soluciones concertadas.

Bolivia hace un llamado a respetar estrictamente el mandato de la FAO y las reglas de procedimiento para avanzar de forma adecuada en la construcción de soluciones que aseguren la alimentación adecuada a nuestros pueblos.

Sra. Haifa Aissami MADAH (Venezuela)

Como miembro fundador de las Naciones Unidas, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela reitera su inquebrantable compromiso con los propósitos y principios consagrados en la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y las normas del derecho internacional. En este contexto nuestros esfuerzos deben estar destinados a mejorar la eficacia de las actividades de la FAO, siendo imperativo que todos los planteamientos sean efectuados estrictamente en el marco de su mandato. Se trata de mantener y fortalecer el instrumento multilateral de mayor importancia en el ámbito de agricultura y la alimentación.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela, en coherencia con su diplomacia de paz, aboga por una pronta resolución pacífica, integral y duradera de los conflictos, todos los conflictos, y donde se tomen en cuenta las preocupaciones de todas las partes concernidas.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela expresa su preocupación por la premura en la convocatoria a este Consejo que tiene como tema principal las repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización de Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO), dejando a un lado “otros conflictos existentes” que han acelerado y profundizado el hambre en el mundo.

Los conflictos, las desaceleraciones y debilitamientos de la economía, el aumento con máximos históricos de los precios de los alimentos, el cambio climático y la pandemia de la COVID – 19, entre otros, han traído como consecuencia el aumento de la prevalencia de la subalimentación.

La utilización del sistema financiero mundial, para sitiar económicamente a países, las sanciones económicas, bloqueos, medidas coercitivas, la manipulación en el abastecimiento de alimentos y materias primas en general, son medidas que promueven el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria. Sin embargo, ninguna de estas distorsiones y desequilibrios, expresados como políticas sostenidas, han sido considerados, ni antes ni ahora, en los temas de discusión de esta organización.

El papel de esta Organización no es profundizar los conflictos y las divisiones. En este sentido, hacemos un llamado a respetar el mandato de la FAO, a mantener la igualdad de trato y respeto para todos los Estados Miembros e invitamos a todos a realizar un debate amplio, inclusivo y plural. Reafirmamos una vez más la necesidad de defender los principios enunciados en la Carta de Naciones Unidas, salvaguardado la esencia técnica de esta organización y preservando este espacio multilateral tan importante e imprescindible para el cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030, en particular el Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) 2 “Hambre Cero”.

Finalmente, alentamos a todos los Miembros a trabajar con un espíritu de buena voluntad y cooperación para la conclusión exitosa de esta sesión. Además, reiteramos que la práctica de la toma de decisiones basada en el consenso por parte de los órganos normativos es el enfoque correcto para lograr el objetivo y propósito de la FAO. Por lo tanto, Venezuela instan a todos los Miembros a no polarizar ni politizar el trabajo de la Organización.

Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)

The Bahamas supports the FAO document *CL 169/3*. We do not support the Russian Federation's request to add the reference 'and other conflict'. We believe this is an attempt to deflect from what we believe is the root cause of the current crisis. We note the negative impact of the crisis, particularly on small island developing states. The Bahamas and the Caribbean region are heavily dependent on wheat, grain and fertilizer which is primarily sourced from the warring region.

The conflict is driving up the cost of fuel which the region is heavily depending on, and is having a devastating effect on the economies of the Bahamas and the Caribbean region, and therefore appeal for a cessation of the Russian-Ukraine crisis. Our very survival depends on this.

The Bahamas and the Caribbean region derive most of its income from tourism and therefore is also heavily dependent on a peaceful world. I therefore again reiterate, the Bahamas fully supports the document *CL 169/3*.

Mr Thomas John KELLY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

The United Kingdom joins other delegations in deploring Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, and we call for an immediate end to hostilities. FAO's mandate has never been more important. This is why we have joined 80 countries in asking for this special Session today and I have to disagree with the distinguished representative from Venezuela when she says that this session has been hastily organized.

On the contrary, time is of the essence. As other delegations have said, the most effective way of improving an already bleak global food security outlook is for Russian Federation to stop its invasion of Ukraine. That is not a political statement. That is a statement of fact.

As the UN Secretary-General has said, this war goes far beyond Ukraine. It is hitting the world's most vulnerable people and countries. Those that were struggling already with the impacts of the pandemic and devastating effects of climate change. We have just heard the Bahamas Ambassador talking about the impact on Small Island Developing States. They simply cannot cope with these extra price rises too, for fuel, food and fertilizer prices, and on top of that, broken supply chains.

We want to thank FAO for all the work it has done, led by Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, in ensuring that we have comprehensive data and analysis on the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on global food security conditions. Chairperson, more than ever, we need to be led by sound data and evidence to guide responses that are appropriate, targeted and effective. We encourage FAO's continued collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and across the international system in supporting analysis for a joined-up response. We support FAO recommendations, including keeping trade flowing, and ensuring transparency of markets.

The United Kingdom strongly supports comments already made by delegations who have provided clarifications about sanctions. The United Kingdom has imposed targeted sanctions. They do not directly affect Russian exports of food and we have committed to avoid direct sanctions against food. As Canada has highlighted, higher food prices will increase inequality in the access of women and girls to nutritious food and will also affect treatment for acute malnutrition. We would welcome FAO's continued analysis of these impacts, building on the briefing note provided yesterday.

Finally, we call for Council's adoption *en bloc* of the proposal of Actions by FAO contained in the FAO document *CL 169/4* and we urge FAO to provide regular updates to FAO Council Members.

Mme Mira DAHER (Lebanon)(Observateur)(Original language Arabic)

Je suis honorée de m'exprimer au nom du Liban devant cette 169ème session du Conseil pour parler des impacts du conflit Russo-ukrainien sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. 1.2 milliards de personnes

souffrent de cette crise, comme l'a dit le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies le 5 avril. Il y a environ deux ans, la FAO avait des programmes et des projets qui visaient à venir à bout de la faim dans le monde d'ici 2030.

Tous ces projets étaient concentrés sur le développement durable, où en sommes-nous aujourd'hui? Le monde est confronté à une famine imminente qui va toucher plus d'un milliard de personnes à cause du manque de blé et à cause de la pénurie d'autres biens de première nécessité et denrée de bases. Or, cela n'est pas la conséquence d'une catastrophe naturelle, d'un tremblement de terre. C'est le résultat du fait que le monde ne compte que sur une seule source de fourniture de blé.

En effet, les sources et la provenance de ce blé ne sont pas diversifiées. Donc, nous sommes confrontés à un danger pressant. Le Liban est en proie à la crise économique la plus cruciale de son histoire. Nous sortons également d'une crise humanitaire qui a touché plus de 500 000 réfugiés dans les camps. Nous avons 1.2 millions de réfugiés syriens au Liban, et deux tiers de notre population sur un territoire très limité est représentée par ces réfugiés. Ce chiffre ne peut pas être sous-estimé ni ignoré.

Nous avons une capacité limitée et nos infrastructures sont insuffisantes. Si vous essayez de simuler cette situation par rapport à ce qui se passe en Ukraine, vous comprendrez aisément notre situation. Nous avons essayé de faire entendre nos besoins devant la communauté internationale, nous vous demandons de ne pas transformer cette crise unique en plusieurs crises. Nous sommes encore aux prises avec différents problèmes, nous souffrons de problèmes économiques, et le poids n'a fait que s'aggraver du fait que la communauté internationale a ignoré notre situation.

Alors, qu'en est-il de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale ? Est-ce que la communauté internationale va nous aider en fournissant des aliments? Nous savons bien que la crise alimentaire en Ukraine va avoir des effets sur de nombreux pays et nous voyons que nous allons être confrontés à une famine inévitable très bientôt. La hausse importante des prix des denrées alimentaires et des carburants est quelque chose que nous devons absolument aborder.

Le panier alimentaire coûte 350 % plus cher qu'en 1991. Alors, il ne faut pas abandonner le Liban. Le Liban aujourd'hui, confirme la nécessité de soutenir la FAO pour ce qui est du plan agricole mis au point par le Ministre de l'agriculture du Liban. Il faut trouver une solution pour faire face à la crise alimentaire actuelle.

Nous avons besoin de solutions pragmatiques pour mettre un terme à cette crise. Le Liban est un pays autosuffisant pour ce qui est du blé.

Si nous mettons en œuvre ce plan de développement de l'agriculture, grâce au soutien de la communauté internationale, nous pourrions fournir du blé à différents pays.

Nous demandons à la communauté internationale de nous aider à assurer le rapatriement sûr des réfugiés syriens dans leurs pays où ils pourront récolter et cultiver leurs terres pour assurer une augmentation de la production.

Autrement, nous n'allons pas pouvoir nourrir ces populations, qui actuellement, demeurent au Liban. Nous souffrons de cette pénurie alimentaire, et nous espérons que le Liban pourra exporter du blé à l'avenir, dans un avenir proche même.

Nous soutenons ce plan, et nous demandons à chacun de soutenir notre agriculture et notre plan agricole, pour atténuer l'insécurité alimentaire dans notre région.

His Excellency Iurie SCRIPNIC (Moldova) (Observer)

This special Session of the FAO Council has been called due to the alarming impact of the conflict in Ukraine on the global food security.

The Republic of Moldova condemns in the strongest possible terms the act of war launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which constitute a blatant breach of the international law, international humanitarian law as well as the fundamental human rights.

The conflict in the neighboring country has immediate and long-term severe impact on the economic and agricultural sector of our country. The Moldovan entrepreneurs already feel these consequences.

The main trade route through the Ukrainian port of Odessa has been cut off. Both imports and exports to the Eastern markets suffer heavy losses. Investments are also severely impacted.

The Moldovan Government is working hard to find alternative markets for the national products, which used to reach Eastern markets.

We are deeply concerned by the rising prices of the fertilizers, which will affect the agricultural production. Moldovan farmers require immediate support in acquiring necessary fertilizers, seeds and fuel for the planting season.

Approximately 70 percent of the smallholder farmers are vulnerable to these shocks and the negative effects of the crisis will affect directly the livelihood of the population.

