

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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**JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
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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 further 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 will protect consumer health and promote fair trade of safe food, which is critical to feeding billions of people around the world. The United States is also committed to the multilateral science- and consensus-based process for carrying out the work of Codex. These objectives are compromised by Russia's current actions.

This 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 unprovoked war on Ukraine is causing increased food insecurity, which is already an accelerating global humanitarian challenge. The World Bank calculates that Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine – long one of the world's bread baskets – will add at least another 40 million people who are severely food insecure.

Since this new phase of Russian aggression began in February, the United States has committed nearly \$2.8 billion in emergency food assistance since February 2022, and recently secured an additional \$5.5 billion in new funding for global food security and humanitarian assistance.

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States encourages countries to take this time to examine barriers to trade, including rules and standards that may be outdated.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 the kind of cooperation via global agricultural markets that are so important 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.