**COUNCIL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hundred and Seventy-first Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rome, 5-9 December 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal from the Russian Federation  dated 18 November 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No 200

"18" November 2022

Dear Dr. Qu Dongyu,

Mr. Independent Chairperson of Council,

Further to the provisional agenda for the 171st session of the FAO Council (CL 171/1) and the follow-up documentation and correspondence, related to the convening of the session, the delegation of the Russian Federation would like to convey to you the following.

The document CL171/3 states that “the drivers of changes in international food prices are complex, as in addition to own market fundamentals, they can reflect other factors or parameters exogenous to food markets. In fact, a host of factors contributed to the increase in world food commodity prices, including unfavourable weather in major supplying countries, rising production and transportation costs, disruptions to supply chains due to COVID-19, uncertainties about export restrictions by major exporting countries, and a strong global demand for food and feed products”.

Encl

H.E. DR. QU DONGYU
DIRECTOR-GENERAL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)
Rome

THE HONORABLE HANS HOEGEVEEN
INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON
OF COUNCIL,
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)
Rome
In this regard, the delegation of the Russian Federation requests that the explanation note and the draft decision at the Annex I be considered as a formal proposal relating to Item 3 “Update on FAO’s work on the global food crisis” of the provisional agenda of the 171st session of the Council.

The delegation of the Russian Federation also requests that this letter and its Annex I be referenced and circulated as a formal proposal for the decision by the Council under item 3 of the provisional agenda of the 171st session of the Council. The Russian Federation also calls upon other interested Member States to consider the co-sponsorship or support of the proposed draft decision and to inform you accordingly.

Please accept, Excellences, the assurances of My highest consideration.

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Victor Vasiliev
Annex I

Proposal for Council 171 decision
under agenda item 3 of the Provisional Agenda of the 171\textsuperscript{th} Session
of the FAO Council: "Update on FAO's work on the global food crisis"

Explanation note

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the FAO role in ensuring global food security and nutrition for all by providing professional and science-based recommendations in the field of agriculture development and transformation of agri-food systems, for achieving Agenda 2030, including all SDGs, with special focus on SDGs 1, 2 and 10.

Taking into account the global food insecurity, the Russian Federation considers it essential to address the impact of unilateral economic, financial and trade measures (that are not authorized by the relevant UN bodies, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the UN Charter, or that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading systems), trade restrictions and any forms of blockade on food security and nutrition, in particular, but not exclusively, of developing countries.

One the factors that disrupt supply chains are unilateral coercive economic measures. This is the reason why the UNGA resolution A/RES/74/306 of September 11, 2020 “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic” strongly urges States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

The Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive
measures on the enjoyment of human rights Ms Alena Douhan in her report to the 48th session of the Human Rights council (September-October 2021) highlights that unilateral sanctions violate “all categories of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to life and health, the right to food, the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to education, the right to development and the right to a healthy environment”.

The European Commission admitted that sanctions might affect the procurement of certain goods and technologies, lead to overcompliance and increase “hardship for the non-targeted civilian population”.

The report presented to the 51st session of the Human Rights Council stated that overcompliance with unilateral sanctions has prevented, delayed or made more costly the purchase and shipment to sanctioned countries of food, medicine, medical equipment and parts for such equipment, even when the need is urgent.

Cuba is the most illustrative example of the negative impact of unilateral measures to the development including food security. Many banks around the world recently suspended operations involving Cuba due to the United States sanctions, “including legitimate transfers for purchases of food, medicines and goods for the population”, refused to carry out transactions to support broader distribution of COVID-19 vaccines; and ended relationships with Cuban diplomatic missions around the world due to the fear of reprisals by the United States Government.

The UN General Assembly by majority of votes (in favor - 180, against - 2 (USA and Israel), abstained - 2, including Ukraine) adopted once again on November 3, 2022 the resolution A/RES/77/7 “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”.

1 European Commission, “Commission guidance note on the provision of humanitarian aid”
Cuba is not the only example of the negative impact of unilateral sanctions on sustainable development including food security and nutrition. In last decades, more than 70 states have been subjected to the application of such measures, mainly introduced by the USA and the EU. It is appalling that Syria and Afghanistan, suffering from multiyear conflict with external interference, are among top 5 main beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance, including food, and are also under different types of coercive measures.

During the 49th and 50th sessions of the CFS, chronic victims of sanctions (Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Syria, etc.) provided strong evidence of the negative impact of sanctions on food security and nutrition of the population of both these countries and the region as a whole. They were supported by the representatives of a number of NGOs. G77 in its statement during the 50th session of the CFS also mentioned the sanctions as one of the factors that negatively affect the food security and nutrition. Such position fully corresponds with the UNGA resolution A/RES/76/191 of December 17, 2021 “Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries”, initiated by G77. Moreover, the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for the Right to Food, Mr Fakhri, confirmed the detrimental nature of sanctions for food security.

Draft decision

The Council:

Expressed grave concern about the unilateral economic, financial and trade measures that are not authorized by the relevant UN bodies, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the UN Charter, or contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading systems and which affect, in particular, but not exclusively, the food security of developing countries,
Reaffirmed the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Recalled UN General Assembly resolutions A/RES/74/306 dated September 11, 2020, entitled “Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”, A/RES/76/191 dated January 10, 2022, entitled “Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries” and A/77/L.5 dated November 2, 2022, entitled “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba”,

Noted the Report “State of food security and nutrition in the world (SOFI) 2022”, the Report A/HRC/51/33 of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, document CL.171/3, the G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration (15-16 November 2022), which call “continue to support the carve out of humanitarian activities from sanctions”.

Took into account the discussions on item II of the suspended 50th session of the CFS “Coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis – State of food security and nutrition in the world 2022”,

- Requested that FAO continue to monitor closely the situation and update Members in writing on the regular basis, including through the FAO webpage and to submit to the Council at its next sessions:
  - a comprehensive assessment of the impact of unilateral measures on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the FAO,
  - a comprehensive assessment of the impact of unilateral measures on agriculture and food sector of developing countries.
Requested also Member States to provide the FAO Secretariat with the information regarding the impact of sanctions on the food security and nutrition on global, regional and national levels.

Decided to remain seized of this matter and add to the agenda of its next regular sessions the item entitled “The consequences of unilateral economic, financial or trade measures that are not authorized by the relevant organs of the United Nations, that are inconsistent with the principles of international law or the Charter of the United Nations, or contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system and which affect, in particular, but not exclusively, the food security of developing countries.