

## 170th Session of the Council

### Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

#### Item 7 - Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform

Member Name	Comments
<p data-bbox="216 492 445 613"><b>Australia</b> (Thursday, 26 May 2022, 15:49)</p>	<p data-bbox="485 492 1877 662">Australia thanks FAO for continuing to provide Members with updates and assessments on its response to COVID-19. We note the importance of ensuring that FAO's emergency and crisis response architecture takes a systemic and integrated approach to reduce duplication and achieve synergies across programming, where possible, to boost food system resilience. We also encourage FAO to learn and disseminate lessons from across different country and crisis contexts, where appropriate.</p> <p data-bbox="485 686 1877 1003">We would be interested to better understand the reasons for the relatively low funding for the <i>Trade and Food Safety Standards</i> (TFS) and <i>Preventing the Next Zoonotic Pandemic</i>-(PNP) – and encourage FAO to continue to focus on these areas, given their critical importance to FAO's overall response under the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme (RRP). We also note the critical relevance and interconnectivity of the work under the TFS, in particular, to FAO's ongoing responses to the war in Ukraine, including through the provision of technical market and commodity analysis. Additionally, as the first country to partner with FAO's multilateral Agrifoods Systems and One Health Programme Fund, we welcome the notification of new partnerships to support this critical element of FAO's work. We would welcome further information from FAO as to how the PNP area of the COVID-19 RRP is being supported, relative to other elements of the One Health Programme Priority Area (PPA).</p> <p data-bbox="485 1027 1877 1166">Noting that the impacts of COVID-19 have been disproportionately felt across the globe, we affirm our support for a rebalancing of resourcing to ensure that the Asia and Pacific region, particularly the SouthWest Pacific are adequately supported. With the programme extended until July 2023, we request further information as to how FAO may intend to achieve this balance.</p>
<p data-bbox="216 1198 445 1320"><b>Russian Federation</b> (Friday, 27 May 2022, 15:47)</p>	<p data-bbox="485 1198 1877 1369">Dear Director-General, We thank you for the information note on item 7 of the Agenda of the 170th Session of the FAO Council "Update on FAO's Response to COVID-19: Building to transform". First, we take note that as of February 2022 FAO has mobilized 35 percent of the USD 1.32 billion needed to implement FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme. We further note that a major part of the funds received were provided by the World Bank (USD 155 million).</p>

	<p>It is a matter of concern that out of the six priority areas identified in the Programme, two areas, namely trade and food safety standards, and preventing the next zoonotic pandemic, have been continuously underfunded, receiving just eight and five percent of the total amount mobilized respectively. Additionally, it is a matter of concern that Europe and Central Asia account for only three percent of the funds mobilized, even though it is in Europe that outbreaks of animal and zoonotic diseases have recently been identified, including foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, highly pathogenic avian influenza, and monkeypox. Thus, we would appreciate additional information on the reasons behind this clear imbalance, and on measures that FAO is planning to take in this regard.</p> <p>Second, the note refers to the current situation in Ukraine and its impact on food security, while failing to mention sanctions and other restrictive measures that play a much greater role in breaking supply chains throughout the world. We request that the Secretariat provide a detailed explanation citing statistical data on the impact of unilateral economic sanctions and other financial, economic, and trade measures of a coercive nature that have been introduced against a number of countries, bypassing the UN Security Council, thus limiting the ability of countries targeted by sanctions to rebuild after COVID-19, including in developing agricultural production, ensuring animal health, food security, and good nutrition for all. We expect that FAO's answer will also contain specific suggestions regarding steps that the Organization plans to take to remedy the situation, including as a member of the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance.</p> <p>Third, the Russian Federation will be grateful to receive factual information about the activities of the Food Coalition. Specifically, we are interested in data regarding the ten proposals that were selected to be funded out of the Coalition's budget, as well as which countries will benefit within this grouping. We are seeking information regarding the amount of funding that the Coalition was able to attract, its main donors, and FAO expenditure in support of the Coalition's activities. We would also like to request information on the focal points in charge of coordination for this topic. Mr Director-General, please accept the assurance of our highest consideration.</p>
<p><b>Indonesia</b> (Monday, 30 May 2022, 16:55)</p>	<p>Indonesia appreciates FAO's continuous updates on its comprehensive efforts to respond to the short-term and long-term effects of COVID-19 on global food security and nutrition. We welcome the progress of the seven priority areas under the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme. Within its mandate, we encourage FAO to continue its monitoring and analytical work and assist Members in recovering the different impacts of COVID-19 at a global, regional and country level, together with UN bodies and other development partners.</p>
<p><b>Japan</b> (Thursday, 9 June 2022, 3:20)</p>	<p>Japan is supporting FAO through voluntary contributions to strengthen the food production and supply system and to maintain and strengthen the free, open, and fair trade. Since last year, we have supported FAO in developing the guideline mentioned in paragraph 41 for building a more resilient and seamless global food supply chain. The work will be completed soon. The State of Food and Agriculture 2021 (SOFA) 2021 defined that systems, institutions, and people</p>

	<p>are considered resilient when they have at their disposal the five capacities: Preventive, Anticipative, Absorptive, Adaptive, and Transformative. Considering those perspectives, we support FAO’s work to develop guidelines to assist developing countries in formulating policies to increase the resilience of agricultural supply chains to external shocks. We hope that all stakeholders such as FAO, Members, and other development agencies will utilize this agricultural guideline when strengthening the resilience of the agricultural supply chain in developing countries.</p> <p>Regarding the Food Coalition, we acknowledge the details of 10 proposals currently shown on the FAO website, and some projects are planned to continue until 2026. We would like to ask you to provide us with additional information in writing on how the coalition will be organized and developed, including whether countries that did not submit any proposal, will have opportunities to cooperate with the Food Coalition in the future or how FAO contains each project outcomes under the umbrella of the coalition.</p> <p>Finally, Japan would like to ask FAO about its vision towards seven priority areas on the Programme to contribute to the global food systems after COVID-19. The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine has worsened the global food security situation, and we are now facing a global food crisis. In this circumstance, FAO’s current efforts are important to address the complex challenges of global food security, so we would like FAO to explain the outcome of its works in the 7 key priority areas concretely.</p>
<p><b>Malaysia</b> (Thursday, 09 June 2022, 14:02)</p>	<p>Malaysia appreciates the continuous efforts by FAO to seek to mitigate the enormous impacts of COVID-19 at global, regional and country level, including to agrifood systems and their resiliency. Malaysia recognizes FAO’s key role in the gathering, analysis, production and dissemination of data, information and assessments of the impacts of COVID-19 on agriculture, food security and nutrition through the use of real-time monitoring systems and data information platforms. Malaysia applauds FAO’s focus on seven areas of work especially Data for Decision-making: Ensuring quality data and analysis for effective policy support to food-systems and Zero Hunger and Boosting Smallholder Resilience for Recovery: Protecting the most vulnerable, promoting economic recovery and enhancing risk management capacities.</p>