The Government is mobilizing internal resources and the partners support to mitigate the direct negative effects of the crisis.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of the Republic of Moldova undertakes important efforts to identify immediate and long-term solutions to minimize the knock-on effects of rising energy and agricultural inputs prices, triggered by the war in Ukraine.

In this regard, the Ministry has identified and submitted proposals and support measures to be included in the “*Economic resilience Programme for the period 2022-2023*” of the Government to support economic agents from the agrifood sector to cope with the effects of the military aggression on Ukraine.

We express our gratitude to FAO for launching at the request of the Government of the Republic of Moldova an emergency Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) to assist vulnerable smallholder farmers to ensure immediate needs for the spring planting season and support of the livestock sector.

I would like to emphasize the importance of the regularly analytical notes elaborated by FAO on the consequences of the war in Ukraine on world food security and agriculture, as well as the Organization’s critical role in addressing the agrifood crisis to assure the food security globally.

In closing, I would like to stress the importance of the international cooperation to ensure the integrity of the food supply chain, enhance global food security and maintain the productions capacity of the countries, in particular of those most affected by the conflict.

Sra. Claudia GONZÁLEZ TOLEDO (Cuba) (Observador)

Cuba comparte la preocupación por la situación desfavorable del mercado mundial de alimentos desarrollada en los últimos años y agravada por el impacto de la pandemia del COVID-19, poniendo en riesgo la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y la Agenda de Desarrollo Sostenible 2030.

CHAIRPERSON

Sorry Cuba, I have to interrupt you because the interpreters cannot hear you. I will come back to you. Let us first see how we can get the right connections for interpretation.

Mme Michèle PRANCHÈRE-TOMASSINI (Luxembourg)

La France au nom de l'Union européenne a parlé en mon nom, et je voudrais amplifier son message dans tous ses aspects. Pendant que nous débattons, j'ai pu inviter 30 personnes à déjeuner, en Ukraine et ailleurs. Grâce à l'application *Share a Meal* mise en place par le PAM, je le remercie.

C'est une goutte, dans la tasse de la solidarité internationale, et cela ne me permet pas de faire cesser le feu, ni de faire retirer les troupes russes d'Ukraine pour donner une chance à la paix. Alors que la saison avance et les champs doivent être labourés en Ukraine pour éviter une crise alimentaire mondiale aggravée.

Cette responsabilité incombe uniquement à la Russie, et c'est notre devoir, au titre de la Charte des Nations Unies et du Préambule de la FAO de le lui rappeler. Je remercie la FAO pour ses efforts et je l'encourage à aller de l'avant dans l'intérêt de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde. C'est pour cette raison que je demande d'adopter le projet de décision *CL 169/4 en bloque*.

M. Aly COULIBALY (Mali)(Observateur)

La République du Mali remercie le Directeur général de la FAO, ainsi que le Président indépendant du Conseil et tous les participants à cette session. Nous apprécions à sa juste valeur les efforts de la FAO à l'endroit des États membres dans le cadre de son mandat. Nous apprécions particulièrement le rôle joué par le Comité à la sécurité alimentaire et son accompagnement aux États membres.

Notre appréciation s'étend également à l'ensemble des OCR, pour leur accompagnement et soutien à tous les États, particulièrement ceux d'Afrique. Cependant, au regard de l'évolution de la situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans le monde, force est de constater que notre planète fait face à une situation d'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle inquiétante due à la Covid-19, aux effets du changement climatique et particulièrement aux conflits.

La FAO, au regard de sa technicité reconnue dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation se doit, comme à l'habitude de renforcer son accompagnement aux États membres en leur fournissant une assistance accrue dans le domaine de l'information et de la collecte et du traitement des données, de la formation, de l'assistance technique.

Nous demandons à la FAO d'accentuer son accompagnement aux pays les plus pauvres, particulièrement ceux du Sahel, en cette période difficile, où ces pays subissent de plein fouet les effets néfastes de l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle due aux facteurs ci-dessus évoqués. C'est pourquoi nous demandons à la FAO de continuer le suivi de l'impact de tous les conflits sur la sécurité alimentaire, notamment au niveau des pays du Sahel dont certains comme mon pays subissent en plus de cette insécurité liée aux conflits, des sanctions économiques et financières.

La situation actuelle conduira certainement à une baisse de l'offre des entrants agricoles dans le monde. Ce qui impactera négativement les compagnes à venir, notamment dans les pays importateurs nets d'entrants agricoles, avec comme conséquence une baisse drastique de leurs productions agricoles.

Nous demandons à la FAO de poursuivre son accompagnement des pays africains et particulièrement ceux du Sahel qui feront certainement face à une insécurité très grave, notamment pour la période de soudure où il est évoqué à peu près 38 millions de personnes qui seront en situation d'insécurité alimentaire grave. Notre remerciement va à l'ensemble des partenaires qui se mobilisent au chevet du Sahel et de l'Afrique et leurs demandons plus d'actions au regard de la gravité de la situation qui se profile à l'horizon.

Mr Yaroslav MELNYK (Ukraine) (Observer)

Unfortunately, we have to continue this meeting during the constant bombardment of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Just remember the name of one more city, Kramatorsk, that was bombed one hour ago. Civilians waiting for the evacuation train have been attacked by the Russian Federation. We have more than 30 killed, including children, and more than 100 wounded.

In this connection, we have to ask ourselves whether we have done enough to stop the war of Russian Federation against Ukraine, and thus to guarantee a global food security. I would like to underline that at the moment of the attack, in Kramatorsk there were more than 1 000 civilians, mostly women and children.

It has been six weeks, for us Ukrainians it feels like a lifetime, since Russia launched an unprovoked, unjustified, and brutal invasion of Ukraine. Russian Federation's ceaseless bombardment of Ukraine's cities and critical infrastructure has created one of the fastest-growing humanitarian crises in Europe since World War II. The number of civilians killed by Russian troops in these six weeks exceeds our military losses. The Russian troops are deliberately striking the agricultural enterprises of Ukraine. They consistently destroy fuel storage sites, product distribution centres, destroy even conventional agricultural machinery, and mine the fields. There are also confirmed cases of barbaric robberies of agricultural technics from Ukrainian farmers. Moreover, we have the proved story of one farmer from Chernihiv region, of how Russian invaders used the seized starch factory as a crematorium for burning bodies of those they have killed. Just imagine the scale of this atrocities.

Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine has posed serious risks to global food security and worsened global hunger; that would require a range of responses from governments and international

organizations. Every tenth loaf of bread in the world is baked from the grains grown by Ukrainians. Around 80 percent of agricultural products were exported from Ukraine through seaports in The Black Sea and Azov Sea. Today, sea routes from our main ports are blocked by Russian military vessels. They are deliberately attacking civil ships, six as of today. Without our exports, it is not simply a shortage, but a threat of famine for more than a dozen countries in Africa and Asia.

Ukraine is willing to continue its exports according to our international obligations, as we do have grain corn, wheat, and sunflower oil.

Aggression and blockade of the Ukrainian ports by Russian Federation undermines the ability of importing countries to meet their food security needs today, tomorrow and for the years to come. All this prompts the Government of Ukraine to work intensively on both tracks – to secure the country's export potential and to ensure that Ukrainians will not suffer from hunger. And here, we also still count on FAO's more effective assistance in Ukraine. We believe that the Organization should focus not only on rural households, but on more comprehensive support for Ukrainian agribusiness. Support to the livestock sector is also crucial, we need veterinary medicine and animal feed ingredients.

I want to assure you that the only root cause of the food insecurity is the war unleashed by Russia, not sanctions. There are no sanctions for food exports, on the contrary it is Russia which banned grain and fertilizers exports. I want to draw your attention to the fact Russia openly referred to food exports as a weapon.

It must be clear that vulnerable countries will remain at risk as long as Russian Federation continues its war in Ukraine. In conclusion, I want to urge members of the Council to strongly condemn the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, aided by the Government of Belarus; to demand from Russian Federation immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and to withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine; and to request FAO to speed up and expand its emergency assistance in Ukraine within its mandate.

I would like to thank all Members and Observers of the Council who expressed their support and solidarity for Ukraine in this dramatic time for my country.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)

Once again just to reiterate the call not to politicize the situation. The representative of Ukraine has just mentioned about the missile strike that was allegedly done by the Russian Federation on Kramatorsk. Those of you who have access to any electronic devices can definitely see the picture of the missile Tochka U. This missile is not in operation neither in the Russian army nor in the armies of Donetsk People's Republic or Lugansk People Republic.

This weapon is only being used by the Ukrainian forces and there is a very fascist sign, I would say, on this missile, you can go and look at it on your screens, for the children. So, this is another version of the allegations that are being widely used by the Ukrainian side and I strongly demand before you believe in different stories about inhumane situation in Ukraine, please do remember that this is part of the information war, information campaign, and definitely this is not the place for the FAO to use this information campaign and information war here.

Mr Artur Andrzej POLLOK (Poland)(Observer)

First of all, I would like to underline that Poland stands with Ukraine and aligns itself with the statement made by France as the European Union (EU) Presidency on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

Next, I would like to emphasize how important it was to organize this special session of the FAO Council in this precarious situation when the war is threatened by one of the most serious crises in terms of food security and stability. We know that there is a reason for this meeting, the illegal and unprovoked and unjustified aggression on Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Where there is war there is hunger and where there is hunger there is no stability and we fall into a vicious cycle. There is no excuse for war and aggression.

As the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, the current President of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said, "The unprecedented attack by the armed forces of the Russian Federation

on Ukraine destroyed the foundations of their existing security architecture and is a clear violation of international law including the United Nations Charter”.

It should be remembered that the humanitarian and food crisis will not end with the end of hostilities as a result of the war in Ukraine or its infrastructure – roads, houses, agriculture and equipment are destroyed, the fields, and not to mention the lack of people to work on farms because they have either fled or died in the war. All of this will have a huge impact on Ukraine agriculture, animal husbandry, planting and harvesting. Ukraine, once a leading exporter of food products, will now need humanitarian aid itself.

