

43rd Session of the Conference

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 12.2 – Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (13-15 July 2022)

Member Name	Comments
Colombia (Saturday, 10 June 2023 — 12.18)	<p>We appreciate the presentation of the Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and take note of its main conclusions.</p> <p>Colombia participated in the meetings of the Committee and is particularly grateful to FAO for its work in providing up-to-date and useful information on international markets for agricultural products, on agricultural negotiations in the World Trade Organization and on medium-term agricultural prospects. We reiterate the importance of transparency in the markets and the need to receive this information in a timely and updated manner, so as to optimize decision-making. Likewise, we thank FAO for the publication of the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) in 2022, which was presented to the Committee on Commodity Problems as an important input to learn about the state of agricultural commodity markets and their repercussions on current global problems.</p>
United States of America (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 10.10)	<p>The United States of America welcomes the continued focus of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) on factual analysis and endorses the Report of the 75th Session of the CCP.</p> <p>The report makes clear that trade, along with efficient and enhanced productivity and sustainable food systems, plays a vital role in improving global food security in all its dimensions. The United States of America concurs with this conclusion and supports further work in the CCP to highlight the positive contributions of trade and sustainable productivity growth to food security.</p> <p>The United States of America strongly supports FAO's work on data and transparency, including on commodity outlooks as well as FAO's leadership in the area of food price monitoring and analysis through the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). As emphasized in the CCP Report, FAO has vital role to perform in monitoring and analyzing the negative impacts of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine on global food security.</p> <p>The United States of America urges our fellow Members to commit to open and transparent sharing of market data to improve global coordination. Increased transparency, predictable policies and robust information systems are needed to increase market reliability.</p>

<p>Argentina (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 13.07)</p>	<p>Under the Written Correspondence Procedure established to address specific items on the Agenda of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference, the Permanent Representation of the Argentine Republic would like to share the following comments.</p> <p>As we have stated on other occasions, Argentina understands that the Committee on Commodity Problems plays a vital role in promoting, making transparent and expediting international trade in food and agricultural markets. We believe that there is still enormous potential for FAO to help, for example by becoming involved in discussions in a situation beset by overlapping crises of various kinds.</p> <p>Reiterating our comments made at the 171st Session of the FAO Council, we would like to emphasize the following points:</p> <p>Argentina welcomes FAO’s acknowledgement that trade, together with efficient, improved productivity and sustainable agrifood systems, play a key role in improving global food security in all its dimensions, while promoting agricultural and rural development.</p> <p>Our country welcomes the emphasis on the importance of more transparent agricultural trade, in the framework of a rules-based, freer and fairer, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and consistent with WTO rules.</p> <p>We appreciate the positive role of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and its Members in monitoring markets and improving transparency in agricultural markets, and the possible policy actions that can be shared.</p> <p>In the future, we look forward to more commodity assessments and results-based market forecasts, as well as further closer partnership with the WTO, in order to inform more and better policy discussions among Members.</p> <p>Finally, we would like the Bureau of the Committee to present a detailed report at the next session on the possibility of changing the name of the Committee to a positive title that reflects all the contributions that agricultural trade makes to global food security, not merely the “problems”.</p>
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<p>The Russian Federation (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 17.17)</p>	<p>The Russian Federation draws attention to the fact that the sharp rise in global food and agricultural commodity prices in March 2022 was a consequence of the sanctions unilaterally imposed against Russia by the United States of America, European Union countries and their Western henchmen, in violation of the UN Charter and international trade rules. Russia is one of the world’s largest exporters of food, agricultural commodities and fertilizers. We emphasize that Russia opposes the implementation of policies that are incompatible with WTO principles and create a trade imbalance. Additionally, we draw attention to the lack of progress in implementing the Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and the Russian Federation on the promotion of Russian food products and fertilizers on global markets as of 22 July 2022, which presents a risk for the stability of global markets. Countries of the Global South are being held hostage in this scenario.</p> <p>The Russian Federation supports the institutionalization of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP). As one of the first countries to support the creation of the GSP, Russia has allocated a total of over USD 8 million from the government and private sector to support its activities. As a result, a global network of over 700 soil laboratories has been established in 150 countries, most of which are part of the Global South, which faces more challenges than other countries when it comes to soil conservation, remediation and sustainable use. In recent years, Russia has supported the GSP’s implementation of integrated solutions to soil contamination problems, including heavy metals, as well as soil organic carbon management and sequestration, which contributes to the fight against climate change (RECSOIL programme).</p> <p>The Russian Federation also supports the promotion of soil research, and notably was a sponsor of the FAO World Soil Prize, which is named after Russian soil scientist Konstantin Dmitrievich Glinka. Since 2016, researchers from Argentina, China, Colombia, Congo and other countries have been awarded the prize.</p> <p>The Russian Federation dissociates itself from paragraphs 9 (i) and (j), 11 (d), and 27 (d) of the report, as we believe that in agreeing to them, the Committee has exceeded its own authority and FAO’s mandate in general in terms of qualifying the conflict in Ukraine.</p>
<p>Australia (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 18.02)</p>	<p>Australia expresses its appreciation to the Chairperson of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP), and we are pleased to endorse the findings and recommendations of the Report of the 75th Session in full. A free, fair, predictable and non-discriminatory, rules-based trading system is vital for achieving global food security and improved nutrition for all. We take this opportunity to again commend FAO for its consistent science- and evidence-based advocacy for open markets and well-functioning supply chains, including through provision of monitoring, analysis and policy advice. The work of FAO and the CCP has been instrumental in guiding FAO’s response to recent pressures on global supply chains – COVID-19 and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine being two of the most prominent – and keeping markets fully informed, able to respond quickly to shocks, and avoiding counterproductive policy measures that impede trade. In this regard, we highlight the important work of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). Australia is a strong supporter of AMIS and was pleased to provide a further voluntary contribution of AUD 250 000 to support its critical work in responding to the current global food security situation, building on our contribution of AUD 300 000 in 2021.</p>

