

169. FAO Emergency Council, 08.04.2022 (hybrid)

German Statement

Item 3: Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- *Germany aligns itself with the Statement given by France on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States. Let me express our full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter, and undermines international security and stability.*
- *The humanitarian consequences of this war are on a scale that the international community has not seen in Europe for decades. We are particularly concerned about a humanitarian situation in and around Ukraine that is deteriorating, civilian casualties and the reports of war crimes committed by the Russian armed forces.*
- *Speaking of food and agriculture, the UN Secretary General has called on the international community to 'do everything possible to avert a hurricane of hunger and a meltdown of the global food system'. We all know that the war hits the poorest around the globe the hardest.*
- *Moreover, we all know that the war in Ukraine has an enormous impact on global food security. Still more people in North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia and the Middle East will go hungry. Global food security has been deteriorating for many years, with hunger rising due to multidimensional crises triggered by climate change, loss of biodiversity, loss of natural resources, droughts, floods and the COVID Pandemic. We call Russia out for exacerbating this crisis with its unjustified war and the cruelty it inflicts in Ukraine and beyond.*
- *We refuse to be deterred from our commonly agreed Agenda 2030 and our goal to achieve SDG 2. Ending the war on Ukraine is the most urgent step. Beyond that, much more needs to be done to address global food security. This crisis recalls the need to make our agri-food systems sustainable and resilient. This is a huge challenge for us – the international community and us as FAO members. FAO as the crucial lead agency*

for reaching Zero Hunger by 2030 needs to address this global crisis within its mandate as a knowledge organisation.

- *Therefore, we appreciate today's emergency Council meeting. The information provided by FAO is a good step in the right direction and we look forward to keep receiving timely and comprehensive data and analysis.*
- *We all need to take action and we all have the means to do so! Therefore, let me recall the G7 declaration by the Ministers of Agriculture, initiated under the German Presidency, to stand united and in solidarity with our partners, including developing and emerging economies, which unjustly bear the cost and impact of this war. Together, we will work to preserve stability of energy markets as well as food security globally as Russia's invasion threatens Ukraine's capacity to grow crops this year.*
- *The G7 ministers committed to sharing reliable data and information on global food market developments, especially through the relevant international organisations, and to continuing to support food security in line with climate and environment commitments and the SDGs. Furthermore, the G7 strengthened their close cooperation with relevant international organisations, multilateral development banks and international financial institutions to respond to the impacts of the war on food security and nutrition.*
- *All countries should contribute to averting negative impacts of this crisis. We call on everyone to stand together, speak up and focus on ending the war, which is the real cause of the predicted increase in global food insecurity. We urge all colleagues to share with us how they assess the looming hunger crisis, especially those most affected.*
- *The German government – supporting already the World Food Programme with 1.2 billion Euros in 2021 as the second largest donor alone – is allocating 370 million Euros to humanitarian aid and 430 million Euros to address the effects on global food security.*
- *Only through our joint efforts will we be able to implement the right to adequate food on a global scale, transform our food systems to become sustainable and face the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.*

- *To this end, we call on FAO to take advantage of all the expertise provided by other UN Agencies and international organisations through even closer collaboration. We encourage FAO to give the CFS the necessary support to work on the impacts of the war on global food security. The CFS, with its mandate and its inclusive international and intergovernmental platform, has an essential responsibility to work together towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all, based on the human right to adequate food.*
- *Colleagues, now let me recall that this is a special session of the Council due to extraordinary circumstances. It is our conviction that this is an existential moment for FAO. The world is watching how the international organisations can fulfil their mandates given by the membership to respond and help avoid that the crisis will lead to a hurricane of hunger. FAO's expertise and our constructive cooperation are needed more urgently than ever.*
- *Thank you Mr. Chair*