The UN Secretary-General said clearly the message of the General Assembly is loud and clear, end hostilities in Ukraine now, silence the guns now, open the door to diplomacy now. We do not have a moment to lose. The brutal effects of the conflict are plain to see but as bad as the situation is for the people in Ukraine right now, it threatens to get much, much worse. The ticking clock is a time bomb, the world wants an end to the tremendous human suffering in Ukraine. People in Ukraine desperately need peace and people around the world demand it.

This war is fought in a country that has been the breadbasket of the world and which is a significant player in the world trade in agrifood products. Before the war Ukraine was the fourth largest grain exporter in the world. It is estimated that 49 percent of winter wheat and 38 percent of rice to be harvested in July-August of 2022 are located in occupied or war affected areas.

Ukraine was also the largest exporter of sunflower oil, accounting for approximately 30 percent of world exports. The area sewn with sunflowers in Ukraine in 2022 may be 35 percent less than in 2021.

The main recipients of grain from Ukraine were the countries of North Africa, Asia and the Middle East such as Egypt, Bolivia, Tunisia, as well as Lebanon, Yemen, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Those countries are affected by the war in Ukraine.

It should be said that the number of people suffering from hunger will increase in 2022. It could affect 8 to 13 million people worldwide. Let me remind you that over 2.5 million people from Ukraine came to Poland, they are mostly women with children. The state is taking steps to support them with strong involvement of local authorities and the common people.

In conclusion we expect FAO to develop immediate plans and to address the food security implications of the war in Ukraine, including emergency response, reconstruction assistance and building resilience system. We would like FAO to include the issue of the implications of the war of Ukraine on the Food Security in the world, in the agenda of the next session of the FAO Council in June 2022.

Mme Mariam ALI MOUSSA (Tchad)(Observatrice)

Je remercie la FAO et le Président indépendant du Conseil pour avoir organisé promptement et efficacement cette session extraordinaire à la demande de la plupart des membres de la FAO. Mon pays le Tchad est aussi affecté et très préoccupé par l'insécurité alimentaire mondiale aggravée par la guerre en Ukraine et soutient la déclaration en cours.

Le Tchad exprime sa solidarité avec tous les peuples affectés et demande à tous les états de ne pas profiter de cette crise pour imposer des restrictions alimentaires sélectives semblables à celles que nous avons connues lors de la crise de la pandémie de la Covid-19. Notre monde a déjà assez d'autres défis majeurs à relever et le Tchad appelle tous les acteurs impliqués dans cette guerre à cesser la désescalade et à aller plutôt vers une solution diplomatique, politique et apaisée pour le bien-être de tous les citoyens de ce monde.

Le Tchad exergue la FAO et toutes les organisations des Nations Unies basées à Rome, dans le cadre de leurs mandats à agréer à une solution durable à la crise actuelle et à d'autres que nous ne souhaitons pas mais qui peuvent malheureusement arriver. Aujourd'hui, pour plusieurs raisons, différents pays et différents peuples vivent dans une insécurité alimentaire indescriptible et inacceptable. Et tous les acteurs œuvrant pour leur assurer le minimum, ne serait-ce qu'un repas par jour, doivent plus que jamais se mettre ensemble pour leur offrir ce minimum vital par une approche globale, systémique et objective.

Sra. Claudia GONZÁLEZ TOLEDO (Cuba) (Observador)

Cuba comparte la preocupación por la situación desfavorable del mercado mundial de alimentos desarrollada en los últimos años, y agravada por el impacto de la pandemia del COVID-19, poniendo en riesgo la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible.

La erradicación de la pobreza en todas sus formas y dimensiones, incluida la pobreza extrema, es el mayor desafío que se enfrenta el mundo y constituye un requisito indispensable para el desarrollo sostenible. Los trabajos de la FAO no deben politizarse. Esta Organización debe enfocarse en encontrar soluciones constructivas para lograr la seguridad alimentaria para todos como establece el objetivo fundamental de su mandato como agencia especializada del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Reiteramos nuestro compromiso...

CHAIRPERSON

Cuba, I am sorry, I have to interrupt you again because it is impossible for the interpreters to hear you and to translate your statement here in the conference room. Would it be possible to send your statement to us so that we can at least publish it on the site? Thank you very much for your cooperation and I do apologize that we could not get a better connection.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Thailand)

Thailand associates itself with the joint statement of the members of Asia Region delivered by Malaysia. We underline our deep concern for the multiple implications on global food security, nutrition, health and stability.

Thailand emphasizes the importance of ensuring smooth functioning of global agricultural commodities markets and full operativity of global supply chains. We advocate to prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets and to implement measures to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of agriculture and food systems.

We recognize FAO's important roles as neutral platform to promote and, where appropriate, to recommend actions to safeguard global food security and nutrition, and fully support FAO's continued engagement in open and constructive policy dialogue and coordination among Members.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to the Observer, IFAD, because it has an Observer status within FAO.

Ms Satu SANDALA (IFAD) (Observer)

On behalf of IFAD, I would like to thank you for providing us access to participate in this special Session of the FAO Council, focused on the impact of the Ukraine-Russian conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of FAO.

I am intervening to clarify any misconceptions that IFAD would have had difficulties in carrying out its work due to sanctions. This is not the case. Yesterday, IFAD held an informal meeting with its member states to discuss the impact of the war in Ukraine in the context of IFAD's operations, and to provide an overview of how IFAD is responding.

The meeting was a constructive dialogue between IFAD and its member states underscoring the importance of IFAD to continue focusing on the most vulnerable populations which will be affected by this crisis. I would like to clarify that none of our operations have been delayed or impacted by sanctions. At our informal meeting yesterday, reference was made to the fact that in two instances consultancy payments were routed through alternative intermediary banks, with no impact or delays to IFAD's operations.

As in any food crisis the burden often falls hardest on the poorest and the most vulnerable in rural areas – the small-scale producers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups. IFAD will continue to closely monitor the situation and its potential impacts on its operations and the poor rural communities it serves around the world, and it stands ready to continue close collaboration with FAO in doing so.

CHAIRPERSON

I have a request of the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security to take the floor. The CFS is not an Observer to FAO but at the same time you know the Chairperson and several members related to CFS. So unless you raise an objection, I would give briefly the floor to the Chairperson of the CFS for a two minute statement. I do not see any objections.

Sr. Gabriel FERRERO (Presidente Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial)

Los conflictos son reconocidos como una de las causas más importantes del hambre y la seguridad alimentaria. La primera y más eficiente estrategia para combatir el hambre es la paz.

Como Presidente del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria y adhiriéndome a las recientes resoluciones de la Asamblea General, me sumo a los llamamientos urgentes para poner fin al conflicto en Ucrania que tiene un efecto sistémico en la seguridad alimentaria mundial, como hemos escuchado del Economista en Jefe de la FAO, y aprovecho para agradecerle al Sr. Máximo Torero Cullen su incansable trabajo y compromiso en estos días difíciles.

El Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria es la plataforma que nosotros, los Estados miembros de las Naciones Unidas, creamos para facilitar la coordinación global de políticas para la seguridad alimentaria para prevenir y afrontar crisis como las que estamos viviendo. Tal vez la mayor fortaleza del Comité es ser la única plataforma multilateral mundial dedicada a la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, incluye no solo a 133 estados miembros a día de hoy; también a los organismos de las Naciones Unidas, los basados en Roma y no basados en Roma; las instituciones de Bretton Woods; la sociedad civil; el sector privado, y el grupo de expertos de alto nivel en seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, entre otros. Más importante, el Comité da voz a las personas más vulnerables y más pobres, que son las más afectadas.

En estrecha colaboración y coordinación con los esfuerzos del resto de la comunidad internacional, y muy especialmente, con el grupo de respuesta a la crisis mundial del Secretario General y con las Agencias basadas en Roma, el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial asumirá su responsabilidad en las próximas semanas y meses para cumplir verdaderamente con su mandato.

Como Presidente del Comité, no dejaré en el esfuerzo por hacer que la plataforma del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria sirva como el espacio en el que la comunidad internacional, nuestros gobiernos y todas las partes interesadas con el Sistema de las Naciones Unidas se reúnan, compartan, deliberen, coordinemos las respuestas globales necesarias para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Ms Maria DO CEU ODETE GUTERRES (Timor-Leste)(Observer)

Timor-Leste would like to reiterate a commitment in contributing to the impact of the Ukraine-Russian conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The Government of Timor-Leste would like to take this opportunity to confirm the concern of the impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security, particularly considering food system challenges it may bring across the globe, including to Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste is food deficit country, where up to 40 percent of food needs are met through imports. Agricultural production, which is a source of livelihoods for 66 percent of the households in Timor-Leste, is heavily dependent on subsistence farming and rainfall. Natural resources degradations also remain a challenge to local food production system in addition to vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Timor-Leste also has many infrastructural and logistical challenges that makes it difficult to manage food availability and accessibility.

Timor-Leste is recognizing that Ukraine plays a major role in the global food system. Together with Russian Federation, the two countries account for a combined 12 percent of the food calories traded in the world, as reported by IFAD. This includes almost 40 percent of Ukraine's wheat and corn which are mostly exported to alleviate hunger in other countries. These countries may face worsened food shortages and price hikes that may trigger social unrest. This situation may lead to the destruction of agricultural and livelihood assets; and can severely disrupt and restrict trade and movements of goods and services; leading to negative effects on the availability and prices of food, including nutritious

foods. Therefore, in order to face the global impact of food security and the restriction in trade and movement of goods and services due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the Government of Timor-Leste considered international interventions in the agricultural sector is important.

To conclude, Timor-Leste would like to call for continuous efforts and collective actions to address the impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food system, hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty. This will be made possible through better collaboration and learning and information sharing among all countries of this region, development partners, including FAO and other United Nations agencies and relevant platforms or movements that will all lead to the realizations of 2030 SDG Agenda. At the regional level, Timor-Leste is committed to work together with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, through bilateral and regional platforms, including the Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) that are always highly committed to fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

CHAIRPERSON

We now try for the last time to see whether or not we can get the right connection with Cuba. Otherwise we have to do it via writing.

