



Addressing Global Food Insecurity and Famine Risk: Reinforcing Collective Impact – Roundtable Discussion, ECOSOC Chamber, 29 April 2024

Malta Statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Vanessa Frazier
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Thank you Chair,

As we meet today, famine – an aberration in our time of industrial food production – stalks millions. The findings of the latest Global Report on Food Crises paint a disturbing picture of the world we live in. It underscores the well-known consequences of conflict, climate, and economic shocks on global food security.

These deeply concerning levels of conflict-induced food insecurity impact a number of crises around the world.

In the Gaza Strip, we are witnessing the highest number of people facing catastrophic hunger ever recorded due to the arbitrary, bureaucratic and administrative impediments placed on the UN's humanitarian response by Israel.



As the brutal war in Sudan rages for a second year, the country is facing record-level hunger levels on the brink of famine. More than 20 million people are facing acute food insecurity. Malta remains especially disturbed by reports of acute malnutrition conditions in the Zamzam camp of Darfur.

We are also extremely alarmed at the satellite indications of imminent, widescale violence in the town of El Fasher. The parties must deescalate and facilitate UN and humanitarian staff in aiding those in IDPs in El Fasher and surrounding camps. If this is not implemented, the situation – included cases of conflict-induced food insecurity – will only worsen.

Chair,

As highlighted in the report, economic shocks have also contributed to why millions face acute hunger, particularly to low-income and import-dependant countries.



The international community must support efforts towards enhancing government capacities in crisis management, and prioritising the development of national strategies that integrate food security with economic planning, social protection, and emergency preparedness.

However, it is not enough to rely solely on emergency humanitarian food assistance in the crises of our times. Resilient agri-food systems that can withstand shocks from climate change, economic volatility, and conflict are vital.

We know that early time-sensitive support and interventions with farmers, fishers, herders, and foresters, whose basic means of survival have been affected by conflict or climate, have enormous positive impacts on the availability of nutrition in such emergencies.

As such, we must seek to scale up both emergency food assistance and agriculture in emergencies for the maximum benefit of populations.



As members of the United Nations, we can and must do better to accelerate the achievement of SDG2 and eradicate the scourge of hunger. A task which will require cooperation, and the scaling-up of investment, as well as economic, development and humanitarian support simultaneously.

These are the only steps which will allow us to simultaneously arrest the hunger of today and prevent the starvation of tomorrow.