



**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States**

**CFS 50 - Committee on World Food Security**

**(Hybrid meeting, 10 – 13 October 2022)**

**Item II b): Presentation of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022, and discussion on coordinating policy responses to the global food crisis**

Madam/ Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Republic of North Macedonia, San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. Let me first express the full solidarity of the EU and its Member States with Ukraine and Ukrainian people. The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine. We firmly reject and strongly condemn the illegal attempted annexation by Russia of Ukraine's four regions. These actions, based on sham "referenda" carried out by the Russian-installed officials in temporarily seized Ukrainian territories, are a further blatant violation of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and of international law. The EU demands that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine, in order not to further exacerbate global food insecurity.
4. We highlight that contrary to Russian claims, the sanctions imposed by the EU and other countries are in no way responsible for growing food insecurity

and malnutrition. None of these sanctions target the trade in agricultural and food products, including cereals and fertilisers, between third countries and Russia. It is the unjustified Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine that is exacerbating an already tight supply situation on world markets.

5. We appreciate the continued high quality of the SOFI report, produced by 5 UN agencies. At the same time, we are greatly concerned about the negative global trends in food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms depicted in the report, as well as the gender gap which further aggravates food insecurity. At the same time, we are facing an epidemic of overweight and obesity, where the last available data from 2016 showed that 13.1 % of the global population is obese. This shows again that we are not on track for SDG 2 and it greatly reduces the likelihood that the targets for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be met.
6. The world faces an unprecedented global food and nutrition crisis, exacerbated by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. Global food security and nutrition was already under pressure as a result of poverty and growing economic inequalities, conflicts, climate crisis, Covid-19 pandemic and other factors. These pressures have led to serious repercussions of this war, such as spikes in food prices, and increasing difficulties with regard to the availability of global food commodities, fertilizers, and other agriculture inputs.
7. This multi-dimensional crisis requires a joint comprehensive and effective global response. The EU and its Member States support the UN Secretary General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy, and Finance, as well as other relevant initiatives launched at different levels to overcome the current crisis such as the G7 Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS) and the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM). The EU and its Member States have formulated a response to global food insecurity, which comprises four strands of action: Solidarity to assist vulnerable populations;

Production to boost output and resilience of food systems; Trade to support global markets; and effective Multilateralism.

8. We highlight the important role the CFS should play in the response to the global food crisis as the foremost inclusive and multi-stakeholder intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition. We emphasise its work in securing access to adequate food and nutrition for all, while thanking the CFS Chair for his ongoing engagement. In this regard, we congratulate the CFS Chair on the co-organisation with the United Nations General Assembly President of the High-Level Event on the global coordination of the responses to the food crisis in New York on 18 July. We welcome the fact that the CFS further engages with the current food security and nutrition crisis and we underline the importance of gender equality and women's empowerment for achieving food security and nutrition.
9. At the same time, we must strengthen our efforts to promote transformation to sustainable and resilient food systems in order to address the underlying structural causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, supporting the most vulnerable populations in the most vulnerable countries. Therefore, we stress the need to follow up on the momentum created by the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit.
10. Given that 3.1 billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020, the EU and its Member States recognise the relevance of the recommendations in this year's SOFI report for improving the availability and affordability of healthy diets globally. In that respect, we also need to highlight the importance of aquatic foods from sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for global food security, nutrition and livelihoods, and their contribution to the achievement of the SDGs.
11. We call on all CFS members and other stakeholders to take coordinated and effective measures to ensure food security and nutrition at national level and avoid any activities negatively affecting food security and nutrition globally.

12. Finally, we call on the CFS to increase its efforts to facilitate solutions to the unprecedented global food crisis. The EU and its Member States are committed to working together with the CFS. We stand ready to further engage with the CFS's holistic processes that ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders are heard, particularly those most affected by food insecurity and malnutrition in all its forms.

Thank you, Madam/ Mr Chair.

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