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Agriculture development, food security and nutrition

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 23 May 2022

[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/76/L.55](#) and [A/76/L.55/Add.1](#))]

76/264. State of global food insecurity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [76/222](#) of 17 December 2021 on agriculture development, food security and nutrition, [76/166](#) of 16 December 2021 on the right to food, [70/259](#) of 1 April 2016, entitled “United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025)”, [72/239](#) of 20 December 2017, entitled “United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028)”, and [76/124](#) of 10 December 2021 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, Commission on Population and Development resolution 2021/1 of 23 April 2021 on population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development¹ and Security Council resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#) of 24 May 2018,

Expressing deep concern over the current state of global food insecurity, with 811 million people affected by hunger in 2020, exacerbating humanitarian needs and increasing the risk of famine around the world, especially in developing countries, including African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries,

Noting the unprecedented surge in international food commodity prices which, according to the Food Price Index of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reached their highest peak in March 2022 since its inception in 1990, in particular the rise in global prices of vegetable oil and grain, including wheat, further affecting people in vulnerable situations,

Noting also the rise in fertilizer prices and the shortages caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening future agricultural productivity and production, especially of wheat, maize, millet, rice, sunflower oil and essential food,

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2021, Supplement No. 5 (E/2021/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.



Expressing concern that the rise in food prices is reversing years of progress in reducing hunger and further undermining the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2,² exacerbating inequalities, especially between rural and urban areas, and disproportionately affecting the poor, persons with disabilities, women, youth, older persons and children, as well as those living in vulnerable situations,

Expressing its deep concern that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they also account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases, and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition,

Noting the continued crisis in supply chains and the disruptions to transport and shipping, contributing to a surge in shipping and transport costs, particularly affecting developing countries,

Noting also the rise in energy and fuel prices, which is increasing food commodity prices, narrowing fiscal space at a time when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing debt vulnerabilities and exposed fragilities in the global financial architecture, with many developing countries at high risk of or already in debt distress,

Deeply concerned, in this regard, that 60 per cent of least developed countries and other low-income countries are now assessed to be at high risk of or already in debt distress, while around a quarter of middle-income countries remain at high risk,

Noting with concern that droughts and other adverse effects of climate change, including more frequent and extreme weather events, are among the key factors contributing to a reversal in the long-term progress in fighting global hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity, making the prospect of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030 more difficult,

Recognizing that armed conflict impacts on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, livestock grazing areas and fishing grounds or destruction of food stocks and agricultural assets, or indirect, such as disruptions to food systems and markets, leading to increased food prices or decreased household purchasing power, or decreased access to supplies that are necessary for food preparation, including water and fuel,

Deeply concerned that food insecurity could aggravate social and civil unrest and instability,

Expressing deep concern about the impact of the food security crisis on the assistance provided by United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular the World Food Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Welcoming the call for urgent coordinated action on food security made on 13 April 2022 by the heads of the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, the World Food Programme and the World Trade Organization,

Noting the outcomes of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit convened by the Secretary-General,

² See resolution [70/1](#).

Reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger,

Determined to address the global food security crisis on the basis of unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation, and recognizing the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating a comprehensive global response, under the leadership of the Secretary-General,

1. *Calls upon* the international community to urgently support countries affected by the food security crisis through coordinated actions, including the provision of emergency food supplies, food programmes, financial support, and increased and diversified agricultural production, and to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization;

2. *Also calls upon* the international community, including the Group of Seven and the Group of 20, to place global food security at the top of their agendas and to support multilateral efforts in finding affordable solutions to the crisis;

3. *Welcomes* the initiative by the Secretary-General to establish a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, with a Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, and takes note with appreciation of the analysis and recommendations contained in the first report of the Group on the three-dimensional crisis;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to keep food and agriculture supply chains functioning, including capacity for seeding, protecting standing crops, rearing livestock, infrastructure for processing food, and all logistical systems, ensure the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, minimize food loss and waste, support workers and farmers, including women farmers, in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilize and allocate adequate resources and enhance sustainable infrastructure and institutional capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture and food systems, provide continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food, and provide adequate social safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods and increasing food prices on food insecurity and malnutrition, and underlines that this is exacerbating existing high levels of acute food insecurity and humanitarian needs;

5. *Urges* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to cooperate in the area of science, research, technology and innovation, including traditional knowledge, to bring sustainable practices to everyone, including women, youth, the poor, people in vulnerable situations, smallholder family farmers and micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises; leverage the role of digitization and artificial intelligence in supporting sustainable agriculture, which can help to improve the overall harvest quality and accuracy; and strengthen agroecological and other innovative approaches to sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to remain committed to keeping a strong focus on the sustainable transformation of the global agrifood system, aiming for a global system that can deliver sufficient, safe, affordable, nutritious food and healthy diets for all people and provide employment and income, particularly in rural areas, while at the same time fully respecting planetary boundaries in line with the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development,³ the Paris Agreement,⁴ the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁵ and the Convention on Biological Diversity⁶ and its upcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

7. *Calls upon* Member States and all relevant stakeholders to support farmers, including small-scale and family farmers, with technical means and assistance that enable them to produce their crops and livestock sustainably to generate income, promote social equity and eradicate poverty, including rural poverty, and protect the environment;

8. *Urges* Member States and other relevant stakeholders to refrain from hoarding food and commodities, including but not limited to wheat, maize, millet, rice, sunflower oil and fertilizers;

9. *Stresses* the need to keep trade channels and markets open for the movement of food, fuel, fertilizer and other agricultural inputs and outputs, and notes the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism;

10. *Recognizes* the critical role of the private sector in support of sustainable food systems and the positive contribution and improved quality of multi-stakeholder partnerships as a means to engage all key actors, and stresses the need for further efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships with the private sector;

11. *Stresses* the need to keep fuel prices affordable to limit the volatility of essential food prices, and calls upon countries not to hoard energy commodities, which causes shortages and price increases, and notes the importance of increasing energy efficiency and upscaling renewable energy policies and practices;

12. *Calls upon* the international financial institutions to find urgent, affordable and timely solutions to support developing countries, in particular those highly indebted, in responding to the food security crisis, through, but not limited to, facilitating, as appropriate, access to debt relief, concessional finance and grants;

13. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to contribute further to the Central Emergency Response Fund;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to heed the urgent United Nations humanitarian appeal to assist countries facing armed conflict, drought, starvation and famine with emergency aid and urgent funding;

15. *Encourages* Member States to support national pathways and action areas emanating from the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit convened by the Secretary-General to help to accelerate action to promote sustainable agriculture and food systems;

16. *Calls for* ensuring affordable access to foodstuff purchased by United Nations agencies, in particular the World Food Programme;

³ Resolution 70/1.

⁴ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

⁶ Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report periodically to Member States on new developments in the global food security situation and to present further options for actions to be considered by the membership, at the national, regional and global levels, including through the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, to alleviate and reduce the growing levels of food insecurity, especially those affecting developing countries;
18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to brief the General Assembly on a regular basis on the implementation of the present resolution.

*74th plenary meeting
23 May 2022*
