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# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

**Thirty-third Session**

**Łódź, Poland, 10–13 May 2022**

**Statement by the Republic of Belarus on item 8 of the Provisional Agenda  
“Implications on world food security and agriculture, including global food  
prices, arising from the aggression of the Russian Federation against  
Ukraine”**

**Statement by the Republic of Belarus  
on item 8 of the Provisional Agenda of the 33rd Session  
of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe.**

The Republic of Belarus has already pointed out, during the 169th Session of the FAO Council, that shifting focus for political reasons does not allow us to assess the situation objectively and find true solutions.

We can discuss the impact of the crisis in Ukraine on world food security as much as we like, but if we discuss only this crisis, our conclusions will necessarily be flawed and incomplete.

We truly believe that, ultimately, it has to be admitted honestly that there are a range of reasons why people around the world are going hungry, which the FAO Secretariat articulates regularly:

- because of conflicts (Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine and others);
- because of the unilateral sanctions and other bans and restrictions on the movement of fertilizers, food, agricultural machinery, etc.;
- because of climate change, the fight against which some countries and their alliances are also gradually turning into an instrument of economic confrontation;
- lastly because of the pandemic, as restrictions have yet to be lifted everywhere, and many of the countries that are lifting restrictions plan to reintroduce them in the autumn. That means that although the impact of this factor should lessen, it will persist in the medium term.

We can see that our discussions are bearing fruit. The fifth package of EU sanctions includes an exception for foodstuffs. In their speeches, the representatives of the European Union are already agreeing that fertilizer prices rose long before the conflict in Ukraine. I believe we won't hear any more claims that sanctions do not affect food security. But all this is not enough. We are wasting time. We need an open and honest dialogue across the full range of issues.

Let us try to begin this in the framework of our Regional Conference. So that during the 170th session of the FAO Council in a month's time we have the opportunity to adopt consensus-based decisions that will genuinely address the entire range of issues, or at least to act in a concerted manner on all the areas that require the intervention of our Organization.