



169TH FAO COUNCIL

8 APRIL 2022

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ON AGENDA 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)

Thank you Chairperson,

At the outset South Africa expresses deep concern at the loss of life, the humanitarian impact and the forced displacement of people as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. We urge all to uphold and protect human rights and abide by their obligations in terms of international law and international humanitarian law.

South Africa welcomes the initiatives from both countries to dialogue. We further urge the two sides to re-double their efforts towards finding a peaceful resolution of this conflict.

Armed conflict results in human suffering and destruction, the effects of which will not only affect Ukraine but also reverberate across the world.

As stated by the UN Secretary-General, the conflict will have a huge impact on the “global economy in a moment when we are emerging from the COVID pandemic and so many developing countries need to have space for the recovery”.

Chairperson,

The Council is, therefore, meeting at an opportune moment to consider the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on world food security.

The world relies on certain key agricultural commodities flowing through the Black Sea area and there is a need to ensure the continued unimpeded flow of such commodities.

We are concerned about the increase in prices of certain commodities such as those used in fertilizers as well as of wheat and sunflower oil. These increases in prices will lead to unaffordability

and restricted availability, and thereby impact negatively on food security. This has the potential to cause instability in countries that rely on importing these commodities.

The Rome-based Agencies should proactively consider steps to mitigate this growing food security concern. To this end, it is important that the flow of agricultural related commodities remains unhindered.

In conclusion, South Africa values the information and updates provided by FAO on the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on food security and encourage FAO to continue to provide such in-depth updates and develop relevant emergency response and long term resilience plans.

I thank you.