



MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FISHERIES AND FOOD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF SPAIN TO FAO
ROME

Proposed input by SPAIN

Dear Director-General
Dear independent Chairperson of the Council,
Dear colleagues,

Before I begin, I would like to say that Spain endorses the statement made by the French Presidency of the EU on behalf of the EU and its 27 Member States.

As I have already stated in this United Nations Headquarters, Spain strongly condemns Russia's unjustified military attack on Ukraine, which – as well as wreaking death and destruction – is having a negative effect on food security and agriculture in the region and throughout the world.

Spain is one of the 80 FAO Members to sign the letter requesting the holding of this unscheduled Council Session and we support the draft decision that we hope will be approved by this 169th Council.

As this Permanent Representation has stated on other occasions, we value FAO's role as a source of knowledge and advice to countries on agrifood systems. We believe that its work is now essential to enable us to understand and analyse the implications of the war on world food security, on agriculture and on the stability of food systems.

FAO should thus be able to adapt the implementation of its Strategic Framework and Programme of Work to the circumstances and develop plans to counter the effects of conflict on world food security. We need to minimize the difficulties Ukraine will face in salvaging what remains of this year's agricultural production so that it can plant, grow, harvest and market next year's production without damaging the food supply chain and therefore comply with the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Convention and UN Security Council Resolution 2417/2018, as stressed by the EU.

It will also be essential to avoid international trade restrictions and speculation, which jeopardize food security, especially in the most vulnerable countries.

We urge FAO to keep all Members regularly informed and to redouble its coordination efforts with other UN agencies and organizations, particularly with the Committee on World Food Security and its High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), in order to minimize the effects of this military aggression.

I would like to end by expressing Spain's solidarity with the Ukrainian people and voicing our support for the victims of these atrocities.

Thank you very much, Mr Chair.

08.04.2022: