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粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# COUNCIL

## Hundred and sixty-ninth Session

8 April 2022

### Letters from FAO Members - request to convene an unscheduled session of the Council, and proposal for its agenda and draft decision

1. This document reproduces the letter from 44 FAO Members sent on 21 March 2022 requesting the convening of an unscheduled session of the Council, and proposing its agenda and draft decision.
2. An update to the letter, sent on 25 March 2022, with additional Member signatories, is also included in this document.

**Updated letter - 25 March 2022**

March 25, 2022

His Excellency Dr. Qu Dongyu  
Director-General  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome

The Honorable Hans Hoogeveen  
Independent Chair of Council  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome

Dear Mr. Director-General, Mr. Independent Chair of Council:

Thank you for convening a Special Session of the FAO Council on April 8, 2022, as requested by 19 FAO Council Member Nations, as well as 25 Council observers in our letter dated March 21, 2022 (Attachment).

We would like to inform you the following **Council Member Nation** and 19 Council Observers join the call for convening the Special Session of the FAO Council to address the implications on world food security and agriculture arising from the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and co-sponsor the Draft Decision (Annex) as included in the March 21 Letter.

Sincerely,

Ms Florència Aleix Lartigue  
Director of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Principality of Andorra

H.E. Anila Bitri Lani  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Albania to the UN Agencies in Rome

Mr Günther Walkner  
Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture and World Food Programme

H.E. Gloria Isabel Ramírez Ríos  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Colombia to FAO, WFP and IFAD

H.E. Ambassador Idris Abdou Ali  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the FAO

H.E. Mario Arvelo  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the Rome-based agencies of the United Nations

Mr Siim Tiidemann  
Deputy Secretary General for Fisheries Policy and Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Rural Affairs of the Republic of Estonia

Mr Esala Nayasi  
Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Fiji

H.E. Konstantine Surguladze  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN Organizations: FAO, IFAD, WFP

Ms. Phyllis Mends  
Minister Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative of Ghana to FAO, WFP & IFAD

H.E. Mira Daher  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the Rome-based UN Agencies

H.E. Zeineb Ely Salem  
Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Permanent Representative to the UN Agencies in Rome

**H.E. Dr. Miguel Garcia Winder**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the UN Agencies in Rome**

H.E. Anatolie Urecheanu,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the UN Agencies in Rome

H.E. Robert Fillon  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco to UN Agencies in Rome

H.E. Milena Šofranac Ljubojević  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Montenegro to FAO

Ms Lidija Popandonova  
Counsellor and Permanent Representative of the Republic of North Macedonia to FAO

H.E. Daniela Rotondaro  
Ambassador to Italy and Permanent Representative of San Marino to FAO and WFP

H.E. Pio Wennubst  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Organisations  
in Rome.

H.E. Mr. Ömer Gücük  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Türkiye to the UN Agencies in  
Rome

**Original letter - 21 March 2022**

March 21, 2022

His Excellency Dr. Qu Dongyu  
Director-General  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome

The Honorable Hans Hoogeveen  
Independent Chair of Council  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations  
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome

Dear Mr. Director-General, Mr. Independent Chair of Council:

As you know, on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March the UN Secretary General underscored his serious concerns regarding implications for the global food system as a result of the current conflict in Ukraine. The SG noted “this war goes far beyond Ukraine. It is also an assault on the world’s most vulnerable people and countries...Now their breadbasket is being bombed... food, fuel, and fertilizer prices are skyrocketing, supply chains are being disrupted... and this is hitting the poorest the hardest.”

Given the FAO’s analysis to date regarding the significant impacts of the crisis on Ukrainian and Russian agriculture, commodities and other input markets, and skyrocketing global food prices, all affecting the food security of millions in dozens of countries worldwide, it is both necessary and appropriate for FAO to convene its members in an Emergency Special Session of the Council. This conflict severely aggravates the already considerable food security challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including already-high price inflation of food and agricultural inputs. This Special Session is therefore necessary for the Council, as part of its functions under FAO General Rules, Rule XXIV, paragraph 1 (b), to advise on any issues pertaining to the world food and agriculture situation, especially any such issues of an urgent nature which would call for action by the Conference, Regional Conferences, the Committees referred to in Article V, paragraph 6 of the Constitution, or the Director-General.

