



# COUNCIL

**Hundred and sixty-ninth Session**

**8 April 2022**

**Letter from the Russian Federation -  
proposal for draft conclusions**

1. Proposal for discussion and decision by Council for draft conclusions on item 3.



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
TO FAO AND OTHER UN AGENCIES  
IN ROME, ITALY  
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N° 62

5 April 2022

Dear Mr Director-General,

Further to my letter of 28 March 2022 concerning the 169th Session of the FAO Council, please find attached the proposal of the Russian Federation on item 3 of the provisional agenda.

I kindly ask you to circulate this proposal as a document of the session, as well as a document for discussion at the 169th Session of the FAO Council.

Please accept, Mr Director-General, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Copy: Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council Mr H. Hoogeveen

[signed on original]

Ambassador,

V.Vasiliev

Permanent Representative

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

QU DONGYU

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

(FAO)

ROME

## 169th Session of the FAO Council

(Rome, 8 April 2022)

**Proposals on item 3 of the provisional agenda***Summary*

At the UN Food Systems Summit on 23 September 2021 in New York, the UN Secretary-General, A. Guterres, stated that "three billion people – almost half of all humanity – cannot afford a healthy diet". Among the factors in this situation he listed conflicts, climate change, poverty and high levels of inequality.

Earlier, in April 2020 at the UN Security Council, the World Food Programme Executive Director, David Beasley, warned that "the world would be facing the worst crisis since World War II for a number of reasons, such as the wars in Syria and Yemen; the deepening crises in South Sudan, Burkina Faso, the Central Sahel region; the economic crisis in Lebanon; the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, not to mention COVID-19."

As early as October 2021, the food price index exceeded the 2008 high or only fell by 3% to the 2011 indicators. These data were officially presented to the G20 Summit in November 2021 in Rome.

A detrimental contribution to the degradation of the global food security situation and the emergence of the crisis in the global market has also been exerted by the unilateral economic, financial and trade measures imposed in violation of international law and the UN Charter over the previous decades.

In the UN General Assembly resolution 74/306 of 11 September 2020, adopted in connection with the threat of COVID-19, the UN General Assembly "strongly urges States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries."

The situation related to the conflict between Ukraine and Russia is just one drop in the cup of conflicts and other negative factors which have led to global food security facing serious challenges. The conflict itself in Ukraine has been developing since 2014.

FAO, in accordance with the purposes and objectives set out in the preamble of its Constitution, should contribute to the achievement of common welfare by raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of the people; secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products; foster the condition of rural populations and thus contribute towards an expanding world economy and ensure humanity's freedom from hunger. In this regard, the Council is invited to adopt the following decision.

*Draft decision of the Council*

"The Council:

- recalls the UN General Assembly Resolution 74/306 of 11 September 2020 "Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic";
- recalls also the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council related to international conflicts, which had an impact on the degradation of the situation in the field of food security;
- takes into account the discussion of the situation in the field of food security during its 169th Session;

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- takes into account also the background information prepared by the Secretariat "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)";
  - particularly emphasizes the role played by FAO, in coordination and collaboration with other agencies and relevant entities of the United Nations System, especially the Rome-based Agencies and international financial institutions, within its mandate, in addressing the impact of conflicts and other negative factors on food security and agriculture in the world;
  - recommends to avoid situational political reactions, which can aggravate the situation on a global scale;
  - calls for greater transparency in the global food market and the promotion of a comprehensive dialogue among Member Nations to achieve mutual understanding, build trust and find constructive solutions in the spirit of the goals and objectives outlined in the preamble to the FAO Constitution;
  - requested the Director-General:
    - a) to engage FAO's capacity as a technical organization and closely monitor the impact of conflicts on food security and agriculture around the world, including with regular and comprehensive analysis of data on the impact of conflicts on food systems;
    - b) to engage FAO's capacity as a technical organization and closely monitor the impact on global food security and agriculture of unilateral economic, financial and trade measures taken in violation of international law and the UN Charter, including with regular and comprehensive analysis of data on the impact of conflicts on food systems;
    - c) to develop short-, medium- and long-term action plans to remove restrictions on the food and fertilizer trade;
    - d) to develop also short-, medium- and long-term action plans to expand the range of suppliers and diversify sources of food supply;
    - e) to develop also short-, medium- and long-term action plans to support vulnerable populations in conflict and post-conflict countries, including internally displaced persons;
  - decided to remain seized of the matter as necessary".