

**Eightieth Session**

## Agenda item

**General Measures for Food Security Caused by Conflict**

Sponsors: *Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Yemen*

*The General Assembly,*

*Approving* the positive efforts and contributions of the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Culture Organization (UNESCO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) in addressing food insecurity and supporting conflict-affected populations,

*Recalling* the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005, and all relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1296 (2000), 1894 (2009), 2175 (2014), and 2286 (2016), and its Presidential Statement of 9 August 2017, as well as United Nations Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018)

*Condemning* the starving of civilians as a method of warfare and the unlawful denial of humanitarian access to civilian populations, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Article 2 on the legal status of the territorial sea, Article 17 on the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea, Article 21 on laws and regulations relating to innocent passage, specifically the protection of humanitarian aid and attacks on food shipments in territorial waters jeopardizing global food security and the significance of sea lanes and ports and maritime trade routes and the territorial integrity of sovereign nations, Sustainable Development Goals especially 2/8/9/17 (Zero Hunger, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and the Paris Agreement (2015),

*Believing* that all parties to armed conflicts should fully comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, as applicable, and international humanitarian law, in particular their obligations under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the obligations applicable to them under the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 and 2005,

*Reaffirming* the primary responsibility of States is to protect civilians/civilian objects, needs of their civilian population, facilitate fast and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid relief to all those in need, national sovereignty, and cooperation between aid providers and aided states and,

*Stressing* that an effective response to food insecurity in armed conflict requires respect for

international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict, condemnation attacks on humanitarian aid and aid workers, reported obstruction of humanitarian assistance by armed non-state actors and understanding the need to protect humanitarian corridors and ensure the safety of aid workers, and the necessity of uninterrupted sea routes for commercial and humanitarian food shipments,

*Affirming* the importance of technical and financial assistance to strengthen global food security and resilience, support for national food production to provide for nations and peoples, mutually beneficial agricultural trade partnerships, the essential role of innovative agricultural technologies in building conflict-resilient food systems and long-term socio-economic stability, the possibility to encourage United Nations peacekeeping and other relevant missions, where appropriate, to assist in creating conditions conducive to safe, timely, and unimpeded humanitarian assistance,

*Concerned* by the destruction of farmland, irrigation infrastructure, transportation networks, and local markets caused by armed conflict, the erosion of rural livelihoods and increased dependence on food imports, the disruption of global supply chains and maritime trade routes driving price volatility and inflation particularly in import-dependent and transit countries, scale of humanitarian needs, the threat of famine in armed conflicts, rising global undernutrition in recent years, and the disproportionate impact on conflict-affected countries, including millions facing food insecurity or worse,

*Reaffirming* the importance of trade to food security for exporting and importing countries, the vulnerability of food import-dependent countries, the urgency of greater self-sufficiency in import-reliant nations, the need to diversify import sources and routes during conflicts and emergencies, harmonized food safety standards for safe cross-border movement during conflicts, and clear food labeling to support informed and safe consumer choices before and during crises,

*Recognizing* that stabilizing markets and lowering food prices increase access to food, the importance of resilient supply chains, logistics, and open local and global markets, the need for increasing predictability to reduce excessive volatility during food crises caused or worsened by supply disruptions, crop failures, pandemics, geopolitical conflict, or other shocks, and the importance of open and uninterrupted agricultural and food trade,

*Recognizing* the need for secure food access for recognized refugees and recognized refugee camps, income opportunities for recognized refugees to afford food, the value of integrating recognized refugees and displaced persons into agricultural work to strengthen livelihoods, food production, and host-state economic stability, and Cash-Based Assistance (CBA) as a means of supporting dignity of choice while stimulating local economies,

*Recognizing* perspectives of indigenous people, the disproportionate burden of malnutrition on women and children in conflict settings, the importance of school feeding programmes as a preventive measure and nutrition safety net during conflicts, emergencies, and supply disruptions, and targeted measures including nutrition education and maternal health support,

*Taking into consideration* the need to strengthen climate resilience in food security, climate change intensifying shortages through droughts and floods and complicating recovery in conflict zones, the importance of protecting farmland for adequate food production, and the positive impacts of utilizing unused arable land,

*Deeply concerned* by unremoved weapons, including explosives, in farmland, the lack of shifting from short-term emergency and recovery aid to long-term resilience, landmine clearance to restore arable land, localization of food production to reduce dependence on external aid, the role of the military in conflict-related food security, and the importance of food stocks in emergencies,

