

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ on food security

September 4, 2024

Grounded in the results of the high-level Summit on Peace in Ukraine held on June 15-16, 2024 in Switzerland, based on the elaborations of the Food Security Working Group, as well as the results of the productive and constructive dialogue held at this thematic Conference on food security on September 4, 2024, we are committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine thus ensuring security and freedom of civilian navigation.

We reaffirm our support of the Joint Communiqué of the mentioned Summit dated June 16, 2024, which laid the foundation for achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on international law, starting with the United Nations Charter.

The ongoing war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine caused significant harm to food security in the region and around the world caused the destruction of Ukraine's civilian port infrastructure, disruption of logistics chains, and significant damage to Ukraine's agriculture.

We recall that global food security depends on uninterrupted production, storage and supply of food commodities, that food must not be instrumentalized against civilians at war under any circumstances, and that starvation of civilians is impermissible as a method of warfare or combat.

Together we share a common vision on the following important aspects.

1. Free and safe commercial navigation, security and access to commercial sea and river ports in the Black and Azov Seas basins

Global food security needs require that special attention be paid to free and safe commercial navigation, security and access to commercial sea and river ports in the Black and Azov Seas basins, also ensuring safety to infrastructure along the Danube and in Ukraine inland waterway Danube ports.

We therefore deplore deliberate and indiscriminate military attacks on merchant ships along their entire route to and from Ukraine, as well as on Ukraine's civilian port infrastructure facilities in the Black and Azov Seas.

International cooperation and assistance are of utmost importance for the safety of merchant ships and protection of civilian port infrastructure of Ukraine, which is one of the key producers and suppliers of food and related goods in the world.

Helping Ukraine to rebuild its destroyed port infrastructure, as well as strengthening its defence capabilities and other instruments to support uninterrupted service of port infrastructure, is one of the key priorities that we share.

In this regard, we commit to make additional efforts to fully implement the provisions of the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) and other relevant documents related to the safety of navigation of the International Maritime Organization.

We affirm the importance of rights of navigation in the Black and Azov Seas, protecting the rights as provided for in applicable international law, including as reflected in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982, and in accordance with the Montreux Convention Regarding the Regime of the Straits of 1936 and other applicable instruments.

We emphasize that the provisions of applicable international humanitarian law during armed conflicts at sea must be respected so that commercial navigation, which ensures global food security, especially in third countries suffering from hunger, is not interrupted or hampered by attacks directed at both merchant ships, as well as at civilian port infrastructure, which should have full protection against military attacks.

We emphasize the importance of providing appropriate support for the protection of commercial and civilian port infrastructure.

The coastal states of the Black Sea commit to continue their work and increase their efforts, including mine counter-measures for the safety of commercial navigation.

2. Continuous efforts to eradicate and prevent hunger caused by the war against Ukraine

Ukraine is one of the key producers and suppliers of food in the world, which continues to faithfully fulfil its duties as a reliable partner despite the war. In this regard, we recognize the need to increase efforts so that Ukraine can reliably and safely produce and supply its agricultural products to all those who need them.

We express our intention to continue supporting jointly with the World Food Programme the "Grain from Ukraine" humanitarian initiative as an indispensable mechanism in addressing global food insecurity, providing emergency response to the most vulnerable populations and alleviating suffering in areas facing conflict and food price increases.

We commit to further efforts to establish additional logistics hubs, supply chains for ready-to-consume products, and other steps to improve efficiency and ensure uninterrupted supply between exporting and importing countries. We will continue to improve logistics routes along the Solidarity Lanes.

3. Demining of the lands in the interests of global food security

Lands that are potentially contaminated with mines and other explosive substances, including agricultural lands, should be cleared from mines (demined) as soon as possible.

We support Ukraine's development and approval of a national demining strategy, and we will continue to support Ukraine's demining efforts.

We reaffirm our readiness to continue supporting faster humanitarian demining through financial support, supply of equipment and personnel training, and call on demining operators to increase their presence in Ukraine.

4. Investments in Ukrainian agricultural production and economic recovery

The cooperation of countries with the aim of achieving global food security requires our joint efforts to restore the Ukrainian economy and, in particular, the production and supply of agricultural products.

We consider the assistance provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to be of vital importance, given that both Rome-based organizations play a crucial role in mitigating the devastating effects that war has on food security, not only in Ukraine but also globally. They do so by delivering emergency food aid to the most vulnerable populations, providing resources, technical expertise, and support in rebuilding productive capacities.

We intend to cooperate in supporting Ukraine to restore its capacities in agricultural production and logistics, as well as supporting long-term investments in Ukrainian agricultural production, port infrastructure and logistics routes based on advanced technologies.

Comprehensive, just and lasting peace for Ukraine is an important component of ensuring global food security and the Sustainable Development Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition. We call on all countries to redouble their efforts to meet this goal.