



IRELAND

United Nations Security Council
2021 — 2022

Concept Note

United Nations Security Council Arria-Formula meeting on Conflict and Hunger

**Thursday 21 April, 14h30-18h00 EDT
ECOSOC Chamber**

Introduction

2022 is forecast to be the most food insecure year on record globally. Conflict has driven millions more people across multiple continents into acute food insecurity. According to the FAO and WFP, the number of people affected, with conflict and insecurity as the main driver, rose from 99 million in 2020 to 139 million in 2021. A further seismic rise is inevitable in the current context. This steep increase adds to the hundreds of millions who had already been suffering acute hunger, accelerated by two years of the Covid-19 pandemic. The combined impacts of conflict, food, fuel and fertiliser price rises, displacement, loss of livelihood and climate change has resulted in acute food insecurity in countries such as Afghanistan, Haiti, Syria, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. In a number of these countries, populations have been projected to experience Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 5 – catastrophic famine, starvation and death.

The consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine are having a devastating impact on national, regional and international food systems, triggering a global wave of collateral food insecurity. Even if the war on Ukraine were to end immediately, the impacts on global food security and nutrition will have long lasting impacts on global food systems and have the greatest impact in the most vulnerable countries. The need to address conflict-induced hunger is more urgent than ever. This Arria formula meeting will allow practitioners active on the conflict and hunger agenda, both in the UN system and in the field, to share updates on the alarming global trends of conflict-induced hunger and recommend possible actions to break the cycle of conflict-induced food insecurity. It will also facilitate Member State engagement on questions of the mutually reinforcing impacts of conflict and food insecurity in the Security Council, at the Peacebuilding Commission, in the Economic and Social Council and in other fora, to share understandings of the issues driving conflict and hunger.

Context

The UN Security Council has a clear and defined but under-utilised role in addressing instances of conflict-induced hunger. UNSC Resolution 2417, which was adopted unanimously in 2018, signalled the clear political will of the Security Council and its members to break the vicious cycle between armed conflict and food insecurity. It calls on all parties to conflict to comply with international law and condemns the use of starvation as a method of warfare. The resolution further acknowledges the link between conflict and hunger and its impacts for global peace and security.

Under Resolution 2417, OCHA has alerted the Security Council to famine risk in conflict situations on a number of occasions: South Sudan in August 2018, Yemen in October 2018; on conflict-induced food insecurity and the risk of famine in the Democratic Republic of Congo, northeast Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen in September 2020 and on Tigray, Ethiopia in May 2021.

UNSC Resolution 2573 adopted in April 2021, placed strong emphasis on the protection of civilian objects indispensable to food production and to food systems and demonstrated the continued concern of the Security Council of the consequences of conflict on food security.

Guiding Questions

*How could a more robust understanding of hunger, as a driver and consequence of conflict, support context specific, timely and tailored responses of the Security Council aimed at reducing humanitarian need?

*The last White Note on famine risk in conflict situations was received by the Council in May 2021. With a marked increase in food insecurity as a consequence of conflict, would further White Notes help facilitate earlier action by the Security Council, in response to conflict-induced hunger?

*What other actions could be taken to strengthen anticipatory action by the Security Council?

*How best to ensure accountability for instances of conflict-induced hunger in contravention of International Humanitarian Law?

*How might the coordination role of the Global Response Crisis Group on Food, Energy and Finance bring together actors on conflict and hunger, including the Security Council?

*Can the Security Council and wider UN system benefit from best practices at the regional organisation level in its response to conflict and hunger?

Briefers

- *Chief Economist, **Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**, Mr. Máximo Torero Cullen*
- *Director of Emergencies, **World Food Programme (WFP)**, Ms Margot van der Velden*
- **UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food**, Mr. Michael Fakhri
- *Regional Director for the Horn of Africa with **Concern Worldwide**, Ms. Amina Abdulla*

Format

All Member States, Permanent Observers, UN entities and civil society organisations are invited to attend. The meeting will take place in the ECOSOC Chamber.

Following opening remarks by the Permanent Representative of Ireland, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, who will chair the meeting, briefers will be invited to make their statements. This will be followed by short interventions and questions by Members of the Security Council. The floor will then open to other Member States.

To facilitate as many Member States as possible, interventions should not exceed three minutes.

The Arria meeting will be conducted in English and will be broadcast on UN Web TV.

To inscribe to deliver a statement, please provide Member State name and name and title of speaker to pmun.events@dfa.ie with the subject line: Conflict and Hunger Arria Meeting.

A compilation of statements will be prepared by the chair. Civil Society Organisations are invited to make submissions in writing to pmun.events@dfa.ie for inclusion in the compilation.