Sra. Claudia GONZÁLEZ TOLEDO (Cuba) (Observador)

Le agradezco, Presidente, por haberme concedido nuevamente la palabra y lamento los inconvenientes de audio. Prometo ser breve en mi intervención. Cuba comparte la preocupación por la situación desfavorable del mercado mundial de alimentos desarrollada en los últimos años, y agravada por el impacto de la pandemia del COVID-19, poniendo en riesgo la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. La erradicación de la pobreza en todas sus formas y dimensiones, incluida la pobreza extrema, es el mayor desafío al que se enfrenta el mundo y constituye un requisito indispensable para el desarrollo sostenible. Los trabajos de la FAO no deben politizarse. Esta Organización debe enfocarse en encontrar soluciones constructivas para lograr la seguridad alimentaria para todos, como establece el objetivo fundamental de su mandato como agencia especializada del Sistema de las Naciones Unidas.

Reiteramos nuestro compromiso con el desarrollo internacional. Abogamos por la búsqueda de una solución pacífica, negociada y duradera al conflicto en Ucrania que garantice la seguridad y soberanía de todos, así como la paz, la estabilidad regional y mundial. Rechazamos la promulgación y aplicación de medidas coercitivas unilaterales que impiden la plena consecución de nuestros derechos, incluido el derecho al desarrollo. Solo a través del multilateralismo, la solidaridad y la cooperación internacional podremos enfrentar los desafíos globales.

CHAIRPERSON

I am glad that we finally really could hear your statement and I think it is very important that we listen and can hear all the statements of Members as well as Observers.

I do not have any other requests for the floor on my screen, so I now turn to Management, whether or not Management would like to reply to some of the questions made by Members or Observers.

Mr Máximo TORERO CULLEN (Chief Economist)

Let me very briefly respond to all these questions. First, FAO is actively working in assessing impacts in Ukraine, as will also be explained by my colleagues, in assessing impacts in neighbouring countries, and in all countries because of the issue of food insecurity. The information note that we produce which has been debated twice now, brings peace information, also the food price index which was launched today, a document on the effects of gender and the document on the effects of and, and we are now preparing effects on forestry and effects on fishery.

Second, FAO is bringing some great action, some policy recommendation in Ukraine with a rapid response plan in terms of policies in food securities, we are looking at the issues of trade and also working together supporting as much as we can the market information system because we are in too rapid response from the meetings and one missed meeting in this respect. We have brought the concept of import announcing facility, which is essential to help the most needed countries, especially in Africa, South Asia and in the most affected countries in America.

We are also proposing for better efficiency and targeting the launch of the food insecurity expenses scale at a national level in the priority countries, as well as the soil maps and sufficiency of fertilizers. We are also bringing, based on evidence, how we should target efficiently and well, social protection, and also have measures to minimize the spread of animal diseases. We also continue bringing and working on market transparency and policy dialogues with the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and also working together with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) as mentioned by the Chair.

We also have prepared a first assessment with investment centre on the needs for grain reconstruction and recovery which is already posted on our website, and this will be a dynamic plan that brings the measures that need to be put in place for the medium and long term.

If we want to group our initiatives, we have the group of initiatives on direct action in Ukraine, but also the group of initiatives, the policy recommendations I mentioned, which are essentially looking at increasing resilience and when we refer to increasing resilience, we are referring to being preventive, being able to absorb the shock and being able to build back better as a result of the shock.

Most of our policy recommendations are linked in those three dimensions. FAO is working with all RBAs, is working with the CFS, with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD), with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and with all the agencies part of the Chief Economist network to which we have presented our assessment last week. We are also part of the UN Secretary-General's Global Crisis Response Group on food, energy and financing. There are four subgroups – the Steering Committee where the Director-General is part; the CHIRPA group of which I am part; Working Group on Food Stream which I am the focal point but we have more than four staff working directly on that; and the Food Stream Network which also includes a private sector which we are directly linked to.

We are providing all our inputs and data and indicators and for example they are adopting our resilience indicators that were published in the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2020, because we were prepared with those resilience indicators and we have also measured them for more than 150 countries.

We are also coordinating with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) especially with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and other CGIAR agencies, with the World Bank and other regional banks. In every regional meeting, we are meeting with all regional banks because for them it is also a priority, and we are also working with the Group of Seven (G7) and the Group of Twenty (G20) and all the international fora to bring up our proposals and our recommendations and our assessments.

FAO will keep constantly updating our information and increasing the scope of our work, and as I mentioned before, all our results are now on our web page where you can see all the documents, the policy recommendations and all the tools that we have prepared.

Ms Beth BECHDOL (Deputy Director-General)

I can assure Members that this coordination is of highest priority and is indeed taking place. At the start of the war WFP utilized FAO offices in Ukraine as a base for their emergency operations. We coordinate closely among leadership and at the country level in terms of our responses and also our analysis of the ever-changing situation on the ground. We are exchanging information among all three agencies, joining in technical briefings and also importantly, as Members know, WFP and FAO are co-leads in the global food security cluster.

Regarding UN coordination, you just heard some details regarding our strong participation in the Secretary General's Global Crisis response group, from the Chief Economist. Along with this engagement I was in New York last week and met directly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, UN Development Coordination Office, the Special Advisor on Africa, the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The Under Secretary General for Policy and Deputy Secretary General, Amino Mahomed. In each of these meetings we discussed the situation in Ukraine, the hunger and food insecurity impacts around the world that also are affected by the repercussions of

COVID-19, drought and other climate shocks and conflict - and we also had very important conversations about FAO's thorough and timely analysis, monitoring, policy support and livelihood assistance in Ukraine and other affected countries.

I believe that Deputy Director-General Laurent Thomas will provide some additional details about the responses and actions on the ground.

M. Laurent THOMAS (Directeur Général Adjoint)

L'Ukraine est un géant agricole en Europe et dans le monde. Le secteur agricole représente 22 % de son produit national brut, 40 % de ses revenus d'exportation, 30 % de la population vit dans les zones rurales, 31 % dérive leurs revenus de l'agriculture ou des chaînes de valeurs ajoutées.

Oui, la FAO a un rôle très important à jouer et jouera son rôle pour minimiser l'impact de la guerre en Ukraine et globalement. La première recommandation que nous approuvons de tout cœur à la FAO, est celle relative à la demande expresse et aux efforts du Secrétariat général des Nations Unies pour la déclaration immédiate d'un cessez-le-feu humanitaire afin de permettre aux agriculteurs de reprendre leurs activités, de s'occuper de leurs animaux, de semer, de récolter le blé d'hiver en juillet.

Maintenant, tout de suite.

Le ministère des Politiques Agraires et de l'Alimentation d'Ukraine nous a demandé de travailler avec eux sur une évaluation des dommages et pertes dues à la guerre. Ce travail est en cours, les résultats préliminaires de nos évaluations, tels que présentées dans une note sur le site FAO.org indiquent un impact catastrophique. Le temps ne me permet pas de détailler mais je peux vous dire que les dommages sont massifs et dans tous les domaines, et tout le long de la chaîne alimentaire.

Le plan de réponse mis à jour pour la période Mars - Décembre 2022 que nous avons formulé et posté sur le site FAO.org, pour un montant de 115 millions de dollars représente une fraction des besoins et en fait, cible les agriculteurs les plus vulnérables, les petits agriculteurs familiaux avec un appui en termes d'entrant agricole destiné principalement à leur permettre de reprendre la production. Il ne faut pas oublier que ces agriculteurs contribuent toutefois à près de 40 % de la production agricole nationale.

Ce sont eux qui contribuent à la nourriture des villes avec des légumes, des volailles, des œufs et autres produits frais. L'aide proposée permettra aussi de renforcer la production dans les zones de concentration de déplacés, les zones en particulier à l'ouest du pays. Oui, les femmes sont parmi les plus vulnérables, elles représentent 54 % des personnes en besoin d'aide immédiate, et la guerre renforce les inégalités de genre existantes.

Nos plans tiennent en compte ces considérations de genre. Je vous invite à lire à ce sujet la note qui a été postée sur le site FAO.org. Une estimation préliminaire indique que potentiellement, les besoins de reconstruction pour le secteur agricole, suite aux dommages et pertes pourraient atteindre 6.4 milliards de dollars. La FAO et ses équipes en Ukraine ont la capacité d'appuyer le gouvernement dans la réponse d'urgence, dans l'évaluation des dommages et des besoins, mais aussi dans la planification de la mise en œuvre de la reconstruction quand les conditions le permettront, en se fondant sur le travail de dizaines d'années avec le gouvernement et le secteur privé ukrainien, en partenariat avec les institutions financières internationales, telle que la Banque Européenne pour la reconstruction et le développement, et la Banque Mondiale.

Il nous faut donner aussi plus d'attention à l'impact de la guerre sur les pays frontaliers les plus vulnérables comme la Moldavie, appuyé avec des ressources comme les intrants. Le Directeur général a approuvé un Programme de Coopération Technique d'Urgence (TCP) pour appuyer les petits agriculteurs familiaux fragilisés par le conflit dans ce pays. Les évaluations sont en cours, plus d'assistance sera nécessaire.

Enfin, je voudrais rappeler que l'impact de la guerre sera massif au niveau global dans un contexte où en 2021, 191 millions de personnes souffraient d'insécurité alimentaire aiguë due à la combinaison de facteurs que nous connaissons, conflits, changement climatique, Covid et effondrement économique. Les Nations Unies ont demandé 43 milliards de dollars pour répondre aux crises dans le monde et cela avant la guerre en Ukraine, une large part de ces besoins sont liés à l'aide alimentaire dont les coûts explosent du fait de la guerre.

L'impact lié à l'augmentation des coûts d'alimentations, des engrais, et de l'énergie vont augmenter les besoins possiblement au-delà de la capacité de donateurs de répondre. Une solution est de s'engager ensemble dans l'appui massif à la production alimentaire locale, et l'appui à la reconstitution des moyens de subsistances des agriculteurs qui sont généralement les plus vulnérables.

La FAO appelle pour 1.5 milliards de dollars en 2022, pour l'aide d'urgence au secteur agricole. Nos appels sont généralement financés à un niveau de 49 %, c'est insuffisant. C'est une urgence absolue d'appuyer, d'investir dans un système agricole plus productif, inclusif, résilient, et soutenable.