In consequence, we, the undersigned **19 FAO Council Member Nations**, as well as 25 Council observers, pursuant to FAO General Rules, Rule XXV, paragraph 1, hereby request the urgent convening of a one-day Special Session of the FAO Council to address the implications on world food security and agriculture arising from the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine as a single agenda item.

We take note of and welcome FAO's ongoing work to provide initial analysis to members, including through the technical briefing announced for March 25. The convening of a Special Session will allow more thorough examination and discussion of these matters, afford an opportunity for members and FAO to discuss the Organization's cooperation and collaboration with other relevant actors, including the Rome-based agencies, international financial institutions, the Agricultural Market Information System, and other partners as appropriate, and provide an opportunity ahead of the regularly scheduled June Council for the Organization to consider how the implementation of the Strategic Framework (2022-2031), Programme of Work and Budget (2022-2023), resource prioritization, and longer-term resilience planning are being affected by this crisis.

We request that the proposal in annex to this letter, containing a provisional agenda and draft decision please be circulated as documentation for the Emergency Special Session, to be convened at the earliest convenience, respecting the minimum two-week notice, and no later than April 8.

Sincerely,

**H.E. Khaled Ahmad Zekriya**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the Rome-based UN Agencies**

**H.E. Margaret Twomey**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the FAO and WFP**

**H.E. Pierre-Emmanuel De Bauw**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN Agencies in Rome**

**H.E. Slavko Matanovic**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN Agencies in Rome**

H.E. Ambassador Lubomir Ivanov  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to FAO

**H.E. Elissa Golberg**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN Agencies in Rome**

**Ms Patricia Araya**  
**Alternate Representative of Chile to the Rome-based UN Agencies**

**H.E. Federico Zamora**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to FAO, IFAD and WFP**

H.E. Jasen Mesić  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Croatia to the UN Agencies in Rome

Mr. Jiří Jílek  
Counselor and Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to FAO and WFP

H.E. George F. Poulides  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture

Ms. Jette Michelsen  
Deputy Permanent Representative, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., of Denmark to the UN Agencies in Rome

H.E. Alexandra Valkenburg  
Delegation of the European Union to the Holy See, Order of Malta, UN Agencies in Rome and to the Republic of San Marino

Ms. Tanja Grén  
Minister Counselor and Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO, IFAD and WFP

**H.E. Céline Jurgensen**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Rome**

H.E. Dr. Ulrich Seidenberger  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN Organizations in Rome

H.E. Theodore M. Passas  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

**Ms. Cecilia Beatriz Cáceres Valdez**  
**First Secretary and Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the UN Agencies in Rome**

H.E. Zsolt Belánszky-Demkó  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN Food and Agriculture Agencies in Rome

H.E. Matthías G. Pálsson  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iceland to FAO, WFP and IFAD

H.E. Patricia O’Brien  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ireland to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture

**H.E. Yael Rubinstein**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN Agencies in Rome**

**H.E. Vincenza Lomonaco**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN Agencies in Rome**

**H. E. OE Hiroshi**  
**Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Italy and Permanent Representative of Japan to the UN Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome**

H.E. Solvita Aboltina  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Latvia to FAO

H.E. Ricardas Slepavicius  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the UN Agencies in Rome

**H.E. Michèle Pranchère-Tomassini**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the UN Agencies in Rome**

H.E. Carmel Vassallo  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malta to the Rome Based Agencies

H.E. Marcel Beukeboom  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations in Rome

H.E. Anthony Simpson  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the Rome-based UN Agencies

H.E. Morten Aasland  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN Agencies in Rome

**Mr. Pablo Cisneros**  
**Deputy Permanent Representative of Peru to the UN Organisations in Rome**

H.E. Pedro Nuno Bártolo  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Portugal to the UN Agencies in Rome

**H.E. Mr Le Seong-Ho**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the Rome-based UN Agencies**

H.E. Artur Pollok  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Organizations in Rome



Ms. Catalina Constantin  
Minister Counselor and Deputy Permanent Representative of Romania to UN Organizations in Rome

