



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 24 November 2023**

**WK 15741/2023 ADD 1**

**LIMITE**

**FAO  
AGRI**

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## **REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION**

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| From:    | General Secretariat of the Council   |
| To:      | Working Party on International Food and Agricultural Questions (FAO)   |
| Subject: | CFS51: draft optional statement on CFS 51 draft report - item 3 (Strengthening coordinated Policy Responses to the food crisis- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023) - deadline to react: 24 November, Friday 05:00PM |

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With a view to the 51st session of the Committee on World Food Security (25 November 2023), delegations will attached the draft optional statement related to the CFS 51 report item 3 (Strengthening coordinated Policy Responses to the food crisis - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023).

Any delegations that has a major difficulty with the draft optional statement is kindly invited to inform the Presidency (moises.morera@maec.es), with copy to the Council Secretariat (LIFE.FAO@consilium.europa.eu), **by Friday 24 November, 05:00PM.**



**Optional statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States**  
**51st plenary session of the Committee on World Food Security**  
**Resumption**  
**(25 November 2023)**  
***“Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition”***

**DRAFT**

**CFS 51 draft report - item III: Strengthening coordinated Policy Responses to the food crisis - The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023**

Mr Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. The EU welcomes/notes [TO BE ADAPTED TO SITUATION] ..... adoption of report for agenda item 3 and would like to express the following position in this regard.
3. The EU is gravely concerned about the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
4. We welcome the agreement to release 50 hostages from Gaza for an extended pause in the conflict. We continue to call on Hamas for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages. The Humanitarian pause must be used to provide as much urgently needed aid as possible to the civilians enduring the devastating conflict in Gaza. The EU will do its part in helping, as it has done throughout the year, with a total of 600 million euros in aid provided in 2023, of which 360 million since October 7.
5. The EU remains committed to the need for immediate pauses in hostilities and the establishment of humanitarian corridors, including through increased capacity at border crossings and through a dedicated maritime route, so that humanitarian aid can safely reach the population of Gaza.
6. In line with the European Council conclusions of 26 October and the statement of the High Representative of 12 November, the EU re-emphasizes Israel’s right to defend itself in line with international law and international humanitarian law.

7. The EU and its Member States will continue to work closely with international partners, UN agencies, as well as countries in the region to provide a sustained flow of assistance and facilitate access to food, water, medical care, fuel and shelter.

Thank you Chair.

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