*Recognizing* the need for immediate action to assist countries in crisis, the importance of aid in addressing conflict-driven food insecurity, international cooperation and data-sharing to strengthen early warning systems, the necessity of resolving and reducing conflict to improve food security, and food security as a fundamental human right and pillar of international stability requiring collective political will,

1. *Stresses* an approach to dealing with conflict-related food insecurity that is divided into 3 stages:
  - a. Before conflict that is outlined in Operative Clause 2 and 3,
  - b. During conflict that is outlined in Operative Clause 4,
  - c. After conflict that is outlined in Operative Clause 5, 6, and 7;
2. *Calls upon* able Member States and other relevant stakeholders to protect supply chains, trade channels, and markets in their own countries, including by:
  - a. Supporting market stabilization,
  - b. Supporting standards alignment,
  - c. supporting regional and cross-border coordination, including:
    - i. functioning food and agriculture supply chains, including protecting farming capabilities including capacity for seeding, standing crops, livestock, processing capability, farming products logistics capabilities,
    - ii. reducing forms of protectionism,
    - iii. refraining from imposing export restrictions on essential food products and agricultural inputs, except under extraordinary circumstances,
    - iv. diversifying:
      1. supply sources through South-South Trade Agreements,
      2. export countries to alleviate heavy import dependence so that the cycle of food distribution continues,
      3. trading routes to combat complete shutdowns of food imports due to conflict;
    - v. implementing voluntary agricultural trade partnerships between countries providing agricultural technology assistance and recipient countries, including within the European Union, African Union, ASEAN(Association of Southeast Asian Nations), and other regional frameworks,
    - vi. aligning national food safety standards with the humanitarian Codex Alimentarius standards;
  - d. strengthening bilateral agreements to protect these trade routes, including those that focus on:
    - i. transparent information-sharing,
    - ii. early-warning systems,
    - iii. coordinated civilian maritime security (rather than unilateral military action),
    - iv. strengthen international agreements to protect key maritime trade routes through demilitarization of main maritime trade routes and ports for avoiding any potential violation of the international market.
    - v. voluntary regional cooperation frameworks;
  - e. respecting the expansion safe maritime corridors or “Blue Safe Zones” within territorial seas under UNCLOS Article 21, with respect for sovereignty,
  - f. Recognizing that militarization or control of maritime trade is a direct infringement to a country's sovereign right of free trade, confidentiality, and economic security,
  - g. guaranteeing the right to innocent passage under UNCLOS Article 17,
  - h. implementing the WTO Ministerial Decision on WFP Food Purchases Exemption from Export Prohibitions or Restrictions,
  - i. diversifying aid channels to multiple routes and modalities,
  - j. protecting safe, sustained, and predictable humanitarian access for food and supplies, including the:
    - i. use of negotiation to prevent attacks on aid workers and convoys to protect civilian life,
    - ii. establishment of humanitarian food corridors protected by activities under IHL under the cooperation of WFP through cooperation with the UN,
    - iii. assurance of the safe delivery of humanitarian aid by mandating the delivery of food via humanitarian corridors ratified by the state government;
3. *Urges* the international community to implement preventative measures to anticipate and mitigate conflict-caused food crises, including:
  - a. early-warning systems,
  - b. contingency planning,