Ms. Zora Weberova  
Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to FAO and WFP

H.E. Tomaž Kunstelj  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to FAO and WFP

**H.E. Alfonso Dastis Quecedo**  
**Ambassador of Spain to Italy and San Marino and Permanent Representative of Spain to FAO, IFAD and WFP**

**H.E. Jan Björklund**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sweden to the UN Agencies in Rome**

**H.E. Ambassador Moez Eddine Sinaoui**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the Rome Based Agencies.**

H.E. Yaroslav Melnyk  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Ukraine to the UN Agencies in Rome

H.E. Thomas John Kelly  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome

**H.E. Cindy H. McCain**  
**Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN Agencies in Rome**

Enclosures.

Cc: Chief of Cabinet Godfrey Magwenzi  
Secretary-General Rakesh Mukhtoo

## **Provisional Agenda – Special FAO Council**

1. Implications on World Food Security and Agriculture arising from the Russian aggression against Ukraine

## Annex

## [#]th Emergency Special Session of the FAO Council

[Rome, XX April 2022]

**Proposal of Actions by FAO in Relation to the Implications on World Food Security and Agriculture from the Russian aggression against Ukraine**

**Executive Summary**

The United Nations General Assembly in its resolution adopted on 2 March 2022 at its 11th emergency special session, deplored the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and noted its negative impact driving increased food insecurity globally, as Ukraine, Russia, and the Black Sea region are one of the world's most important areas for grain and agricultural exports, and at a time when millions of people are already facing famine, the immediate risk of famine, or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world. The conflict is having a major impact on FAO member states – especially developing countries – which were already grappling with high food price inflation, supply chain interruptions, and other challenges resulting from two years of a global pandemic.

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.” He also stressed that the war is hitting the poorest the hardest around the globe. The situation in Ukraine is exacerbating world hunger – in North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East in particular. It is negatively affecting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal of reaching Zero Hunger by 2030, for which FAO is the custodial lead agency.

Urgent and decisive action by the FAO is therefore needed.

Across the UN system, the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, the Human Rights Council and other specialized agencies, such as UNESCO, IAEA, IMO, ITU, ICAO and UNWTO, have held or are holding special, emergency or dedicated sessions of their Governing Bodies to consider the matter. Other international or regional organizations (*inter alia* OSCE, OECD, Council of the Baltic Sea States, African Union) have reacted, addressing the matters within their mandate arising from the crisis, as a matter of urgency.

**Suggested action by Council**

The Council is invited to adopt the following decision:

“The Council,

Endorsed and reaffirmed the Resolution adopted on 2 March 2022 by the United Nations General Assembly at its 11th emergency special session (A/RES/ES-11/1);

Affirmed that the aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation, with the involvement of Belarus, is in violation of the objectives and purposes of the Organization as set out in the Preamble of the Constitution and of the obligations accepted by the Russian Federation and Belarus as Members of the Organization, and demanding the immediate cessation of the use of force against Ukraine, including the targeting of civilians and civilian food supply and agricultural infrastructure and the further aggravation of world food insecurity;

Expressed the gravest concern about the impact of the conflict on increased food insecurity globally, as Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the region are one of the world's most important areas for grain, oilseed, and other agriculture exports, when millions of people are already facing hunger or the immediate risk of hunger or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world;

Stressed the role of FAO, in coordination and collaboration with other United Nations entities and relevant bodies, especially the Rome-based agencies and international financial institutions, to address within its mandate the consequences of the conflict within Ukraine and on world food security and agriculture;

Requested the Director-General:

- to leverage FAO's role as a knowledge institution to closely monitor the implications on world food security and agriculture, including through the regular, comprehensive data analysis on the effects of the conflict on food systems,
- to review and make recommendations on the conflict's implications for FAO's implementation of its Strategic Framework (2022-2031) and Programme of Work and Budget (2022-2023),
- to develop immediate, medium-term, and longer-term plans to address the global food security impacts of the conflict in Ukraine, including emergency response, recovery assistance, and resilience building in food systems, and
- to keep members notified in this regard through regular briefings, consultations, and reporting to the FAO Governing Bodies;

Decided to add this matter to the agenda of the next regular session of the FAO Council in June 2022.