	<p>As we consider all challenges ahead, Australia is committed to free and open trade as a key driver for improved food security and more resilient agrifood systems. International trade can help to overcome volatilities in food production caused by climate change, natural disasters, water availability, conflict and other supply side shocks.</p> <p>Market and food security information and analysis products are a core strength of FAO as a global reference point on agriculture and food security, and must be maintained. In this regard, we welcome the preparation and distribution of the flagship publication the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) as a definitive global source of information and analysis for policy makers.</p> <p>We welcome FAO’s continued commitment to providing its Members with advice, capacity building, analysis and information about agricultural markets. This helps increase understanding of the importance of trade for food security, nutrition and agricultural growth while promoting enhanced agricultural investment and productivity improvements. In light of the most recent State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) Report in 2022, which calls for repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable, we strongly support deepening analytical work on the linkages between trade and sustainability and trade and healthy diets. This will be particularly important to solving the unique challenges in regions such as the Southwest Pacific, including combatting non-communicable diseases.</p>
<p>Switzerland (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 8.45)</p>	<p>The current challenges that food systems face all over the world– such as conflicts, a growing global population, migration and urbanization, climate change, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity – make the transformation towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems essential.</p> <p>Switzerland recognizes the global need to accelerate the transformation towards more sustainable agriculture and food systems, and the role of food and agricultural trade in this endeavor.</p> <p>Therefore, Switzerland welcomes that the Report of the 75th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (document C 2023/23) and recognizes the important role of trade in sustainable food systems transformation to ensure food security and nutrition in the long term.</p> <p>In that sense, Switzerland welcomes and supports FAO’s work and efforts to deepen its analytical work on the linkages between trade and sustainability and trade and nutrition. This will assist countries in their evidence-based promotion of sustainable food systems transformation, including through trade policies.</p> <p>The above-mentioned challenges as well as the growing uncertainty due to shocks and conflicts make comparative ex-ante risk analyses essential for sound decision-making. Therefore, Switzerland appreciates FAO’s efforts to enhance its capacity for ex-ante risk analysis and risk assessment and encourages FAO to intensify these works in coherence with other stakeholders.</p> <p>Switzerland appreciates that FAO organised the first topical inter-sessional event on the important issue of repurposing of agriculture policies and support that took place after the 75th Session of the CCP. We encourage FAO to actively collaborate with other stakeholders (e.g. the World Bank, OECD, etc.) to make discussions even more useful and interconnected with similar discussions in other fora.</p>