Nous appelons nos partenaires à se joindre à nous pour pouvoir aider les populations dans ces situations de crises déjà aiguës qui ne vont faire que s'aggraver.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)

I would like to ask Mr Laurent Thomas in what capacity he was making his presentation and on what figures he was basing his intervention because, to my knowledge, the conflict in Ukraine started in 2014 and it affected the population in the territory of Ukraine who were living in the Lugansk and Donetsk republics; 2.5 million people left that area and of course it was not cultivated at that time, so I am just curious whether the statistics that have been presented by the Secretariat and the future statistics, will also take on board the situation in Donetsk and Lugansk republics and it will also reflect the refugees that have already fled the country starting from 2014.

M. Laurent THOMAS (Directeur Général Adjoint)

Je remercie le délégué de la Fédération de Russie pour ces questions. Oui, les statistiques que nous prenons, les sources sont bien décrites sur les notes qui sont présentes sur le site de la FAO: FAO.org. Nous vous invitons à les consulter et les évaluations qui sont en cours prennent en compte l'ensemble du territoire ukrainien, mais aussi les pays frontaliers. Je pense que c'est ça la réponse que je peux donner à ce stade. Mais je serais prêt à fournir plus de réponses s'il était nécessaire.

CHAIRPERSON

I see that Ms Beth Crawford is also asking for the floor. I do remind also the Management that we have already had an extensive briefing this morning about the situation and the recommendations of FAO as well as the financial situation of FAO.

Ms Beth CRAWFORD (Director Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget)

I will be very brief, I just wanted to respond to some of the comments that were made regarding how changes during the implementation cycle are managed in the Governing Bodies processes.

Firstly, one of the guiding principles that we followed when developing the Strategic Framework was to be prepared to operate in the context of increasing risk and uncertainty. This is described in the Strategic Framework in the reinvigorated business model.

So, the Strategic Framework endorsed by the Conference is a robust framework and with its clear vision and guiding principles. It is designed to remain fundamentally unaltered across different potential scenarios. While methods of work and specific priorities in scale may change, the Organization's goals and values will remain a stable basis around which we can build flexible operations.

I would recall that as established in the Basic Texts, the Strategic Framework is reviewed every four years. So, how do we then handle flexibility during the implementation cycle? First, maybe just to mention, our modular flatter structure allows for an agile response and strengthens cross-sectoral collaboration, and this is how we are building in flexibility and capacity around emerging needs and priorities.

We also are doing active monitoring to allow for rapid and appropriate reaction -, as you have heard, a lot of what we have been talking about today, and this allows us to strengthen and shift resources internally as needed. So, should there be any need for programmatic changes and resource shifts during the implementation cycle – so that is during 2022-23, these would be carried out as foreseen by established procedures described in the Basic Texts.

This was also noted by Council in December 2021 when it endorsed the Revised Distribution of the Budgetary Appropriation in the Adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget. It noted that further budgetary transfers within the net budget appropriation would be handled in accordance with the financial regulations, especially financial regulation 4.5.

What this means in practice is that starting with the autumn session of the Finance Committee in 2022 we will be presenting a document that describes any foreseen transfers by budgetary chapters, compared to what was approved by Council in December 2021, and we would be requesting approvals for these shifts – and of course the first four budgetary chapters are the *four betters* and within that the Programme Priority Areas.

Then, as far as results, this would be reported in the mid-term review for 2022 and in the Programme Implementation Report for 2022-23.

CHAIRPERSON

With that we conclude the responses of Management and we also conclude this part of the special session of the Council. We have listened to all the interventions made by Members, by Observers, as well as response of Management. Now I would like to break for lunch because I think we are all getting quite hungry.

Lunch will be served downstairs in the atrium behind the Sheik Said Centre for all the Members present here in the Council. After the lunch break, we will take up both the proposed draft conclusions, as well as how we are going to deal with the Report.

We break for lunch until 15:15 hours, so 45 minutes. Please be back at 15:15 hours to continue our work for today because we still have quite a lot of work to do.

I would really like to thank all Members – both the Members as well as the Observers of the Council, for being so obeying to the speaking time. I do apologize to all those where I had to intervene, I said I have to uphold the speaking slots, that is the task of the Independent Chair. You can blame me for it but that is why I am sitting here.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 14:31 hours

La séance est levée à 14 h 31

Se levanta la sesión a las 14.31

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Sixty-ninth Session Cent soixante-neuvième session 169.º período de sesiones
Hybrid meeting, 8 April 2022 Réunion hybride, 8 avril 2022 Reunión híbrida, 8 de abril de 2022
SECOND PLENARY SESSION DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
8 April 2021

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 15:20 hours
Mr Hans Hoogeveen,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 20
sous la présidence de M. Hans Hoogeveen,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 15.20
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hans Hoogeveen,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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Item 3. Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (*continued*)

Point 3. Impact du conflit russo-ukrainien sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et questions connexes relevant du mandat de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) (*suite*)

Tema 3. Repercusiones del conflicto entre Ucrania y la Federación de Rusia en la seguridad alimentaria mundial y asuntos conexos en relación con el mandato de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO) (*continuación*)

(CL 169/3; CL 169/3 Add.1; CL 169/4; CL 169/4 Add.1; CL 169/5; CL 169/6; CL 169/7)

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished delegates, dear friends, first of all I would like to thank you for your active involvement in the Council Session of this morning and the beginning of the afternoon. I would like to thank you for your cooperation and collaboration to arrive where we are now.

However, I do count on all of you also to maintain this atmosphere in the room for the rest of this 169th extra Session of the Council. This morning we have heard presentations of recommendations of FAO. We have on the table the proposals for conclusions by a group of 22 Members of the Council and by another group supported by other Members of the Council for draft conclusions.

Of course, this is different from the normal way that we have been working within the Council for many years. We have to realize these extraordinary circumstances, why we are having this Session and why we depart from the normal procedures within the Council, but that is up to the Members to decide on this.

I do hope that we can have the spirit of the United Nations, and FAO is part of the United Nations, in that we can work closely together to see whether or not there is the possibility to arrive at a consensus on both conclusions and a Draft Report. However, perhaps I am being too optimistic but, nevertheless, I think we should make that attempt. Before going to conclusions, I see that the Russian Federation has asked for the floor.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would also like to support you in saying that we should aim for consensus and that we should aim to draft decisions that reflect the positions of all Member and that do not ruin those traditions which have been set by our precursors here in the Organization. Now the Council Members have truly not been able to carry out a fully-fledged negotiation on the substantive content of our discussion and the draft conclusions, as is provided for in our rules of procedure, and according to our regular practice.

In this connection we are also considering those impressions that were expressed today by the Director-General of the Organization and of the Management of the Organization with respect to practical measures which are necessary to undertake in order to improve the situation of humanitarian security, as well as, those ideas which were expressed by a broad spectrum of delegations at the meeting today.

Now, in this connection, based on the General Rules of the Organization (GRO), Rule XII.24.(a), my delegation brings a proposal to take a procedural decision on curtailing this meeting in keeping with procedures that the documents may be examined and discussed by Member States.

CHAIRPERSON

If you look through the Rules of Procedure, and you look to the General Rules of the Organization (GRO), Rule XII.24 (a), the following motion shall have precedence in the following order of all other proposals of motion before the meeting except a point of order, and it is called upon by the Russian Federation is to suspend the meeting.

When you look to GRO Rule XII.21 it is stated that during the Session of any matter a delegate or representative may move to the suspension or adjournment of the meeting. This motion shall not be

evaded but immediately put to a vote. Those are the Rules of Procedure, so that means that I have to directly bring this motion to suspend the meeting to a vote, because it is clearly in the rules of procedure that we should not have a debate on it but that directly bring it to a vote. Of course, by voting, Members of the Council can show whether they are in favour, or not in favour, or would like to abstain to this motion.

Although I see flags up, as I said, the rules of procedure are clear, the moment there is a motion to suspend the meeting, it shall be directly put to a vote. With that, unless there is a point of order, but this is not for discussion. I follow clearly what is stated in GRO Rule XII.21 that any motion shall not be discussed but shall be immediately put to the vote.

I will bring now the motion to suspend this meeting to a vote. We are going to vote now on this point of order, and as I explained this morning, it is a vote with a majority, so we can do it in two ways, we can do it by show of hands unless a Member requests for a roll call.

Would a member like to request a roll call?

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Considering that our meeting is taking place in a hybrid format and that not all the delegations from the Members of the Council can participate in the voting in the Plenary Hall, we would ask the Secretariat to organize voting by roll call.

CHAIRPERSON

The rules of procedure are very clear about voting, if one Member asks for a roll call we have to obey that request of the Member. We go now into roll call vote and I ask you to turn to the General Rules of the Organization (GRO), Rule XII.7 (a), where it is clearly stated how we conduct the roll call. As it is already stated, a roll call shall be taken either upon a request of a delegate or representative or if a majority is required by the Constitution, but that is not the case. It is a Member who asked for the roll call.

Voting by roll call shall be conducted by calling in English and in alphabetical order the names of all Members entitled to vote. I was hoping, as I said yesterday, that we could do it in an electronic way. However, that is not feasible because I am making sure that we obey the integrity of the vote. Not all Members of the Council are in this room.

Some are participating in a hybrid form virtually. Thus, that means that we cannot do it in an appropriate and that we have to do it, as is stated in GRO Rule XII.7 (a) by calling the names in alphabetical order to conduct the roll call on the proposal to suspend this meeting.

I now give the floor to the Secretariat because we have three, of course, as we explained yesterday, but for all Members of the Council, we have a 'Yes', we have a 'No' or we have an 'Abstain'.

I give the floor to the Secretariat to clearly state what the proposed would be and whether if you say 'yes' or 'no', what that means. Of course, abstain is clear but I give the floor to Secretary.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates will be called to vote one by one, that is both for the Council Members present in the Plenary Hall, as well as the Council Members participating virtually. In accordance with Rule XII.7 (a), the votes of each of the Council Member will be inserted in the record of the meeting.

Before proceeding to the vote, it is necessary to determine the quorum. Therefore, in order to establish the quorum I will open the voting system in a few seconds and, once it is open, I will ask you to press any of the blinking buttons on your desk. Which means either the green, red or orange button.

I have now opened the electronic system. Please press any button, so that we may check the quorum.

