

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 FOOD HYGIENE

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STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES REGARDING RUSSIA'S UNPROVOKED WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

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 – with lives tragically lost, families broken apart and displaced, and communities and cities destroyed. 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.

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 (WFP), President Putin's brutal war of aggression in Ukraine may add 70 million people on top of that. The United States supports the UN and Türkiye-brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) that has provided a lifeline of grain and foodstuffs to countries in need. More than two-thirds of the wheat facilitated by the Initiative has gone to developing countries, and it is essential that the flow of grain through this humanitarian corridor continue.

Since the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine, the United States has provided more than \$11 billion to respond to the global food crisis, including nearly \$8.6 billion in humanitarian assistance. We will continue to work to meet the needs of the people made even more vulnerable due to Russia's war against Ukraine, including our support to WFP.

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States encourages countries to take this time to examine barriers to trade, including rules and standards that may be outdated.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 war against Ukraine and urges Russia to withdraw its troops from Ukraine immediately.