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Food and Agriculture  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
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# COUNCIL

**Hundred and Seventy-second Session**

**Rome, 24-28 April 2023**

**Proposals for decision from the United States of America for the  
conclusions of Items 5 and 6 of the Provisional Agenda**

April 21, 2023

His Excellency Dr. Qu Dongyu  
Director-General  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome

The Honorable Hans Hoogeveen  
Independent Chair of Council  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome

Dear Mr. Director-General, Mr. Independent Chair of Council:

The United States has the pleasure of attaching to this letter two proposals for decision for the conclusions of Item 5/5.1 *Global food security challenges and its drivers: conflicts and wars in Ukraine and other countries, slowdowns and downturns, and climate change / 5.1 Sustainable global food supply chains: comprehensive implementation of UN brokered two Istanbul Agreements signed on July 2022 (known as Black Sea Grain Initiative) for maintaining global food security and nutrition for all* and Item 6 *The impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)* of the provisional agenda of the 172<sup>nd</sup> session of the FAO Council ([CL 172/1 Rev 2](#)).

In a spirit of collaboration and consultation, we facilitated a significant degree of collaboration with many Council members in the preparation of these texts and have appreciated inputs and suggestions from Council members from across all FAO's regional groups. The attached texts were carefully developed to thoroughly address the information provided by FAO.

Pursuant to Rule XI of the General Rules of the Organization (GRO), applicable *mutatis mutandis* to the Council, and submitted for Council decision in the manner foreseen by GRO Rule XII and Rules of Procedure of the Council Rule VI, we request the circulation of this letter and the attached texts as formal *proposals for decision* as Annexes 1 of their respective agenda items. Our delegation will also publicize the texts on the member gateway. We believe these texts can provide a constructive path forward, sustain important dialogue on these items, and maintain the effective and efficient functioning of the Council.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rodney Hunter  
Chargé d'Affaires of the United States to the UN Agencies in Rome

**ANNEX 1, Item 5/5.1:****Proposal for Council 172 Decision under Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda:****Global food security challenges and its drivers:  
conflicts and wars in Ukraine and other countries,  
slowdowns and downturns, and climate change**

- x. The Council:
- a. recognized as major drivers of current and longer-term global food insecurity: conflicts and insecurity, climate change and weather extremes, and economic shocks;
  - b. noted with grave concern the continued devastating impact of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine on global food security, and stressed its risks to food and fertilizer access and availability and agriculture markets and trade, especially for developing countries and vulnerable communities;
  - c. further acknowledged the compounding effects of continued global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, social and political instability;
  - d. noted with concern in this regard the growing rate of acute global food insecurity and malnutrition, and the need to reverse this trend to make progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 2, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
  - e. regretted the impact of acute hunger and poverty on the most vulnerable populations;
  - f. stressed again the importance of a stable and strengthened Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports, known as the "Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI)", adopted in Istanbul on 22 July 2022, and extended on 17 November 2022 and 18 March 2023;
  - g. recognized the positive and essential impact of the BSGI on global food security, food prices, and the easing of trade disruptions, especially for the most vulnerable populations, as highlighted by FAO, UNCTAD, and the Secretary-General of the UN, among others;

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- h. emphasized the necessity for the BSGI to remain in effect as long as necessary and continue to help restore the pre-war export pace of agriculture and food commodities and inputs from the region;
  - i. called on the Russian Federation to stop threatening global food supplies and allow the Black Sea Grain Initiative to operate at its maximum potential and indefinitely;
  - j. urged FAO to support the BSGI by providing technical and data support consistent with the Organization's mandate and requested regular updates to Members in this regard;
  - k. took note of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations on promoting Russian food products and fertilizers to the world markets;
  - l. expressed gratitude to the Government of Türkiye for the diplomatic and operational support to the BSGI and encouraged all member states to support the United Nations Secretary General's efforts in respect of the BSGI;
  - m. underlined the importance of keeping open the trade of food and agriculture inputs and products in order to avoid the negative impact on global food security, while also preventing trade distortions and unjustified trade barriers in this respect;
  - n. supported FAO's analysis on the need for continued urgent humanitarian assistance, including the scaling up of agricultural interventions and longer-term investments in FAO's resilience-building activities, which provides those reached with urgently needed, life-saving and cost-effective agricultural assistance;
  - o. reiterated its support of transformation towards sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems, in line with FAO's Strategic Framework (2022-2031);
  - p. appreciated FAO's efforts to strengthen the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and called for its further support for greater market transparency and policy dialogue; and
  - q. recognized FAO's efforts to address the global food crisis and encouraged its continued innovation and responsiveness, emphasizing the value of its normative work and global role as a science- and evidenced-based knowledge organization for food security and agriculture.

**ANNEX 1, Item 6:****Proposal for Council 172 Decision under Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda:****The impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

## x. The Council:

- a. recalled its decisions and recommendations of its 169<sup>th</sup>, 170<sup>th</sup>, and 171<sup>st</sup> Sessions (CL 169/REP, paragraph 11, CL 170/REP, paragraphs 14-19, and CL 170/REP, paragraphs 10-15), appreciated FAO's provision data and analysis in this regard, and stressed the need to continue their full implementation;
- b. recalled UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/ES-11/6, "Principles of the Charter of the United Nations underlying a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine" (23 February 2023);
- c. noted with grave concern the continued devastating impact of the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine on global food security and stressed that the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace would improve the availability and affordability of food, fertilizer, and energy, particularly for the poorest countries and most vulnerable populations;
- d. deplored the dire humanitarian consequences for civilians, agriculture, and food systems of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine and its continued attacks on Ukraine's critical agriculture and energy infrastructure, reiterated its call for these attacks to cease, and emphasized the need to ensure respect for international humanitarian law in this regard;
- e. stressed the role of FAO, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations entities, international financial institutions and relevant bodies, to continue to address, within its mandate, the consequences of the conflict and on food security and agriculture within Ukraine and worldwide;
- f. welcomed FAO's publication of a nationwide agriculture and rural livelihoods survey of rural households across Ukraine, 2023 priorities for restoring food systems and protecting food security in Ukraine, and the

- updated December-January 2023 Ukraine Response Program, identifying the scale of agriculture sector damage and needs for rehabilitation;
- g. appreciated FAO's global impact assessment and data analysis, and renewed its request for FAO to provide to Members further data and information specifically targeted to developing countries and the most vulnerable populations, disaggregated by region and, where possible, at national and sub-national levels;
  - h. requested an update on how FAO is addressing the risk of the spread of zoonotic diseases, including African Swine Fever and contributing to the protection of animal health through a One Health Approach;
  - i. urged all Member States to cooperate in the spirit of solidarity to address the global impacts of the war on food security and support FAO's efforts to address these impacts; and
  - j. decided to remain seized of this matter and address it as a specific agenda item at its next sessions.