

## 172nd Session of the Council

### Item 18: Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 171st Session of the Council

The Secretariat thanks Members for their inputs.

With regard to the comments of Argentina, FAO Management has made enormous efforts in respecting the agreements and in coordinating with Members when, because of the flexibility to be able to adjust to the existing realities, certain terms need to be used.

The Secretariat takes note of the comments made by the Russian Federation and confirms that, as per established practice, it is the sovereign right of Members to discuss Agenda Items addressed under the Written Correspondence Procedure in Plenary meetings.

Regarding the comments made by the United States of America, FAO has continued to provide regular updates on the impacts of the war in Ukraine on global food commodity markets and world food security, including through regular reports, documents for Governing Bodies, webinars and participation in various meetings. FAO will continue doing so. The Organization is also committed to supporting the sustainment of the Black Sea Grain Initiative as well as any other initiative that contributes to improving global food availability and to stabilizing world markets.

FAO appreciates the support of the United States of America in the development of the Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change, and the Science and Innovation Strategy. FAO is committed to ensuring that all regional groups have equal opportunities to express their views to guarantee the plurality and representativeness of perspectives. FAO has engaged with all Members throughout the development of the Action Plans, including through the Governing Bodies and through sharing the Action Plans for written feedback. It is worth highlighting that the Action Plans are living documents that will be updated to reflect changing needs and lessons learned.

Furthermore, the Secretariat appreciates the importance of consulting with Members in the development of a sound proxy indicator for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 2.4.1, and, to this end, has reached out to the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) Co-chair (Canada) in order to convene a “task team” of countries for refining and finalizing the proxy indicator proposal. The IAEG-SDG Co-chair has already taken steps to organize this group of countries and plans to convene a first meeting in May. Management reiterates its commitment to keep Members informed of relevant decisions, including through informal briefings.

As regards the comments made by the European Union, FAO recognizes the importance of the Black Sea Grain Initiative for improving global food supplies, stabilizing markets and prices and supporting the livelihoods of Ukrainian farmers, and is committed to supporting its extension and sustainment. FAO monitors the flow of Ukrainian exports of grains and other foodstuffs made through this Initiative and provides analyzed data on the composition of the shipments and their destinations. FAO uses every possible occasion to highlight the significance of the Initiative.

FAO appreciates the European Union’s support in the development of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change and of the Science and Innovation Strategy, as well as its valuable written contributions. FAO is finalizing the Action Plans to be ready by the end of Spring 2023, and looks forward to their implementation.

Finally, the Secretariat wishes to provide the following responses to the comments made by Japan:

On Decision 1: Regarding the Black Sea Initiative, the support of FAO is technical, and we constantly report on the progress at [Briefing Notes \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/briefing-notes) and support the Global Crises Response Group (GCRG) led by the Secretary-General.

On Decision 4: The Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) has played an important role in calming world food markets during the outbreak of both COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, by providing up-to-date, objective and comprehensive data and information and market assessments, and serving as a platform for policy dialogue and coordination of responses among major players in global food markets. The success and sustainability of AMIS in the future will depend on the support of Members through the provision of timely and comprehensive market data and policy information as well as financial resources. It is essential that AMIS be provided with the required support to deliver on its core mandate and also be strengthened to meet new challenges.

On Decision 5: The Bureau of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) is regularly informed about the implementation of 28th Session of COAG recommendations on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture and on progress made towards the development of a Voluntary Code of Conduct on the sustainable use of plastics in agriculture. In this connection, an informal briefing for all Members is planned to be organized before the end of the first semester 2023.

On Decision 10: The Secretariat wishes to confirm that all votes at the 43rd Session of the Conference will be conducted in conformity with the applicable rules and regulations of the FAO Basic Texts.