I have now closed the electronic system. As we can see on the screen the quorum is reached. There are 36 Members present in the Plenary Hall and, in addition, we have Angola, Guinea and India participating virtually. We therefore have reached the quorum, which is more than 25 Council Members needed.

We shall now proceed to vote on the proposal, which is the suspension of the meeting. I should like to recall that once the beginning of voting has been announced, no one may interrupt the voting - except to raise a point of order in connection with the conduct of the vote. In line with normal practice, if a member of a delegation presents themselves to cast a vote on behalf of the delegation, it will be assumed that they are duly authorised to do so.

Once the voting begins, Members of the Council will be called in English alphabetical order, the name of the first Council Member to be called to vote will be designated by lot drawn by the Independent Chairperson of the Council. When voting, the persons casting the vote virtually should unmute themselves, and turn on the video camera. Council Members voting here in the Plenary Hall, please turn on your microphones.

The delegates should reply 'Yes' if they wish to vote in favour of the proposal, 'No' if they wish to vote against, and 'Abstention' if they wish to abstain in the vote.

If technical issues arise preventing the person casting the vote from being clearly seen and heard, the name of the delegation will be called a second time. If no response is provided, the vote will progress to the next Member of the Council. At the conclusion of the first call, the names of Member Nations whose delegates or representatives failed to answer will be called again.

We shall now proceed to vote on the proposal of suspension of the meeting. I will now ask the Independent Chairperson of the Council to draw a lot to determine the first member to be called.

CHAIRPERSON

Canada is the first member to vote.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council Member designated to cast the first vote is Canada. I will now proceed to call out the names of Council Members and ask for their votes either 'Yes', 'No' or 'Abstention'.

Vote

Vote

Votación

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have called out all the names. I will pass the floor to the Independent Chairperson to read the results.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Members of the Council, for voting, and thank you very much, Secretariat, for casting the votes. The title of the decision is the Proposal for Suspension of the Meeting. Total votes cast 28. Therefore, the majority needed is 15. Votes in favor of suspension of the meeting are 4. Votes against suspension of the meeting are 23. Abstentions are 14. That means that the proposal has not passed, so the meeting will not be suspended and we now continue with our meeting.



08/04/2022 15:30

Vote on: Motion to suspend the meeting

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS**Nominal vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal**

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	28
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	15
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	4
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	23
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	14

Votes for: Belarus, China, Nicaragua, Russian Federation**Votes pour:****Votos en favor:****Votes against:** Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile,**Votes contre:** Costa Rica, France, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru,**Votos en contra:** Philippines, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, United States of America**Abstentions:** Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Indonesia, Malaysia,**Abstenciones:** Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Zimbabwe**No Reply:** Afghanistan, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Qatar**Aucune réponse:****Ninguna respuesta:****REJECTED/REPOUSSÉE/RECHAZADA****Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones**

CHAIRPERSON

As we have seen in the proposals, and the documents in front of the meeting, and received by order of arrival of the proposals. The first proposal is, of course, contrary to what we have done normally in the Council, is that from the group of 22 Members who proposed a draft conclusion in Council document *CL 169/4*. We have put those proposals for conclusions on the screen now.

The text, which is now on the screen, is the identical text as it was received by the group of 22 Council Members; document *CL 169/4*. The normal proceeding, of course, if we have draft conclusions is that we go paragraph by paragraph, but it was stated clearly by several Council Members that they want to adopt these conclusions *en bloc*.

All the Members asked me today during the lunch break whether or not it would be feasible to propose slight amendments to the text. That is not up to me, but that is up to the group of 22 Members, whether or not, because it has to be clearly stated in the Plenary, whether or not this is a take it or leave it proposal of the group of 22 Members. If it is a take it or leave it proposal I will put it forward for adoption *en bloc* and then we see whether or not, we have consensus or whether or not we have to vote.

However, I cannot decide whether or not that has to be done, take it or leave it, or if slight changes are feasible. Therefore, I give those who presented the proposal whether or not it is a take it or leave it proposal, or whether or not slight changes in the text would be possible to see whether or not we can come to a consensus.

Mr Kiryl PIATROUSKI (Belarus) (Original language Russian)

In our view, and we have already mentioned this, the decision of FAO cannot contain either political statements or, even more, accusations. In addition, for the very least, for this reason, this draft can never be examined on this basis. Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to something else. Many countries speaking today noted the tremendous work that has been done by the Secretariat in preparing this meeting and preparing the policy options for FAO, and these proposals from the Secretariat were supported by a number of countries.

Now, it would likely be the right thing to do if we truly want to find consensus and not simply accuse the Russian Federation of something then we need to try to draft a document that truly represents the proposals of the initiators, the proposers, the proposals of the Secretariat and the views of all countries. This would be the right way to proceed.

Ms Margaret TWOMEY (Australia)

I would like to repeat that Australia endorses the recommendations made by many Members for Council document *CL 169/4* to be tabled for decision *en bloc*.

Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)

Je voudrais réitérer le souhait que le projet de décision soumis au titre du sous- numéro *CL-169/4* soit soumis pour décision *en bloque*.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation was prepared to examine in a positive nature those recommendations that are contained in the document presented on behalf of 22 countries, Members of the FAO Council.

In this connection, we are compelled to note that in the preambular portion of the document that has been presented, the FAO Council is suggesting that we endorse and affirm the resolution A/ES-11/L.1 of the UN General Assembly of 2 March of this year, and we have questions with respect to the ability of the Council, which is a body that has a limited Charter, to endorse or reaffirm a resolution of the UN General Assembly, which is the principal body of our organization that has a Universal Charter.

I would like to recall that this Resolution was not adopted as a consensus document by the UN General Assembly and five Member States voted against its adoption and 35 Member States abstained. The Council of the FAO in this way would be creating a precedent as the positions of Member States of the United Nations would be ignored and this would violate the rule of consensus.

In this connection, the proposed decision does not contain references to the resolution A/RES/74/306 of the General Assembly of 11 September 2020, which was adopted at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and contained specific measures to be taken in order not to interrupt the food supply chains and other factors which were influencing food security. Thus, that Resolution received much broader support and has a more direct relation to the discussion which we have held in this Plenary Hall today.

In this connection, I am compelled once again to suggest that this decision be brought to a vote and that this vote be taken on the basis of roll call.

Ms Cindy MCCAIN (United States of America)

We request the adoption of this draft decision *en bloc*. This was a proposal for a decision, not a draft conclusion.

Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)

As I mentioned in my statement, Italy supports the adoption *en bloc* of this resolution.

Sra. Mónica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua) (Original language Spanish)

La delegación de Nicaragua no está de acuerdo que esta resolución se adopte en bloque porque no refleja el espíritu de las declaraciones realizadas el día de hoy por las diferentes delegaciones.

Asimismo, importante también que este Consejo tome en cuenta otras resoluciones adoptadas por las Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas que de forma transversal abordan el tema de las repercusiones a nivel mundial de la seguridad alimentaria, producto de diferentes conflictos, además de las consecuencias derivadas de la pandemia por coronavirus. Por lo cual no podemos limitarnos a endosar esta resolución de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, más bien verla de forma más transversal.

Y es importante que este 169.º período de sesiones del Consejo recoja las diferentes declaraciones y también la votación que acabamos de hacer con tantas abstenciones, lo cual refleja el hecho que no todas las delegaciones estamos de acuerdo con este proyecto de resolución. Asimismo, también queremos lamentar que la propuesta de resolución de parte de la delegación de la Federación de Rusia hasta el día de ayer no había sido traducida en todos los idiomas oficiales.

Sr. Juan Prieto GOMEZ (España) (Original language Spanish)

Quisiera adherirme a lo expresado por algunos de mis predecesores en el sentido que estamos ante un borrador de decisión y no un borrador de conclusiones. Por tanto, España reitera su petición de que sea sometida a un voto en bloque tal y como hemos tenido la oportunidad de oír mayoritariamente a lo largo de la mañana de hoy.

Mr Masao MATSUMOTO (Japan)

Japan also supports the adoptions *en bloc*.

Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)

Again the Bahamas reiterates its support and voting *en bloc*.

Sr. Julio Eduardo MARTINETTI MACEDO (Perú)

Perú desea reiterar su posición de adoptar la decisión *en bloque*.

Mr Jan BJÖRKLUND (Sweden)

Sweden reiterates our position that this will be adopted *en bloc*.

CHAIRPERSON

I will read it out slowly so that I am not interrupted again, but I do not see any other requests for the floor. With that I conclude the following. It is clear that those who presented the draft decision with conclusions would like to bring this decision for decision *en bloc* and that I know that there is no possibility to alter any of the paragraphs in the decisions. That is noted during the Council.

Secondly, it is clear that there is no consensus about this decision and of course, that would depart from our practice within the Council that we try to take decisions and adopt by consensus. It means that we now have to go to a vote again based on proposal of the group of 22 Members.

Later on I will explain what I will do with draft conclusions which will also answer some of the other requests made. First, now, we go for a vote to the proposed draft decision of this 169th Session of the Council of the FAO for decision as put on the screen.

In addition, it was clearly requested that it would be a roll call vote and that means that the Secretariat, again, will make sure that we will have quorum in the room and that we again, start by calling the names of every Member of the Council to put their vote.

I now give the floor to the Secretariat to go for the vote on this Council decision.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

We will go again through the process. Delegates will be called to vote one by one on this Council decision as on the screen as contained in the document *CL 169/4*.

We will proceed with the quorum, as before. Delegates will be called to vote one by one, Council Members present in Plenary, as well as Council Members participating virtually. This is in accordance with Rule XII.7 (a). The votes of each of the Council Members will be inserted in the record of the meeting.

Proceeding with the vote, we will determine the quorum. In order to establish the quorum, I will open the voting system in a few seconds and once it is open I will ask you to press any of the blinking buttons on your desk, the green, red or orange button.

I have now opened the electronic system. Please press any button.

Thank you. I have now closed the electronic system. As we can see there are 39 Council Members present in the Plenary Hall. We have reached the quorum that is 25 Council Members needed. We shall now proceed to vote on the proposal that is the Council decision on the screen and as contained in the Council document *CL 169/4*.