<p>Canada (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 10.21)</p>	<p>Canada welcomes the CCP's Report, as well as the decisions of the 171st Session of the Council. Canada would also like to echo the CCP in highlighting the importance of free, fair, predictable, non-discriminatory, rules-based multilateral trade, under and consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, for working towards global food security and sustainable food systems.</p>
<p>New Zealand (Tuesday, 13 June 2023 — 11.00)</p>	<p>New Zealand would like to comment on the importance of the combined work of FAO and the WTO and in particular the important role that trade has in the transformation, as appropriate, towards more sustainable food systems. We fully support paragraph 15(e) of the Report and the need for FAO to maintain and strengthen cooperation with the WTO. Finally, New Zealand fully supports the text of section II of the CCP Report on World Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO), and in particular the importance of compliance with WTO rules to avoid export restrictions and other trade distorting measures. We also reiterate concerns made in paragraph 9(i) regarding the soaring prices of food, energy and inputs and the heightened concerns regarding world food security and New Zealand restates its position regarding the negative impact of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and calls on Russia to end this war. We support the endorsement of the Report of the CCP.</p>
<p>European Union (Thursday, 15 June 2023 — 19.35)</p>	<p>I am honoured to address you on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its 27 Member States (MS). Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, San Marino, Serbia, and Türkiye align themselves with this statement.</p> <p>The EU and its MS would like to acknowledge the quality and relevance of FAO's monitoring of commodity market developments and welcome the information provided on commodity market issues and problems, which contributes to an open, transparent and fair-trading system for all.</p> <p>We would like to reiterate our appreciation for the work performed by FAO on the flagship report on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets and state that we value the role of the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook and the long-term projections, including foresight. We encourage FAO to continue and strengthen its cooperation with all relevant UN agencies and other international organizations, including the development of the work on OECD-FAO Guidance on responsible agriculture supply chains, in order to further analyse market developments and the transition to sustainable food systems.</p> <p>Taking into account the existing uncertainties on the global market due to, <i>inter alia</i>, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the growing pressure on the farming community related to climate change and biodiversity concerns, the EU and its MS emphasize the significance of continuously monitoring the effects of these challenges, including by conducting scenario and sensitivity analyses. As guidance for FAO's future work, we suggest considering scenarios that can contribute to the monitoring and assessment of food security and nutrition challenges and taking a comprehensive food systems perspective in relation to the UN Food Systems Summit follow-up and in anticipation of the Stocktaking Moment.</p> <p>The EU and its MS express their appreciation for FAO Secretariat's detailed update on the beneficial role of food and agricultural trade, as well as regional trade agreements. It is essential to emphasize the role of an open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system established under the World Trade Organization (WTO). We strongly believe that such a trading system would support the transition towards sustainable food systems and enhance</p>

	<p>food security and nutrition for all, including with integrated regional approaches, making progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>In relation to the guidance provided on FAO's programme of work concerning commodity markets and trade within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, we would like to highlight the Committee's support in acknowledging the role of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) and of the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS). We further encourage Members to continue their support for these initiatives and the important work they accomplish.</p> <p>With these comments, the EU and its MS hereby endorse the report of the 75th session of the Committee on Commodity Problems</p>
<p>Japan (Friday, 16 June 2023 — 13.02)</p>	<p>We underscore the importance that FAO focuses on the areas in which FAO has comparative advantages and the needs identified in the on-going global food crisis, while avoiding duplication of work by other international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO).</p> <p>With the aim to ensure market transparency and promote informed decision-making, it is important to collect and analyse data and information in a just, objective and timely manner. In this regard, we welcome the report of the 171st Session of the FAO Council that acknowledges the positive role of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS).</p> <p>This year's G7 Hiroshima Summit under the Japanese presidency issued the Hiroshima Action Statement for Resilient Global Food Security where we committed to strengthening AMIS by supporting G20 efforts to broaden its coverage to include fertilizer and vegetable oils, as well as improving data provision including on stocks. We also hope that the FAO's new modelling project, in synergy with AMIS, will further enhance transparency in global agricultural markets in the future.</p> <p>We also welcome the development of guidelines to help developing countries increase the resilience of their agricultural supply chains as referred to in document CCP 22/6. Japan has financially supported this FAO project. The recently completed and released Guidelines, unveiled in May of this year, are geared towards the governments in developing states and development agencies to assist them in formulating policies to strengthen the resilience of agriculture against the external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. We encourage FAO to work on disseminating these Guidelines.</p>