

# 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 LABELLING

Forty-seventh Session

Gatineau, Canada

15 – 19 May 2023

**Statements of Australia, Canada, European Union, United Kingdom, United States of America  
on the Russia-Ukraine War**

#### Australia

##### STATEMENT FROM AUSTRALIA ON RUSSIA'S ACTIONS IN UKRAINE

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

##### 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 resulting 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 Kingdom

### IMPACT ON MULTILATERAL RELATIONS IN THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT AND ONGOING SITUATION IN UKRAINE

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

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

The United States joins other members in condemning Russia's war against Ukraine. Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and the Ukrainian 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. The world should not need to remind Moscow daily to stop using people's hunger as a weapon in its war against Ukraine. Russia's obstruction of the Initiative's operations threatens to push up prices and reduce food accessibility for vulnerable populations around the world. Russia must fulfill its commitments and stop obstructing the Initiative. It is essential that this life-saving mechanism be extended and expanded to make maximum use of existing Black Sea port infrastructure.

The United States is dedicated to building lasting global food security. We provided \$13.5 billion in humanitarian and developmental food security assistance in the 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.