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Food and Agriculture
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Unies pour l'alimentation
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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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COUNCIL

Hundred and sixty-ninth Session

8 April 2022

**Letter from the Russian Federation -
proposal for the 169th Session of the Council**

1. This document reproduces the letter from the Russian Federation published as document CL 169/INF/3, which contains a proposal for discussion and decision by the 169th Session of the Council.



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO FAO AND OTHER UN AGENCIES
IN ROME, ITALY
Via Vicenza, 3 00185 Roma
Tel. 06 902 357 44; Fax. 06 902 357 30**

N° 54

28 March 2022

Dear Mr. Director General,

Thank you for the invitation to the 169th session of the FAO Council which will be held on 8 April 2022.

The Russian Federation shares concerns about the increase of global food prices and the cost of agricultural raw materials, and its negative impact on the food security of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

The report of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) to the G20 dated 17 November 2021 already stated that in October 2021 the rise of the food price index exceeded its 2008 peak and was just 3% below its 2011 level.

At the UN Food Systems Summit on 23 September 2021, the UN Secretary General stated: “Three billion people – almost half of humanity – could not afford a healthy diet. ...

Copy: Independent Chair of the FAO Council Hans Hogeveen

HIS EXCELLENCY
MISTER QU DONGYU
DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS
(FAO)
Rome

Drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition – including conflicts, climate extremes and economic volatility – are further exacerbated by poverty and high levels of inequality”.

At a UN Security Council meeting in April 2020, the WFP Executive Director D. Beasley specified which conflicts were being referred to: “2020 would be facing the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II for a number of reasons, such as the wars in Syria and Yemen; the deepening crises in places like South Sudan and ... Burkina Faso and the Central Sahel region, ... the economic crisis in Lebanon affecting millions of Syrian refugees; and the situations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, and the list goes on. We are already facing a perfect storm. So today, with COVID-19, I want to stress that we are not only facing a global health pandemic but also a global humanitarian catastrophe”.

Indeed, the conflicts which began over the past 20 years in Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya, which are still ongoing have led to the starvation of over 60 million people in these countries. The conflict in Ukraine has become just another drop in the conflicts’ bucket, a bucket which has been filling up for 20 years now.

A serious factor undermining the stability of the global food market is the unilateral economic, financial and trade measures introduced in violation of international law and the UN Charter. In its resolution A/RES/74/306 of 11 September 2020 - adopted by 169 votes in favour, two votes against and two abstentions - 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”. It is emblematic that an attempt to discuss these sanctions at the 49th session of the CSF in October 2021 was met with unsubstantiated resistance from a number of Member States.

It is telling that in 20 years the FAO Council has not once deemed it necessary to pay immediate attention to the unfolding situation, nor to propose measures, which could allow for stabilization of the food security situation.

We therefore believe that the time has come for an honest and extremely concrete discussion on these issues. The Council, in keeping within its mandate, must give an expert assessment of the impact of all the aforementioned conflicts and sanctions on the current state of the global food market.

We would be grateful if you could provide the Council with information on funding allocated to FAO’s programmes for emergency response, early recovery and agricultural sector development. This would give a clearer picture of the actions required to improve the situation.

In this regard, in accordance with FAO General Rules (Rule XXV, paragraph 6b), we propose to add the reference “other conflicts” to the title of item 3 in the session’s provisional agenda. The item would therefore read as follows: “Impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict **and other conflicts** on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)”.

Dear Director-General,

We request that this letter and the updated provisional agenda be circulated as soon as possible.

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

[signed on original]

Ambassador,

V.Vasiliev

Permanent Representative