

FAO COUNCIL
169th Session
8 April 2022

Input from Guatemala

Mr Chair,

On behalf of Guatemala, I wish to express solidarity with the people and Government of Ukraine over the human and material losses resulting from the acts of aggression committed by the Russian Federation. My country, with its pacifist spirit, calls for a diplomatic solution through dialogue for the immediate cessation of all acts of war that threaten the lives of people, preventing them from fully enjoying their human rights. We also call for the Russian Armed Forces to withdraw immediately from the areas they have occupied.

We acknowledge that our discussions should not be politicized. Instead they should focus on how this Organization can use its capabilities to analyse the data, present proposals and provide Nations with recommendations for addressing the consequences of the conflict, which will further affect food security if it continues. These effects will be felt not only in the region but globally, with repercussions for the most vulnerable people.

It is time to step up our efforts. The current crisis is clearly having a negative global impact, reflected through spiralling inflation in the markets for oil, agricultural products, basic foodstuffs and other commodities.

We thank the Secretariat for preparing document CL 169/3, which gives an overview of the food security risks associated with the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It highlights how the current situation has further affected world markets, just as they seemed to be recovering from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome FAO's humanitarian response in Ukraine and urge the Organization to continue to work hand in hand with other United Nations agencies within the context of its mandate.

Guatemala, together with more than 70 other countries, co-sponsored draft decision CL 169/4, which we believe sets out our concerns and provides clear guidelines, and we therefore ask for it to be approved in its entirety.

Finally, we call for the facilitation of a food supply to the civilian population in Ukraine and assurances that the country's agricultural infrastructure will not be affected.

Thank you,