

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 ON FOOD IMPORT AND EXPORT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS

Twenty-Sixth Session

Statements of Australia, Canada, European Union, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America on Russia-Ukraine War

Australia

1. Australia condemns Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine. The invasion is a gross violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.
2. Australia strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and calls on Russia to end its war.
3. Russia's actions are causing immense human suffering and exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy – constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity, and elevating financial stability risks.
4. Australia is committed to strengthening the global rules-based order, and is a ready and able partner for all countries that seek a peaceful and prosperous world, where sovereignty is respected.

Canada

- Canada strongly condemns Russia's unjustifiable, unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine.
- Canada underlines its strong support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people throughout this invasion.
- The attacks are causing widespread humanitarian consequences and resulting in the senseless deaths of innocent people.
- Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine is severely 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

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.

New Zealand

1. Aotearoa New Zealand condemns, unequivocally, the unprovoked and unjustified attack by Russia on Ukraine, which represents a clear violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
2. We have called for Russia to act consistently with its international obligations, cease military operations in Ukraine, withdraw its troops and return to diplomatic negotiations as a pathway to resolve this conflict.
3. Our thoughts are with the people in Ukraine impacted by this conflict. We are deeply concerned to see reports of mounting casualties and widespread damage

United Kingdom

1.1 The UK has been a Member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission since it was founded in 1963 and has a long-established track record of supporting and championing Codex's core values and objectives throughout its membership. The UK would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment and continued support for the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

1.2. We highly value the multilateral consensus-based and collaborative approach used to develop international food standards in the Commission. Further, the relationships, trust and mutual respect that has been built between countries and regions in the Codex family.

1.3. In this context, we take the opportunity to state for the record our continued condemnation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, noting in particular the severe consequences for food insecurity around the world and the violation of the fundamental tenets of sovereignty and territorial integrity on which all international cooperation relies, including our Commission. Russia must urgently de-escalate and withdraw its troops.

1.4 The UK will continue to work collaboratively with other international partners including likeminded members of the Commission who share our values to deliver robust, science-based food standards that protect everyone everywhere, whilst also facilitating global fair trade.

United States of America

The United States would like to join other members in condemning Russia's war against Ukraine. Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and its people is taking 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. 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 brutal and needless war is undermining global food security and its actions run contrary to the multilateral science- and consensus- based process that is foundational to the work of Codex.

Russia's brutal war against Ukraine has increased the volatility of food, fertilizer and energy prices, further elevated inflation, and sharply increased food insecurity across the globe, particularly among the most vulnerable people. The Black Sea Grain Initiative has helped meet urgent needs and stabilize world grain prices, although the world needs Russia to fulfil its commitments and alleviate the growing backlog of ships waiting for grain. It is essential this life-saving mechanism be extended and expanded to make maximum use of existing Black Sea port infrastructure.

Reflecting its longstanding commitment to food security, the United States moved swiftly to help rally the international response to the current food security crisis. The United States committed \$13.5 billion in humanitarian aid and food assistance last year alone.

The United States encourages countries to take this time to examine barriers to trade, including rules and standards that may impede the flow of agriculture and food. 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 condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine and urges Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine immediately.