I should like to recall that once the beginning of voting has been announced, no one may interrupt the voting - except to raise a point of order in connection with the conduct of the vote. In line with normal practice, if a Member or a delegation presents themselves to cast a vote on behalf of the delegation it will be assumed that they are duly authorised to do so.

Once the voting begins, Members of the Council will be called in English alphabetical order, the name of the first Council Member to be called to vote will be designated by lot drawn by the Independent Chairperson. When voting, the persons casting the vote virtually should unmute themselves and turn on the video camera. Council Members voting here in the Plenary, please turn on your microphones.

The delegates should reply 'Yes' if they wish to vote in favour of the proposal, 'No' if they wish to vote against, and 'Abstention' if they wish to abstain in the vote. If technical issues arise preventing the person casting the vote from being clearly seen and heard the name of the delegation will be called a second time. If no response is provided, the vote will progress to the next Member of the Council.

At the conclusion of the first call, the names of Member Nations whose delegates or representatives failed to answer will be called again.

We shall now proceed to the vote on the proposal concerning the decision contained in front of you and contained in the Council document *CL 169/4*.

I will now ask the Independent Chairperson to draw a lot to determine the first Member to be called. The Council Member designated to cast the first vote is Luxembourg. I will now proceed to call out the names of Council Members and ask for their votes either 'Yes', 'No' or 'Abstention'.

Vote

Vote

Votación

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have called all the names. I will pass the floor now to the Independent Chairperson to read the results.

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear friends. The total votes cast are 27. Therefore, the majority is 14. Votes in favour are 23. Votes against are 4. Abstentions are 16. That means that the proposal has passed. Thus, the proposal for decision is adopted by the Council.

منظمة
الأمم المتحدة
للزراعة
والرياحنة

聯合國
糧食及
農業組織

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Organisation des
Nations Unies pour
l'alimentation et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Agricultura y la
Alimentación

08/04/2022 16:15

Vote on: Draft decision in CL 169 / 4

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS

Nominal vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	27
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	14
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	23
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	4
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	16

Votes for: Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile,
Votes pour: Costa Rica, France, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru,
Votos en favor: Philippines, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, United States of America

Votes against: Belarus, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Zimbabwe
Votes contre:
Votos en contra:

Abstentions: Angola, Bangladesh, Burundi, China, Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, India, Kuwait,
Abstenciones: Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia

No Reply: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Qatar
Aucune réponse:
Ninguna respuesta:

ADOPTED/ADOPTÉE/ACEPTADA

Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

Now having done this, I ask the Russian Federation whether or not they want to bring their proposal to a vote.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation)

Actually our proposal was in search of a consensus and I do not know whether it would be possible to put it on the screen because, as it was mentioned by the delegation of Nicaragua, it was translated only yesterday.

I have no strict position whether it shall be adopted as *en bloc*. I am flexible. We can go either line by line or take it as *en bloc*, but I just want to bring to your attention this is a non-controversial proposal. It also reflects and takes into account the document that had been prepared by the Secretariat with regard to the conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation. It also contains most of the practical steps that are contained both in the note presented by the Secretariat as well as by some delegations during today's deliberation.

Thus, it will be up to the Members to decide. Shall we go line by line or shall we vote on this proposal *en bloc*.

CHAIRPERSON

First, I would like to ask the Secretariat to put the proposal on the screen. It is on the screen and I would like to follow the same procedures we have done to bring it forward for a vote *en bloc*.

Mme Céline JURGENSEN (France)

Je veux m'exprimer sur la proposition Russe. Nous nous opposons au projet de décision proposé par la Fédération de Russie, sur la procédure.

Tout d'abord, il s'agit en réalité d'un texte alternatif à celui que nous avons proposé et qui vient d'être voté. Sur le fond, et comme nous l'avons dit précédemment, il s'agit en réalité d'une tentative de détourner l'attention des membres du Conseil du seul responsable de cet ouragan de famine qui nous menace pour reprendre les mots du Secrétaire général. Le texte proposé par la Russie met également en lumière ses contradictions profondes.

Par exemple, le projet de décision recommande, je cite : "D'éviter les réactions politiques situationnelles qui seraient susceptibles d'aggraver la situation à l'échelle mondiale." Et pas plus tard que cette semaine, le Président Russe affirmait qu'il allait, je cite : "Surveiller les exportations de denrées alimentaires vers les pays qui ne s'aligneraient pas sur la position Russe."

Évidemment ce qu'il manque dans ce texte, c'est une condamnation ferme et sans équivoque de l'agression russe en Ukraine qui va à l'encontre de l'objet de la constitution de la FAO comme ce Conseil vient de l'adopter dans le projet de décision, et pour toutes ces raisons, je réitère que nous nous opposons au projet de décision proposé par la Fédération de Russie.

Ms Cindy MCCAIN (United States of America)

The United States of America also opposes the Russian proposal for an alternative text.

Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)

Actually, I have another question. I just wanted to know whether we can explain our position for the previous vote and the timing that you can give to us.

Mr Masao MATSUMOTO (Japan)

Japan also opposes the proposal made by the Russian Federation.

Ms Vincenza LOMONACO (Italy)

We oppose.

Mr Winston PINNOCK (Bahamas)

The Bahamas also sees this as an obstacle to progress. We believe that the resolution that was passed earlier is being subverted, hence we oppose.

Mr Pierre-Emmanuel DE BAUW (Belgium)

We also oppose this resolution. We think that we have just adopted the resolution that is very clear and explicit.

Sr. Juan Prieto GOMEZ (España)

España se opone también a la propuesta realizada por la Federación de Rusia.

Mr Kiryl PIATROUSKI (Belarus) (Original language Russian)

We support the proposal of the Russian Federation. We believe that it is necessary to search for a compromise formulation always regardless of the decision that was taken 10 minutes ago. The problem has not ended; the conflict has not ended.

Mme Michèle PRANCHÈRE-TOMASSINI (Luxembourg)

Nous nous opposons à la proposition russe.

Mr Jan BJÖRKLUND (Sweden)

Sweden also opposes the Russian proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not see any other requests for the floor. Listening to the interventions, of course, it is the right of any Member of the Council to bring any decision to the Council for discussion and, if necessary, a vote in accordance with the Rules of Procedure. I ask the Russian Federation whether or not the Russian Federation wishes to bring this proposal to a vote.

Mr Victor L. VASILIEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Once again let me emphasise that the meaning of our proposal was a search for consensus, a constructive way to resolve the situation and this proposal contained all of the main conclusions that were provided by the information document of FAO in order to improve food security. Unfortunately, the voting on the previous draft decision was of a clearly political nature and in this way a contradiction to the very Charter of FAO. Hence, we suggest that our draft decision be placed for a vote.

CHAIRPERSON

We will now go to another vote. Before going to the next vote, I would like to give the floor to Indonesia to give a statement about explaining their vote on the previous decision.

Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)

Our delegation takes the floor today to explain our position on the voting of the FAO Council decision that we just held earlier.

We share the international community's deep concern regarding the conflict in Ukraine and its impact on global food and security, including the rise of important commodities and the role of FAO to monitor and provide recommendations, within its mandate, matters related food and agriculture, including food and commodity prices.

The war creates and aggravates the world food insecurity.

In this regard, we would like to reiterate our position that war must be stopped and for all parties to stop hostilities and spare no effort to achieve peace through dialogue and diplomacy.

That is why we support the draft decision. However, we would like to express deep concern on the lack of transparency in the formulation of the draft decision. This 'take or leave it' approach should not become a precedent in our future deliberations. It is against the spirit and long tradition of consensus of FAO.

This is why we chose to vote 'abstain' in the procedural vote to suspend the meeting.

Indonesia believes that FAO should continue to uphold its mandates as UN specialised agency. On this note, FAO should continue to serve as technical, knowledge and science-based agency.

To this end, strengthened support for member countries to address emerging challenges of world food security is necessary.

Mr Mina Rizk ATTIA RIZK (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

[Translation not immediately available]

We stand against pushing FAO to discuss matters outside its remit. Egypt supports all efforts aiming at enabling FAO to uphold its mandate, its mission as a specialised technical organisation to study the impact of the crisis on global food security. We call for information and updates on the situation and the provision of technical assistance to countries suffering from the crisis and the conflict.

As such, Egypt, while being one of the most affected countries by the crisis, expresses its frustration and disappointment at seeing the politicization of the work of FAO, leading it to step into matters outside its mandate and competence. We fear the threat to the mandate of FAO if we follow this route and this will impact the poorest countries. Therefore, Egypt abstained from the decision.

Mr Defu GUANG (China)(Original language Chinese)

FAO is a UN specialized agency and should focus, within this mandate, on agriculture and food issues and avoid politicization. The decision adopted today has surpassed FAO's mandate so China voted 'Abstention'.

Mr Fernando Jose MARRONI DE ABREU (Brazil)

We would like to request to present a written explanation for our vote so that we could spare the time. It is basically our intervention that we pronounced this morning.

CHAIRPERSON

This written explanation will be included in the report as all other explanations of votes.

I do not have any other requests for the floor. Now I turn to the request from the Russian Federation to bring their proposal. It is on the screen and it is contained in document *CL 169/6* to a vote. Now I give the floor to the Secretariat.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The vote will be on the proposal contained in the Council document *CL 169/6*.

Delegates will be called to vote one by one, both the Council Members present in the Plenary, as well as Council Members participating virtually. In accordance with Rule XII.7 (a), the votes of each of the Council Members will be inserted in the record of the meeting.

Before proceeding to the vote, it is necessary to determine a quorum. To establish the quorum I will open the voting system in a few seconds and, once it is open, I will ask you to press any of the blinking buttons on your desk, either the green, red or orange.

I have now opened the electronic system. Please press any button, so that we may check the quorum.

I have now closed the electronic system. As we can see, we have 38 Members present, the quorum is 25 Member needed.

We can now proceed to vote on the proposal contained in the Council document *CL 169/6*. I should like to recall that once the beginning of voting has been announced, no one may interrupt the voting - except to raise a point of order in connection with the conduct of the vote. In line with normal practice, if a Member of a delegation presents themselves to cast a vote on behalf of the delegation it will be assumed that they are duly authorised to do so.

