



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL – OPEN DEBATE

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY: FOOD UNDER FIRE: THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S ROLE IN MITIGATING GLOBAL AND LOCAL FOOD CRISES

STATEMENT BY CLAUDIO NARDI

CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

President,

Thank you for convening today's debate, pursuant to Resolution 2417. Addressing questions of food security is indeed core to the Security Council's mandate. We thank WFP for their briefing and note its contribution to the humanitarian arm of the UN's work. Without clear and concerted action by this Council, we may see a severe rise in food insecurity in the coming months – indeed, the signs are already there. Let me briefly touch on challenges to production, transmission, and provision.

President,

On food production: war, of course, disrupts agriculture, turning self-reliant producers of food into dependent consumers. Food prices soar, leading to shortages. Explosive remnants of war pollute water sources and contaminate breadbasket countries. To give one example, around 25% of Ukraine's territory is suspected of contamination; we note the important work of UNMAS

amongst others on this issue. But both inside and outside situations of armed conflict, global heating is displacing farmers and herders, destroying livelihoods and upending food markets. The impending El Niño may in addition worsen these circumstances. When a disrupted climate means that food can no longer be produced, this is also a food security issue – and one this Council should address at source.

President,

Once food is grown, it must be transmitted to where it is needed – alongside the fertilisers and other important substances that enable food production. The ongoing crisis in the Strait of Hormuz has inflated food prices across the world, pushing millions into poverty. For this amongst many reasons, the conflict must end for good. We note that the UN has repeatedly raised this alarm and note the work of the FAO amongst others. We also support the ongoing efforts to establish a UN task force to facilitate the safe passage of fertilizers and related raw materials for humanitarian purposes, and urge these to continue despite difficult circumstances.

President,

Finally, food must never be restricted in conflict settings. As is common knowledge, armed conflict and violence remain the primary drivers of acute food insecurity in 12 out of 13 hunger hotspots identified by the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Governments and armed groups, over and over again, have used food as a weapon of war, starving civilians as a means of presupposed leverage. Just last year, we saw conflict-related famine conditions in both Gaza and parts of Sudan – the first time this century that two separate famines have been recorded simultaneously. In Gaza, we have seen Israeli officials order a ‘complete siege’, in violation of international humanitarian law. The solution, at its basis, is simple – let aid in. There is no acceptable argument for starvation. We note in this respect that the intentional starvation of civilians is a War Crime over which the International Criminal Court has jurisdiction, both in international and non-international armed conflict.

President,

I wish to end with a small aside. In 1944, reacting to reports that millions of people were in grave danger of famine as a result of the Second World War, a clinical study was run in the US - the Minnesota Starvation Experiment. The experiment sought to guide Allied relief by better understanding the long-term effects of severe food restrictions and the effectiveness of rehabilitation on otherwise healthy adults. The results, as you can imagine, are harrowing. But perhaps most important to us today is what they found after the formal end of the experiment: many of the subjects were unable to retain a healthy relationship to food over the course of their lives. The lesson for all of us is this: severe food insecurity is not simply a matter of being hungry. When it affects children, it is an attack on the future, depriving them of the nutrition they need to grow, learn, and reach their full potential. But for all those affected, in many cases hunger never truly goes away.

President, we have enough food to feed the world. This Council, supported by this Organization, is capable of ensuring that we do so. Let us work urgently to that end.

I thank you.