

**169th Session of FAO Council**

**April 8, 2022**

**CANADA**

**Statement as delivered**

As noted by the DG, we are here today because global developments require that we meet. Prior to this crisis, the Food Price Index (FPI) had reached a record level. Global food security was already under threat and hunger was gaining ground.

However, the Russian Federation's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, which Canada strongly condemns, has triggered a humanitarian disaster and sparked a new global food crisis.

As members of the FAO, it is our duty to meet and discuss the impacts of the crisis as well as possible solutions.

FAO can play an essential role according to its mandate, helping to better understand the implications of the crisis and to support more effective responses in the short, medium and long term.

Canada intends to be a solutions partner in this context. We will continue to support the people of Ukraine, while helping find ways to improve global food security and get back on track for SDG2.

In this regard, Canada calls on FAO to:

☐ continue its analysis on impacts and consequences, including cataloguing damage to agricultural infrastructure, developing more detailed analysis on fertilizers and inputs, and explicitly identifying policy trade-offs relating to trade measures.

☐ speak clearly about innovations to increase food availability: opportunities to increase productivity through climate-smart agriculture, identifying alternative nutritious foods, and developing concrete plans to reduce loss and waste

☐ develop new partnerships, including across the private sector, to crowd in capital, capacity, and insight.

☐ be an active participant in the Secretary General's Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.

We call on FAO governing bodies to effectively advance these goals and respond to the urgency of the situation. The CFS can contribute constructively given its multi stakeholder approach.

Further, we call on FAO and Members to support women and girls throughout this crisis to ensure no one is left behind – rural women and girls cannot bear the brunt of this crisis.

Finally, we call on Members to consider increasing support to agricultural sectors globally.

For our part, Canada will continue to support countries most impacted, be it through humanitarian or development funding, for example such as that recently announced for the Sahel, or applying systems approaches to address climate and gender equality dimensions of food insecurity.

We are already allocating more than CAD\$800 million annually on actions for food systems.

The draft decision submitted on March 21 (CL169/4) covers these considerations, and we recommend that form the basis for today's conclusions, and be adopted *en bloc*.

Before I conclude, a few clarifications on sanctions: The sanctions imposed on Russia are intended to stop the war, and are not the principle reason for agricultural disruption. The conflict is. Sanctions are never pursued lightly. When the UN Charter was established, it recognized there were times when such tools could be necessary to address threats to global peace and security. They are meant to change behaviour and enable accountability. Let's not be distracted by suggestions that sanctions are the

reasons for food insecurity. The Russian Federation remains solely responsible for exacerbating an already dire situation. In conclusion, let us focus on working together in Rome to: 1) support impacted agriculture systems in Ukraine, 2) ensure that trade remains open, and, 3) protect global food security and make it resilient. all based on reliable information for effective decision-making. Together, we can find a way to mitigate the worst impacts of this crisis and find a constructive way forward.