

**UN General Assembly High-Level Special Event**  
**Time to Act Together: Coordinating Policy Responses to the Global Food**  
**Security Crises**

**Monday 18 July 2022, 3 – 6 pm**

Thank you Mr. President, Mr. Chairperson, distinguished speakers.

President Abdulla Shahid, Chairperson Gabriele Ferrero Y De Loma-Osorio, distinguished speakers, thank you for your powerful remarks.

Mr. President,

Ireland deeply appreciates your leadership in focusing the attention of the General Assembly on the global food security crisis.

Our discussion today could not be more timely. A global hunger crisis is unfolding before our very eyes. This demands our urgent and coordinated action.

Mr. President,

Ireland speaks to the issue of food security from our own experience of famine – one that has left an indelible mark on our people. That mark translates into a deeply held conviction that in our world of plenty, it is unconscionable that millions are on the brink of starvation.

Ireland has ensured that conflict and hunger is at the heart of our work on the Security Council. And it is equally relevant to this debate today.

The current food crisis is indeed multi-faceted, but one thing is clear. Conflict is THE single largest driver of global hunger today. The majority of the world's hungry people are to be found in areas profoundly affected by avoidable, man-made conflict. We need look no further than Afghanistan, South Sudan and Yemen.

The impact of protracted conflict on food security is profound. It destroys livelihoods, disrupts supply chains, triggers displacement and damages food systems. Macroeconomic disruptions are also wide ranging, including increased public deficits and debt.

The illegal, unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has already forced millions more into acute hunger this year. Countries that were teetering on the verge of famine – across Africa and the Middle East - are desperately struggling to deal with food shortages, rising prices and market disruptions.

The fragility of our deeply inter-connected food systems has been exposed by the cascading shocks of COVID-19 and the war on Ukraine – compounding the devastating long-term impact of climate change on the food security of those left furthest behind.

A global crisis of such magnitude and complexity demands collective and coherent action. Today provides an opportunity to do just that. Ireland asks members of the General Assembly to join us in supporting four policy responses.

First, we must take real steps to end the conflicts on our agenda and to break the cycle of conflict induced hunger. Conflict prevention and conflict resolution must be front and centre. If we fail to do this our actions will do little more than cruelly sustain millions on the edge of survival.

Second, is to realise the potential of Resolution 2417 to counter conflict driven hunger. We must hold to account those who commit flagrant violations of international humanitarian law; including those impeding humanitarian access, and who brazenly use starvation as a method of warfare. The events of the last months have only reinforced the urgency of Resolution 2417's call to action.

Third, is to deliver on commitments to Anticipatory Action. Our efforts should support interventions to prevent child malnourishment rather than waiting until they are on the edge of starvation. This protects livelihoods, and allows food systems to survive.

Lastly, but no less critically, we advocate an approach that invests in sustainable food systems for all. By strengthening local and regional systems, we can build resilience, breaking the vicious cycle that leaves vulnerable communities exposed to the inevitable shocks to come.

Mr. President,

Our collective, multi-sectoral and comprehensive action is needed to reverse the frightening trend of conflict induced food insecurity. We all have a role to play and a unique contribution to make. If each one of us steps up and meets our responsibility we can truly make a difference.

Thank you