

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME FAO/WHO COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE

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Food safety and security in the European region and beyond, impacts of the Russian Federation's unprovoked and illegal act of aggression against Ukraine

(Prepared by the Ukraine)

1. The Russian Federation's unprovoked and premeditated attack on Ukraine is a gross violation of international law that has sent shockwaves around the world. It is not only Ukraine's very existence as a sovereign country that is under threat, as the impacts of the Russian Federation's illegal actions go much wider, including significantly impacting global food security and efforts to deliver the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. The illegal actions of the Russian Federation against Ukraine threaten the very fabric of our region, our core values and food safety and security. We call on CCEURO Members to increase their diplomatic and economic pressure on the Russian Federation to fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and internationally recognised borders by withdrawing their occupying forces immediately. Ukraine would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Member States of the CCEURO region for their continued support in seeking to bring an end to our struggles.
3. The People of Ukraine and the Government of Ukraine would like to express their appreciation to all the countries of the region, not only for their help in the resistance to Russian Federation and its satellites' aggression, but also for the efforts aimed at mitigating the humanitarian crisis.
4. In this appeal we would like to recall the United Nations General Assembly resolutions A/RES/ES-11/1 of 2 March 2022 entitled "Aggression against Ukraine", and A/RES/ES-11/2 of 24 March 2022 entitled "Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine", and the UN Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/49/1 of 4 March 2022, entitled "Situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression" and the resolution of the special session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe EUR/RCSS/R1 of 10 May 2022 "Health emergency in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression".
5. Ukraine would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment and continued support for the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, its subsidiary bodies and the WHO/FAO Regional Coordinating Committees. We further note the contribution, as set out in the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025, that Codex makes to the SDGs, including to SDG2 "*end hunger*" and its related target of "*Ensuring access by all people to safe, nutritious and sufficient food*". The illegal and intentional actions of the Russian Federation in Ukraine have already seriously undermined this and will likely lead to a humanitarian crisis at national, regional and global level.
6. For transparency we provide the following examples of the intentional actions of the aggressor, this is not an exhaustive list: (i) blocking of the food supply chains within and around Ukraine on the ground, sea and air; (ii) seizure of food stocks on the temporary occupied territories; (iii) theft of agricultural machinery and other equipment and machinery used in the cultivation, processing and distribution of food. We are also concerned about food fraud as food and agricultural products are stolen to be repackaged and sold with the proceeds going directly to the Russian Federation to fund their illegal war.

7. We invite Member States of the Codex European Region and of other regions of Codex to do whatever is possible to support the Government of Ukraine in protecting and promoting the rights of the population of Ukraine and, further, to consider all appropriate actions, in consultation with the Government of Ukraine, to address and mitigate the above-referenced risks, as well as others that may be identified.
8. We believe that through its actions and flagrant breach of international law the Russian Federation has lost their legitimacy to act in multilateral bodies such as Codex and call upon members of the Codex European Region not to engage or take account of any interventions made by the Russian Federation. We thank those Members who have already signalled their intent to dissociate themselves at this and future Codex meetings and hope other Members will join them in order to send a strong message and further isolate the Russian Federation, at least until such time as they cease all hostilities and withdraw from Ukrainian territory.
9. Finally, we request the next Regional Coordinator for Europe to explore options, in consultation with CCEURO Member States, to suspend the technical cooperation and assistance provided by the WHO and FAO in the Russian Federation. We further call upon the next Regional Coordinator to consider temporarily suspending all regional meetings scheduled to take place in the Russian Federation, including technical meetings and meetings of experts, as well as conferences and seminars whose composition is set by the Codex. Respectfully we request that this message be transmitted to the Commission and Directors-General of WHO and FAO and that the matter be brought to the attention of Members and respective global decision-making bodies.