

Inputs of the Republic of Belarus to the Zero Draft CFS Policy Recommendations on Building Resilient Food Systems

Belarus emphasizes that unilateral coercive measures undermine the resilience of global and national food systems, particularly in developing and transit-dependent countries. Such measures disrupt production, processing, logistics, and access to agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, seeds, machinery, energy resources, and financial services. As a result, they exacerbate food insecurity, increase price volatility, and weaken the capacity of food systems to absorb and recover from shocks.

Belarus proposes that the Policy Recommendations explicitly recognize unilateral coercive measures as a significant external risk factor affecting food system resilience. The document should acknowledge that these measures, when applied extraterritorially, have far-reaching humanitarian and socio-economic consequences that extend well beyond their intended political objectives, directly impacting farmers, food producers, consumers, and vulnerable populations.

Belarus further suggests that the Policy Recommendations call for the full respect of international law, including the principles of sovereignty, non-interference, and free trade, as essential conditions for resilient and sustainable food systems. In this regard, the document should reaffirm that food, agriculture, and related inputs must not be used as instruments of political pressure, and that restrictions affecting food systems should be avoided under all circumstances.

In order to mitigate the negative effects of unilateral coercive measures, Belarus proposes strengthening international cooperation mechanisms within the CFS framework, including enhanced monitoring of their impact on food security and nutrition. This could involve improved data collection, analytical assessments, and the exchange of best practices to ensure timely identification of risks and the protection of food system actors from unintended harm.

Finally, Belarus supports the inclusion of language encouraging dialogue, multilateral solutions, and confidence-building measures as the primary means of addressing international disputes. Resilient food systems can only be built in an environment of predictability, cooperation, and mutual trust, where global food security considerations prevail over unilateral actions that threaten the stability and sustainability of food systems worldwide.