



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement of

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Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations

at the Security Council High Level Open Debate on

"Famine and Conflict-Induced Global Food Insecurity"

United Nations
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Mr. President,

On the outset I would like to thank the United States for convening this timely and important meeting.

Our food systems are failing. Food prices on global markets soared to a three decades' maximum, hundreds of millions of people go to bed hungry every day, children are starving. The disproportionate impact of the impending crisis is felt in developing countries; affecting the most vulnerable communities. We are witnessing the most devastating impact on Haiti, Yemen, Sudan, the Sahel and elsewhere, and the international response is lagging behind.

World Food Program has recently announced the cutting of lifesaving food programs, due to a chronic lack of funding. Despite their best efforts, it is not currently possible to address the growing humanitarian need around the world and meet the minimum recommended kilocalories for all. We are leaving those in need behind – and the international community must act to reverse this trend.

The UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment that took place last week in Rome has underlined the need for urgent action to tackle the unprecedented food crisis on a global scale. Slovakia has reiterated its full support to agricultural and food systems transformation towards more sustainability and resilience, namely through “Slovak Strategic Plan 2023-2027 of the EU Common Agricultural Policy” and the document “Vision of building Modern Slovak Agriculture until 2035.” We remain committed to the implementation of SDG2 – zero hunger and, as part of the EU, we are in the forefront of combatting food insecurity and malnutrition through funding and assistance.

Mr. President,

Slovakia have co-signed the Joint Communiqué Condemning the Use of Food as Weapon of War. In our view, this statement should be self-evident. Starvation of civilians as a method of war is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and perpetrators should be held accountable. Yet, unfortunately, we are witnessing the use of food as a weapon of war by a permanent member of the Security Council.

We seize this opportunity to strongly condemn the ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine in blatant violation of international law and support the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Global food security has for a long time been under strain due to climate change and the pandemic, and this dire situation is further exacerbated by Russia's continuing war on Ukraine and their recent refusal to renew the Black Sea Grain Initiative. This deplorable act puts millions of people around the world into risk of malnutrition and famine due to disrupted production and supply chains. Let us not be fooled – their subsequent symbolic handout of grain portion to selected countries will not help stabilize the crisis.

We urge the Russian Federation to stop using food as a weapon, to rejoin the Black Sea Grain Initiative without delay, and to cease the illegal blocking of Ukrainian sea ports. Hunger is both a consequence and a cause of conflict and this vicious circle can only be broken through international cooperation, respect for international law and enhanced solidarity.

I thank you.