Once the voting begins, Members of the Council will be called in English alphabetical order, the name of the first Council Member to be called to vote will be designated by lot drawn by the Independent Chairperson.

When voting, the persons casting the vote virtually should unmute themselves, and turn on the video camera. For Council Members voting here in the Plenary, please turn on your microphones and wait until the microphone has gone red before giving your answer to ensure your response is interpreted.

The delegates should reply 'Yes' if they wish to vote in favour of the proposal, 'No' if they wish to vote against, 'Abstention' if they wish to abstain in the vote. If technical issues arise preventing the person casting the vote from being clearly seen and heard, the name of the delegation will be called a second time. If no response is provided, the vote will progress to the next Member of the Council.

At the conclusion of the first call, the names of Member Nations whose delegates or representatives failed to answer will be called again. So we shall now proceed to vote on the proposal contained in the Council document *CL 169/6*.

I will now ask the Independent Chairperson to draw a lot to determine the first member to be called.

CHAIRPERSON

Burundi.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council Member designated to cast the first vote is Burundi. I will now proceed to call out the names of Council Members and ask for their votes, either 'Yes', 'No' or 'Abstention'.

Vote

Vote

Votación

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have completed the list. I will pass the floor back to the Independent Chairperson to read the results.

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, dear friends. The results. The total votes cast are 27. Therefore, the majority is needed is 14. Votes in favour are 6. Votes against are 21. Abstentions are 16. That means that the proposal did not pass.



08/04/2022 16:40

Vote on: Draft decision in CL 169 / 6

RESULT SHEET/RESULTATS/RESULTADOS**Nominal vote/Vote par appel nominal/Votación Nominal**

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Número de votos emitidos	27
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoría requerida	14
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos en favor	6
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	21
Abstentions/ Abstenciones	16

Votes for: Belarus, China, Egypt, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Zimbabwe
Votes pour:
Votos en favor:

Votes against: Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica,
Votes contre: France, Guatemala, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Republic of
Votos en contra: Korea, Spain, Sweden, United States of America

Abstentions: Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Burundi, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, India, Indonesia,
Abstenciones: Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia

No Reply: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Qatar
Aucune réponse:
Ninguna respuesta:

REJECTED/REPOUSSÉE/RECHAZADA**Elections Officer/ Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones**

CHAIRPERSON

With that, I would say we come to an end, but first I give the possibility for Members, if needed, to explain their votes.

Mr Caka Alverdi AWAL (Indonesia)

Our delegation takes the floor today to explain our position on the voting of FAO Council Decision that we have just held.

We acknowledge the use of unilateral measures and sanctions may cause negative impacts to the rising global food insecurity. However, we also recognize that in the background of such measures are heightened tensions, conflicts and war.

Therefore, we remain resolute in our view that the war must be put to a stop and dialogue must be put forward. Indeed, peaceful solutions to global conflicts are a prerequisite to prevent further worsening of global food insecurity. For those reasons, we abstained.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Indonesia for the explanation of your vote, it will be included in the Report of this Session.

Now it is time to work on the draft Report of this Session. Of course, the Report of the Session should reflect what happened today and it is more than only the two decisions which were voted on. This part of the Report will be as brief as possible. However, what we also clearly saw in many of the interventions of today is that almost every Member of the Council asked FAO to work within the mandate to support the countries who see the consequences of the war and crisis.

It is also clearly set by many delegations that many of the delegations supported the recommendations which were contained and presented this morning by the management in Council document *CL 169/3*. In addition, some Members clearly asked that the Report should reflect that nobody called for the reopening of past decisions of the Conference or the Council, especially related to the Strategic Framework.

Last but not least, we also had a strong plea for strong cooperation, collaboration of FAO with United Nations systems, especially the Rome-based Agencies and the international organizations.

I will try to reflect those elements in the draft Report. Now, we are going to work on the draft Report so I will suspend the meeting until 20:30 hours, as I said, also to obey the request to obey the Ramadan of Members.

We hope to send to you the report around 18:30 hours. You will find it in the protected area of the Members' Gateway, for which you need a password. Of course, all of you have that password, if not, turn to the Secretariat.

We will adjourn the meeting until 20:30 hours and we hope to send you the Report around 18:30 hours. It means the Report will be sent to you in all the six UN languages. However, do not crucify the Secretariat, or me, if it would be 50 minutes later.

With that, thank you very much for an intense afternoon. It is an extraordinary meeting and that is because it is also extraordinary that we needed to vote on proposals. I said it in my concluding remarks already but I do hope that the next Council will be convened in trying to do our utmost to find consensus on issues with all Members.

With that, I adjourn the meeting and we will see each other back in this room at 20:30 hours. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting is suspended from 16:51 to 20:51

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 51 à 20 h 51

Se suspende la session de las 16.51 a las 20.51

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME**

CHAIRPERSON

Distinguished delegates, dear friends, ladies and gentlemen, dear Director-General, very much welcome at, hopefully, this last session of the 169th Session of the Council.

We now proceed with the Adoption of the Report. We have had a very long and intense day with very difficult discussions because we are faced with an extraordinary situation. We have in front of us a Report, which hopefully reflects the proceedings of today. I do hope that we could adopt the Report *en bloc*.

Before I turn to that, I would like to make three factual changes in the Report, which we overlooked. The first one is in paragraph 2, where we state “on request received in writing from 43 Member Nations.” We should add “and was co-signed by one Member Organization because that is referring to the letter.

Secondly, when we go to page 2, the first paragraph, “The Council voted against a motion”. It was not “to adjourn”, but a motion “to suspend the meeting”, so we replace “adjourn” with “suspend”.

In the same paragraph, we have to delete footnote 6, because Indonesia did not make a statement of extradition on this vote.

These are the corrections I would like to propose to you. Hopefully, after this intense and difficult day, we could adopt the Report *en bloc* in this difficult situation. Could we adopt the report *en bloc*?

Mr Kiryl PIATROUSKI (Belarus)(Original language Russian)

Just a few words to not keep us all for too long. I have dual feelings here. I do not understand what Belarus has done to offend so many Members of the Council, but I am not going to dwell too much on this.

The Council has adopted a political decision, but I am glad that here in the Report, there is also a big proposal from the Secretariat of FAO. This shows that there is a positive side from our meeting today. You know, I think the main thing here is that today we have seen the fifth package of European Union sanctions. There are now withdrawals of food from this. It shows that we are hearing one another here so I would like to express thanks for this.

I would like to thank the Chairperson for the sterling job done in leading us during this very difficult meeting. We understand this has been a very difficult meeting. I would also like to take this opportunity to address everyone here. This has been very difficult but let us definitely try to continue to dialogue and work together. FAO is a specialized agency. By working on its own matters and not political matters, it has always done a lot of good and it will continue to do a lot of good.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Belarus, for your statement, it will be noted in the Verbatim.

With that, I would like to give the floor to China.

Mr Defu GUANG (China)(Original language Chinese)

We spoke about the second page of the Report. We can see there is footnote 8. A number of countries are mentioned here, Brazil, Egypt, and Indonesia. However, also China issued an explanation of vote so I think China should be included as well in footnote 8.

CHAIRPERSON

It is correct, so we add to footnote 8 also China. Thank you very much for this correction.

I do not see any other requests for the floor. May I take it now that the Council would like to adopt this Report *en bloc*?

I do not see any objections.

The Report is adopted *en bloc*. Thank you very much.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Now I would like to invite the Director-General to give some brief remarks.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

First of all, thank you, Independent Chairperson of the Council. I thank all the Members of the Council and the Observers who have made this Session of the Council finish its mandate and the tasks you designed

As FAO Director-General, as always, under the FAO Basic Texts and the FAO mandate, we will work as a forum, as I always say, to respond to all the crises and conflict and also food and agricultural issues, because globally the Sustainable Development Goal 2 and 1 are still the most challenging issues for us.

I really appreciate all the Members supporting this mission. Let us work together.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Director-General of FAO Dr QU Dongyu, for your brief but very much appreciated words. Indeed, I think at this moment the biggest challenge worldwide and the foremost priority is to achieve food security. I think, within the United Nations, we have a specialized agency for that, and that is FAO.

We should be very proud to have FAO working on the food security issues in a broad sense. When we look to the current situation in Ukraine, I think it is also the strength, as I said before, in the United Nations that we work based on a dialogue, based on strong discussions, and always try to find consensus. That is the tradition within the United Nations and certainly also within the FAO Council. Sometimes we are faced with extraordinary circumstances, where we have to discuss very difficult situations and proceed through difficult situations to find the way forward, a way forward to work within the mandate of FAO, to work forward to those countries and those people who are hit hardest by the war and the conflict, and to make sure that we do not only say the words “leaving nobody behind”, but make sure that we try to achieve that we leave nobody behind.

I would like to thank you for your strong and active participation today. It was exceptional how we had to discuss. It was an exceptional Council. These were exceptional discussions. I do hope that in our next Council, we can return to the consensus making process for which we have been doing for many years, but today it was different and perhaps it was needed because of the very difficult situation.

Nevertheless, I think everybody, all the Members of the Council, and all the Observers showed respect to each other, in difficult situations, to emphasize that we have to try to unify and to unite for a good cause. We all said that we want to collaborate, cooperate within the UN system and with all international organizations and countries to support countries.

We are going to close this Council, but before closing the Council, I really would like to thank Mr Rakesh Muthoo and his team for the hard work done in preparation of this Council. I would like to thank Mr Sergio Ferraro and his team to make it possible that we are sitting here in this room with all the provisions we have and technology we have.

I would like to thank the interpreters for their hard work today, making it possible that we could work in six UN languages, that we respect the multilingualism within FAO, and that we could do our work in the best possible circumstances.

I would like to thank the technicians for providing us with their support so that everything was functioning, and we could discuss everything and could listen to each other.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the messengers for their work done today.

Of course, it was well-prepared by Dr QU Dongyu and his management team, and all the people behind it because of the document which we saw today, which is supported to get to the next phase of implementation.

Thank you so much. It was an honour and a pleasure for me to serve you.

I now close this 169th Session of the Council, and we see each other back in the 170th Session of the Council, hopefully in different circumstances. Thank you so much. The meeting is closed.

The meeting rose at 21:03 hours

La séance est levée à 21 h 03

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.03