

№093

13.06.2022

To Director-General  
of Food and Agriculture Organization  
Of the United Nations,  
Qu Dongyu  
e-mail : [Director-General@fao.org](mailto:Director-General@fao.org)  
cc: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome, Italy  
Tel:(+39) 06 57051  
e-mail: [FAO-HQ@fao.org](mailto:FAO-HQ@fao.org)

Dear Mr Qu Dongyu,

We address you on behalf of Ecoaction NGO – a Ukrainian civil society organization that unites the efforts of experts and activists in a joint struggle to protect the environment. As an Ecoaction team that is engaged in advocating sustainable agricultural practices, we systematically contribute to global food security both in Ukraine and worldwide. Currently, during the war, our effort is put to prevent the uprising global food crisis.

First of all, we would like to express our gratefulness for your continuous and supportive actions and statements regarding Russia's war in Ukraine. As civil society representatives, we sincerely believe that such solidarity and cooperation will undoubtedly make a difference and impact peace and sustainability. Thus, we've honored to share our vision on behalf of the organization.

On the 6th of June, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed that Russia should be excluded from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations for Kremlin's role in the current food crisis.<sup>1</sup> We inflexibly stand with this President's appeal to keep Russian Federation out of international institutions and take pressure on Russia's aggression as follows:

We call on Food and Agricultural Organization to take into deeper consideration the naval blockade in the Black Sea<sup>2</sup>, initiated by Russian Federation. Since the beginning of the full-scale

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/zelenskyy-wants-to-kick-russia-out-of-fao/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/05/24/russia-ukraine-blockade-food-crisis-black-sea/>

invasion to Ukraine, Russia has blocked every maritime trade route both for Ukrainian ships and international vessels located in Ukrainian ports. As of now, Russia did not propose any diplomatic solution to the issue, instead, Kremlin threatens global food security in return for a lifting of sanctions.<sup>3</sup> This consideration cannot be perceived as a fair price for food system stability because so far Russian Federation proved to have no compliance with obligations in this war. Consequently, we ask FAO not to support weakening sanctions as most of the countries intentionally avoid sanctioning the agriculture sector to prevent the food crisis.<sup>4</sup> On the contrary, we expect further and more productive contributions from your side to stop the unjust grain blockage.

Secondly, we would like FAO to stress the facts of numerous grain stealing committed by Russia in occupied Ukrainian territories, including grabbed seaports and silos<sup>5</sup> According to the estimation, Russian Federation has already 600 000 tons of Ukrainian grain and exported some of them<sup>6</sup>. Despite being unconditionally illegal, this crime also harshly affects the Ukrainian economy which is highly dependent on agricultural trade. While Ukraine conscientiously seeks opportunities to sell the grain under controlled areas, Russian occupants despise international economic agreements. We urge you to keep track of concernedly growing cases of grain theft and to encourage non-impacted countries to give up buying this grain.

Ultimately, **we urge FAO to exclude Russian Federation as Member State in Organization.** Russian aggressive war in Ukraine provoked millions of people in countries across the world into poverty and hunger<sup>7</sup> while Russia bears no responsibility for such crimes at full scale. As Russian Federation has become completely and directly guilty of the upcoming food crisis and market instability of commodity prices, it is definite that Kremlin State does not serve the purpose of ensuring food security – an official mission of yours. We must highlight that we do not suggest quitting agricultural trade with Russia or isolating it in the agri sector, nonetheless, our team deliberately stands for Russian deprivation of destructive influence in geopolitics.

Since Russian Federation was found consistent in violating international humanitarian regulations and committing war crimes, we shall not anticipate the food crisis caused by Russia to be regulated by global conventions. We hope that after more than one hundred days of full-scale

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/russia-ukraine-war/kremlin-says-sanctions-against-russia-cause-threat-of-global-food-crisis/2595475>

<sup>4</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-politics-united-nations-antony-blinken-5296aae2dec1db42f17bd98efb627b91>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/05/world/africa/ukraine-grain-russia-sales.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61736182>

<sup>7</sup> Information note “The importance of Ukraine and the Russian Federation for global agricultural markets and the risks associated with the war in Ukraine” - <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9013en/cb9013en.pdf>

war and consequent global terrorism, FAO has become fully aware of the impossibility to solve this crisis in classic diplomacy. Our team sincerely believes that Food and Agriculture Organization has enough political will to eliminate Russian Federation membership. Such a decree might be formal, though symbolically powerful, answer to permissive Kremlin terrorism.

If you have any clarifications or questions, please contact us by e-mail: [lf@ecoact.org.ua](mailto:lf@ecoact.org.ua).

Executive director

NGO Ecoaction



Natalia Gozak