

## **171st Session of the Council**

### **Item 3: Update on FAO's work on the global food crisis**

Document CL 171/3 *Update on FAO's work on the global food crisis* provides an overview of the global food security situation and associated risks, and highlights selected aspects of FAO's work in response to the emerging food security challenges.

As requested by the 170th Session of the Council, FAO continues to monitor the impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under its mandate. FAO's global monitoring highlights that conflicts and geopolitical tensions, extreme and more frequent climatic events, economic slowdowns and downturns – including as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic – and increasing inequalities have been key drivers of hunger and malnutrition in the world. Macro-economic data confirm that the global economy has been experiencing a new slowdown in 2022 characterized by a series of overlaying crises exacerbated by the breakout of the war in Ukraine, continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, soaring food prices and overall inflation, and tightening financial conditions.

FAO has played a key role in the global response to the escalating food security challenges, as a provider of timely and neutral information on global markets, and assessments of the impact on food security and nutrition, as well as a reliable partner in the global food security governance. The Organization has also developed targeted policy proposals to tackle the challenges, as well as a set of concrete emergency and humanitarian response measures at country level.

The document highlights the importance of FAO's established work in monitoring and assessment of market developments and early warning, in food security data and statistics, as well as in playing a leading and contributing role in partner initiatives, such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), the Global Network Against Food Crises and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). In addition, the Organization has also developed new tools such as the Data in Emergencies (DIEM) Hub and has made major contribution to emerging initiatives, such as the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS).

FAO has also helped shape global governance for addressing the food crisis through regular briefings to the UN Security Council, its contributions to the Committee on World Food Security, and by taking on a co-lead role in the UN Global Crisis Response Group. The Organization has actively contributed to G7 and G20 initiatives to tackle the food crisis, and has influenced the global policy response through joint statements by the Heads of FAO, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Several of the policy proposals presented to the 170th Session of the Council have in the meantime received traction. FAO's proposal to establish a Food Import Financing Facility (FIFF) has been taken up in the IMF's decision to approve a Food Shock Window. The Organization has also developed a fertilizer tracker to support countries in gauging remaining import needs or unrealized export availabilities, and a new methodology to support the allocation of international fertilizer supplies to African countries. FAO's initiative to promote the use of soil nutrient maps for a more efficient use of fertilizers has received funding for implementation in a first set of countries. FAO has also contributed to a statement by the Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board on the use of social protection in response to food price shocks. Furthermore, FAO has continued to scale up its humanitarian and resilience programming with the aim to exceed the 30 million people reached in 2021 with urgently needed life-saving and cost-effective agricultural assistance.

FAO's response to the food crisis is not limited to the selected contributions included in this document. FAO's support to transforming agrifood systems to be more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable,

with the aim to leave no one behind, integrates short-term and long-term measures bringing the full strength of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 to bear the current crisis.

The Council is invited to note the information presented in document CL171/3 and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

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