

Written statements submitted on the occasion of the seventeenth session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, 15-19 April 2024

(Comments of Australia, Canada, European Union and United States of America)

Australia

Statement from Australia on the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

1. Australia condemns Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine.
2. Russia's invasion of Ukraine violates the fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.
3. More than two years on since Russia's full-scale invasion, Australia continues to strongly support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and is working closely with our partners to support Ukraine to end the war on its own terms, and maintain pressure on Russia.
4. Aside from terrible damage and loss of life in Ukraine, the war is also compounding human suffering and propelling the global crisis in food and energy security.

Canada

Statement from Canada Concerning Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

- Canada strongly condemns Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine.
- Canada underlines its strong and ongoing support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.
- The attacks cause widespread humanitarian consequences and result in the senseless deaths of innocent people and destruction of civilian infrastructure.
- Russia's illegal war of aggression is exacerbating global food insecurity and the rising number of people suffering from hunger and all forms of malnutrition.
- Russia's aggression has jeopardized global supply chains, and in particular Ukraine's ability to protect the health of its consumers and ensuring fair practices in the food trade, the vision for the Codex Alimentarius Commission as jointly established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.
- This is not just an attack on Ukraine and its ability to engage in and benefit from this institution. This is an attack on the principles of rules-based international order and human rights, and a clear violation of international law and the UN Charter.

European Union

Statement of the European Union and its Member states on the Russian aggression against Ukraine

The European Union and its Member States express their full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The European Union and its Member States condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine, which grossly violates international law and the United Nations Charter, and undermines international security and stability. The European Union and its Member States demand that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders and abide by United Nations General Assembly resolution titled "Aggression against Ukraine" supported by 141 states at the 11th emergency special session. The European Union and its Member States resolutely support Ukraine's inherent right of self-defence and the Ukrainian armed forces' efforts to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and population in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. At all times Russia must respect its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, including with respect to the protection of civilians, women and children. Russia also needs to stop its disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks.

United States of America

U.S. CRD Statement on the Russia-Ukraine War

17th Session of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food

The United States condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and its people, which is exacting a devastating human toll. The United States remains unwavering in its support of the government and people of Ukraine as they defend their country and their freedom.

Thanks to the remarkable success of its Black Sea Humanitarian Corridor, Ukraine is exporting food at close to its pre-war levels, despite Russia's continued attempts to destroy Ukraine's grain storage and port facilities as part of its brutal and needless war. Russia's actions run contrary to the multilateral science- and consensus-based process that is foundational to the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the World Health Organization.

Russia's brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine and its decade-long violation of Ukraine's sovereignty is a flagrant contravention of the UN Charter. We urge Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine immediately.