

# CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization

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## **JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME CODEX COMMITTEE ON SPICES AND CULINARY HERBS**

**Sixth Session**

**Virtual**

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### **STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES REGARDING RUSSIA'S UNPROVOKED WAR ON UKRAINE**

The United States would like to join other members in condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the United States is committed to the Codex mandate of establishing science-based standards that protect consumer health and promote fair trade of safe food, which is critical to feeding billions of people around the world. Russia's actions are undermining global food security and run contrary to the multilateral science- and consensus-based process that is foundational to the work of the Codex.

Russia's unprovoked and unjustified attack on Ukraine and its people is taking a devastating human toll – with lives tragically lost, families broken apart and displaced, and communities and cities destroyed. The United States stands firmly with the people of Ukraine as they defend their lives, their homes, and their country.

Russia's brutal and needless war is exacerbating global food insecurity. At the outset of 2022, conflicts, COVID-19, and the effects of the climate crisis had already driven more than 190 million people into acute food insecurity. According to the World Food Programme, President Putin's brutal war of aggression in Ukraine may add 70 million people on top of that – an already staggering number becoming even more staggering.

At the United Nations General Assembly, President Biden announced over \$2.9 billion in new assistance from the U.S. Government to address global food insecurity. President Biden's announcement builds on the \$6.9 billion in U.S. government assistance to support global food security already committed this year.

The United States encourages countries to take this time to examine barriers to trade, including rules and standards that may be outdated. We must work together to remove unnecessary barriers if we want to ensure not only seamless trade, but also the kind of cooperation via global agricultural markets that is vital to global food safety and security.

The United States fully condemns Russia's unprovoked assault on Ukraine and urges Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine immediately.