- c. market monitoring through:
    - i. enhancing the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS),
    - ii. improving public availability of data on grains, fertilizers, and other key agricultural commodities across supply chains,
    - iii. supporting digital trade facilitation tools such as electronic exchanges of necessary council (IGC) dashboard to visualize near real-time grain trade flows,
  - d. data-sharing mechanisms,
  - e. Establish an individual international committee supervised by an observer nation appointed by the FAO, that ensures respect for national sovereignty and territorial rights, the delivery of food to the rightful place, trustworthy data sharing, and protects international food markets with force if necessary
  - f. integration of food security considerations into conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies, including addressing resource competition and climate shocks that may trigger or exacerbate conflicts;
  - g. nutrition indicators with anticipatory action thresholds,
  - h. accurate information that reach affected populations,
  - i. countering misinformation and propaganda,
  - j. increased investment in data-driven risk analysis to enable preventative responses,
  - k. market function assessments conducted by WFP, with respect for sovereignty,
  - l. establishing trustworthy data-sharing between Member States, including:
    - i. grain reserves/grain trade flows,
    - ii. harvest forecasts,
    - iii. food markets,
    - iv. standardization of data metrics to prevent false reporting and manipulation,
    - v. protocols protecting sensitive national economic data;
  - m. coordinated emergency reserves and surplus mechanisms, including:
    - i. food reserves created by WFP in various regions within nations worldwide,
    - ii. small reserves for food aid held by the WFP in different hard-to-access regions to cope with transport difficulties, delaying shipments,
    - iii. stockpiling of food by Member States, especially ready-to-eat meals,
    - iv. developing or strengthening of national emergency food reserves coordinated with FAO and WFP,
    - v. establishing the Standing Global Food Surplus Bank administered by the FAO in operational coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP), that:
      - 1. sustains an adequate food supply in different regions,
      - 2. circulates and delivers food and other commodities based on need and surplus;
4. *Emphasizes* that addressing food insecurity caused by conflict requires:
- a. a comprehensive approach guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international legal frameworks, including international humanitarian and human rights law, to urge compliance with international humanitarian law and the protection of food systems and humanitarian access,
  - b. compliance by all parties engaged in armed conflict to comply with the following obligations to international humanitarian law, including:
    - i. the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure essential for food security,
    - ii. facilitation of safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to those in need;
  - c. safeguarding of food production globally, including protecting:
    - i. agricultural land, including complementary facilities such as farms, storage facilities, transport routes, farmers, food supply workers,
    - ii. accurate records of land ownership and agricultural tenancy to protect the livelihoods of farmers during and after periods of conflict;
  - d. diplomatic engagement and in using international cooperation to:
    - i. strongly discourage the use of starvation as a method of warfare,
    - ii. support parties that facilitate humanitarian access/comply with food security obligations;
  - e. creating an evaluation criteria to determine aid distribution, taking into account such factors including but not limited to the aspects listed below, and to continue the consideration and examination of the aspects to determine the recipients of aid
    - i. the severity and background of the conflict,

- ii. the level of support already provided by other states,
    - iii. the degree of harm inflicted on affected populations
  - f. ensurance Member States' international economic policies do not disturb food security in conflict areas;
  - g. targeted economic measures to stabilize markets during conflict crises, including:
    - i. strategic grain releases,
    - ii. temporary subsidies or cash transfers for the poorest,
    - iii. careful management of import and export restrictions to mitigate inflation and ensure affordability,
    - iv. stabilization of the market price of food;
5. *Calls upon* capable Member States/organizations to urgently aid countries affected by food insecurity crises through measures, including:
- a. material aid (decided by making a list of needed materials, then distributing through WFP), including, with aid transitions and adjustments according to Market Function Assessments:
    - i. emergency food supplies,
    - ii. food programmes,
    - iii. seeds,
    - iv. tools,
    - v. livestock,
    - vi. creation of Public Distribution Systems;
    - vii. labeling food products
  - b. financial aid, to strengthen:
    - i. agricultural production, global food security/resilience, social protection, nutritional support, emergency response capabilities, stockpiles, distribution infrastructure, institutional response capabilities, livelihood restoration,
    - ii. rebuilding efforts of food-related infrastructure damaged by conflict (with the goal of reconstruction that incorporates resilience to future stocks),
    - iii. education/job training in agriculture,
    - iv. sustainable development programs;
  - c. technical aid, to strengthen:
    - i. logistical hubs and warehouses, local procurement capacity,
    - ii. global food security/resilience,
    - iii. early-warning systems, information sharing systems, market analysis capacities,
    - iv. domestic farmer trainings,
    - v. use of unused farmlands,
    - vi. climate-resilient agricultural and water infrastructure technologies modeled upon successful national frameworks,
    - vii. climate-smart agriculture including drought-resistant seeds,
    - viii. digital tools such as satellite crops monitoring,
    - ix. innovative farming technologies such as crescent moon farming and pivot irrigation circles, sprinklers and use of hydroponic systems,
    - x. efforts to build fertilizers from human/food waste (to substitute imported ones),
    - xi. FAO Digital Agriculture Centres of Excellence (through WAICAT and FAOSTAT);
  - d. macroeconomic and trade policy to support:
    - i. debt relief,
    - ii. foreign exchange support for food imports,
    - iii. measures to maintain open trade of essential food commodities,
    - iv. efforts of Cash-Based-Assistance (CBA), where market functionality has been verified by WFP and the nation is within 24 months after conflict,
    - v. Market Price Monitoring (MPM) by UN agencies and NGOs to prevent hyperinflation,
    - vi. Minimum prices to support farmers for Public Distribution Systems,
    - vii. Market Functionality Mapping (MFM) assessments with WFP before the disbursement of aid to ensure supply chains can support demand,
    - viii. a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization;
    - ix. create a Public Distribution System for food,
  - e. humanitarian aid (channeled through transparent, vetted organizations such as the FAO and WFP to:

- i. combat food insecurity, protect recognized refugees, assist IDP camps, protect/reconstruct infrastructure, protect/assist farmers,
  - ii. ensure better/safer transportation of aid/food resources, ensure trade systems,
  - iii. assist in combating climate/natural disasters, establish climate-resilience systems,
  - iv. assist in promoting/establishing produce transport systems, support rapid response to food crises,
  - v. remove explosives (including landmines),
  - vi. support general food distributions, implement food vouchers, support school feeding programs,
  - vii. Implement therapeutic feeding for severe acute malnutrition,
  - viii. support micronutrient supplementation efforts,
  - ix. increase support for breastfeeding and infant nutrition,
  - x. prevent life-threatening malnutrition among vulnerable populations (ie, women, children, elderly, disabled),
  - xi. develop nutritional guidelines for feeding programs,
  - xii. Implement the WHO Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative in health facilities,
  - xiii. Create educational opportunities through WFP and FAO,
  - xiv. Create a guideline on education through UNESCO,
  - xv. expansion of home-grown school feeding programmes linking local smallholder farms to school cafeterias,
  - xvi. implementing a distribution system that ensures the production of surplus agriculture;
- 6. *Urges* aid implementation methods/strategies (that aim for immediate short-term urgent relief in conflict-affected areas, followed by a shift to weaning off the aid and becoming self-sufficient), including:
  - a. a tiered response strategy that puts forward three priorities in order of importance:
    - i. nations currently experiencing conflict,
    - ii. post-conflict situations,
    - iii. countries recovered from conflict, transitioning into non-aid recipients;
  - b. a dual-track approach that recognizes the difference between:
    - i. short-term aid that aims to provide immediate relief to conflict-stricken nations,
    - ii. long-term aid that seeks to create a resilient, self-sufficient, non-aid recipient nation;
  - c. a report to be made and submitted to FAO to show the utilization of money given by donor states yearly;
- 7. *Emphasizes* support for internally displaced persons, recognized refugees, and their host communities in crisis-affected areas, including:
  - a. targeted livelihood assistance,
  - b. nutrition programs,
  - c. equal job opportunities for recognized refugees, with support from UNHCR
  - d. developing/publishing the Unified United Nations Operational Guidelines on Food Distribution in recognized refugee Camps, from the FAO, WFP, and UNHCR, which should include:
    - i. minimum nutrition standards with special attention to vulnerable groups,
    - ii. transparent and gender-sensitive food distribution systems to prevent diversion, exploitation, and unequal access,
    - iii. annual reporting to governments on food access, malnutrition levels, and distribution efficiency in recognized refugee camps;
  - e. establishing a Food Security Coordination Platform by UNHCR, which should include:
    - i. real-time data sharing on recognized refugee population movements,
    - ii. food demand forecasts, similar early-warning systems for projecting food insecurity risks, and supply-chain disruption information,
    - iii. biannual coordination meetings among recognized refugee-hosting States, UNHCR, and regional recognized refugee organizations to enhance emergency preparedness;
  - f. assisting countries where recognized refugees constitute more than 1 percent of the population, by capable and willing States, which should include:
    - i. financial support for national policies,
    - ii. ensuring minimum nutritional standards,
    - iii. support for social and economic integration,
    - iv. support the strengthening of local food self-production in recognized refugee-hosting countries,
    - v. support in cooperation with UNOPS to safeguard maritime corridors and land

transportation routes in conflict-affected areas hosting recognized refugees and asylum seekers,

- vi. monitoring and assessment systems in coordination with UNHCR to ensure
- vii. sufficient, timely, and equitable food supply,
- viii. support of the UNICEF Maternal Nutrition Acceleration Plan in IDP settlements, host communities, and recognized refugee-hosting countries, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR.