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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
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COUNCIL

Hundred and Seventy-first Session

Rome, 5-9 December 2022

**Proposal from 14 Council Members
dated 17 November 2022**

November 17, 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:

Further to the provisional agenda for the 171st session of the FAO Council ([CL 171/1](#)), in particular Item 3 *Update on FAO's work on the global food crisis* and the Independent Chair of Council's pre-session letter dated November 4, 2022, we have taken note of his "intention to propose the addition of a sub-item to the Agenda of the 171st Session of the Council, entitled '*The impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*'. This additional sub-item is proposed to be inserted under Item 3, *Update on FAO's work on the global food crisis*."

With respect to the above, we endorse this suggestion by the Independent Chair of Council. We, **the undersigned 41 co-sponsors (14 Council Members and 27 Council Observers)** also formally request that the draft decision at Annex 1 be considered as a formal proposal relating to Item 3 of the provisional agenda of the 171st Council, pursuant to Rule XI of the General Rules of the Organization applicable *mutatis mutandis* to FAO Council and submitted for decision by the Council in the manner foreseen under Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization and Rule IV of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of FAO.

We request that this letter and its Annex 1 be referenced and circulated as a formal *proposal for decision* by the Council under Item 3 of the provisional agenda of the 171st session of the Council. We request that the full list of initial co-sponsors be included in the *proposal for decision* document; revised versions might be subsequently submitted to reflect additional co-sponsors.

Sincerely,

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

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

H.E. Winston Pinnock
**Ambassador and Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas to the FAO
Council**

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**

Mr. Ivo Mouskourov
Permanent Representative Designate of the Republic of Bulgaria to FAO

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

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

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

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

H.E. Anders Carsten Damsgaard
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations in Rome

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

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. Joachim Bleicker
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the UN Organizations in Rome

H.E. Eleni Sourani
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Greece to FAO, IFAD, and WFP

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

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. Bruno Archi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Italian Republic to FAO

Mr. Yoshihiro Kuraya
Deputy 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

Mr. Valdemaras Juozaitis
Chargé d'Affaires 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

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

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

H.E. Lee Sung-Ho
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the Rome-
based UN Agencies

H.E. Gabriela Dancau
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania to UN Organizations in Rome

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

Ms. Martina Skok
Chargé d’Affaires of the Republic of Slovenia to FAO and WFP

Mr. Juan Prieto-Gomez
Deputy 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. 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

Mr. Rodney Hunter
Chargé d’Affaires of the United States to the UN Agencies in Rome

ANNEX 1:

Proposal for Council 171 Decision under Item 3 of the Provisional Agenda:

Programmatic Matters

Update on FAO's work on the global food crisis

Co-Sponsors

[List of Co-Sponsors in Alphabetical Order]

[X] The Council:

- a. Expressed grave concern about the continued devastating impact of the Russian Federation's war in Ukraine on global food insecurity as well as on availability and affordability of food, fertilizer, and energy, particularly for the poorest countries and most vulnerable populations;
- b. Recalled UN General Assembly resolutions A/RES/ES-11/4 dated October 12, 2022, entitled *Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations* and A/RES/ES-11/2 dated 24 March 2022, entitled *Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine*, and A/RES/ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022, entitled *Aggression against Ukraine*;
- c. Reaffirmed the decision and recommendations of its 169th and 170th Sessions (CL 169/REP, paragraph 11 and CL 170/REP, paragraphs 14-19) as well as the recommendations of the report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (C 2023/16, paragraphs 30-31);
- d. Welcomed and stressed the importance of the Initiative on the Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian Ports, known as the "Black Sea Grain Initiative," adopted in Istanbul on 22 July 2022 and the necessity for this initiative to remain in effect as long as necessary;
- e. Requested FAO's political and technical support for sustaining the Black Sea Grain Initiative, noting its importance to ensuring food availability and access to countries in all regions, especially the most vulnerable populations.
- f. Noted document CL171/3 and welcomed the 21 September 2022 Second Joint Statement by the Heads of FAO, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank Group (WBG), World Food Programme (WFP), and World Trade Organization (WTO) on the Global Food Security and Nutrition Crisis, which stated "the war in Ukraine continues to exacerbate the global food security and nutrition crisis, with high and volatile energy, food and fertilizer prices, restrictive trade policies, and supply chain disruptions," and "welcome[d] the efforts of the Global Crisis Response Group and the Black Sea Grain Initiative;"

- g. Requested that FAO continue to monitor the situation closely and update Members in writing at least quarterly, including through the FAO webpage dedicated to the crisis in Ukraine, and to submit to the Council at its next sessions:
- i. An updated comprehensive impact assessment of the conflict in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the FAO, including data and information specifically tailored to the impacts on each region, with particular attention to impacts on the most vulnerable countries;
 - ii. An updated Ukraine Rapid Response Plan, including a detailed overview of financial needs;
 - iii. A comprehensive assessment of the damage to Ukraine's agriculture and food sector within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, as well as the anticipated reconstruction and rehabilitation costs due to loss and damage resulting from the conflict.
 - iv. A review and assessment of the conflict's impact on global food security, including at regional and country level, and on consequent achievement of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and the Medium Term Plan 2022-2025, with proposals for adjustments as necessary to the Program of Work and Budget 2022-2023 and Medium Term Plan 2022-2025 aimed at improved response to the global food security crisis.
- h. Recommended that FAO propose to Members via the relevant technical committees and Governing Bodies how the Organization might leverage its FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021-2025, FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, and Rome-based agency collaboration mechanisms to support recovery assistance and resilience building in food systems for countries most affected by the global food crisis.
- i. Welcomed and encouraged FAO's continued commitments to:
- i. Strengthening global market transparency and coordination among Members, through initiatives such as the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS);
 - ii. Supporting with data and appropriate coordination of the Food Shock Window established by the IMF in September 2022 for low-condition emergency loans to help eligible countries cope with food shortages and rising costs stemming from the Russian Federation's war in Ukraine, which Members appreciated was developed from a FAO policy proposal;
 - iii. Collaborating with the WTO and others as appropriate, on a joint endeavor to study fertilizer markets and policies with the aim of supporting countries with policy advice on refraining from introducing export restrictions on fertilizers;
 - iv. Supporting the most vulnerable countries to access international fertilizer markets and to improve efficiency in its use, including supporting AMIS in expanding its mandate to include fertilizers in its commodity coverage to allow all market and policy developments to be closely monitored and publicly disseminated;
 - v. Accelerating innovation, joint planning, agricultural research and development, and systemic coordination with other UN entities and relevant bodies, especially the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and international financial institutions, to connect short-, medium- and long-term opportunities and deliver support in a timely manner; and
 - vi. Keeping Members notified in this regard through regular briefings, consultations, and reporting to the FAO Governing Bodies.

- j. Underlined the importance of keeping open the trade of food and agriculture inputs and products to obviate the negative impact on food security globally and avoid trade barriers in this respect.
- k. Decided to remain seized of this matter and add it to the agenda of its next regular sessions, entitled “The impact of the war in Ukraine on global food security and related matters under the mandate of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).”