



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States

51st Committee on World Food Security

(23-27 October 2023)

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

FINAL VERSION

**Item III: Coordinated Policy Responses to the food crises - The State of
Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023**

Dear Chair,

1. I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.
2. Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.
3. Let me first reiterate the EU statement of 15 October that condemns in the strongest possible terms Hamas and its brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attacks. We strongly emphasize Israel's right to defend itself, in line with humanitarian and international law, and call for the protection of all civilians at all times and the immediate release of all hostages without any precondition. We also reiterate the importance of the provision of urgent humanitarian aid and of safe and unhindered humanitarian access and stand ready to continue supporting those civilians most in need in Gaza in coordination with partners.
4. We congratulate FAO for this excellent presentation on behalf of the five UN agencies involved in drafting the SOFI report and for the detailed information provided in it.
5. We are relieved that food insecurity has not increased in certain regions since 2022 and has improved in Asia and Latin America. However, we remain deeply concerned about increasing hunger in Africa, Western Asia and the Caribbean.
6. The worrying food-security picture results from multiple drivers, including climate change, socio-economic disruptions and rising conflicts.
7. The data presented today, in line with the 2023 mid-term review of the Global Report on Food Crises, reconfirm that we remain off-track to achieve SDG2, with projections showing that there will still be almost 600 million people suffering hunger in 2030.

8. Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has exacerbated global food insecurity and increased market instability. We acknowledge that, in a scenario with no COVID-19 and no war, those projections could have been reduced by 119 million (or 20%), 23 million of whom would be free from hunger by 2030 if Russia were not waging war against Ukraine.
9. Russia's decision to terminate the Black Sea Grain Initiative, followed shortly by attacks on Ukraine's Black Sea and Danube ports, increases global markets instability.
10. Fragile environments and people in most vulnerable situations, notably women, girls or people with disabilities, are the most affected. We recall the need to avoid food exports restrictions, which exacerbate food price volatility.
11. In an increasingly volatile geopolitical and environmental landscape, soaring food, energy and fertiliser prices and inflation deepen inequalities and affect people's access to safe and nutritious food, resulting in a significant increase in food insecurity.
12. The EU and its members will continue to support all efforts to stabilise global food markets and to support countries and populations affected by food insecurity. We continue to strengthen the Solidarity Lanes, which have secured the export of more than 49 million tonnes of grain, oilseeds and related products from Ukraine since May 2022.
13. We need to address the root causes of food insecurity, deliver effective responses to climate change, conflict and inequalities, strengthen coordination, policy coherence, market transparency, social protection, rules-based trade and food-systems financing, and consolidate the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, in order to transition to more sustainable food systems and get back on track to achieve the targets of Agenda 2030.
14. We have earmarked 18 billion euro up to 2024 for global food security and nutrition, and will further support the transformation of food systems of partner countries under the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework.
15. We welcome the focus of the SOFI report 2023 on urbanisation, and the recommendations to strengthen the rural-urban continuum towards smart, circular and inclusive development.
16. We recognise the central role of the CFS, as the foremost inclusive and multi-stakeholder intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition, in coordinating effective responses to strengthen national policies to achieve the SDG2 and interconnected SDGs across the 2030 Agenda.

17. We commit to supporting the uptake of CFS policy recommendations and voluntary guidelines and to increasing their impact to foster the realisation of the right to adequate food. We stand ready to further engage with the CFS, while thanking you, Chair for your valuable engagement.

Thank you Chair.
