



Concept Note

United Nations Security Council Ministerial High-level Open Debate ***Food Under Fire: The Security Council's Role in Mitigating Global and Local*** ***Food Crises***

25 August 2026 at 10:00 am
UN Security Council Chamber

Introduction

Conflict remains the leading driver of acute food insecurity worldwide. Through Resolution 2417 (2018), the Security Council recognised the direct link between hunger and armed conflict and affirmed that conflict-induced food insecurity can constitute a threat to the maintenance of international peace and security. Yet, eight years later, record levels of food insecurity and hunger persist, driven increasingly by conflict, violence, and their reverberating effects.

Since the adoption of Resolution 2417 (2018), the full-scale war in Ukraine, and more recently the Iran conflict, have also heightened concerns about the resilience of global food and agriculture supply chains in areas which overlap with active armed conflicts. Disruptions to energy flows, fertiliser supplies, maritime trade routes, and humanitarian logistics risk exacerbating food insecurity and hunger in countries already facing acute food insecurity and humanitarian crises.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has warned that the crisis in the Strait of Hormuz risk pushing an additional 45 million people into acute food insecurity or worse if the conflict continues. This on top of the already 318 million people facing acute food insecurity globally.

This comes in addition to conflict driven famine conditions, which were confirmed in part of Gaza and parts of Sudan in 2025, marking the first time this century that two separate famines have been recorded simultaneously. While other countries and regions such as Afghanistan, Sahel, and South Sudan have also seen a deepening food insecurity.

Objective

Against this backdrop, the international community faces an urgent challenge: translating the commitments of Security Council Resolution 2417 (2018) into effective action.

This open debate will bring together Security Council members and the broader UN Membership to identify concrete measures to prevent conflict-driven hunger from fuelling further transboundary instability, displacement, and insecurity. The open debate will provide an opportunity to reaffirm support for the Resolution 2417 (2018) and recognising the sustained impact of conflicts on food security, while considering new ways in which the United Nations, the Security Council, and Member States can utilise this tool to mitigate hunger in an emergency, time-sensitive, and prevention-oriented manner.

The discussion will also seek to identify how the Council can better respond when armed conflict threatens food insecurity, including in cases where its effects are felt far beyond the immediate area of hostilities.

It will ask how the Secretary-General's good offices can be used to protect civilian food supply routes, both land and maritime; and how Member States, UN entities, international financial institutions, regional organisations, and private-sector actors can coordinate more effectively to safeguard agricultural production and supply chains.

Guiding questions

1. How can the Security Council leverage Resolution 2417's early warning mechanisms to raise the alarm when regional conflicts pose a risk to global food systems? Including through disruptions to energy flows, fertiliser supplies, land and maritime trade routes, and humanitarian logistic and operations beyond the immediate area of hostilities.
2. How can the Security Council work to mitigate the humanitarian consequences of these regional - and local - conflicts on the most food insecure and import-dependent and affected countries?

3. What actions are needed from Member States, the UN system, international financial institutions, regional organisations, and humanitarian actors to secure more resilient food systems and mitigate the impact of future geopolitical shocks on global hunger and stability?
4. How can the Security Council better support the Secretary-General's good offices and leverage technical, operational, and scientific expertise to protect global food systems and local markets at times of crisis?

Briefers

- H.E. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations
- Mr. Carl Skau, Acting Executive Director for the World Food Programme
- Dr. Perrine Benoist, Co-CEO of Action Against Hunger, representing the Coalition Against Conflict & Hunger

Format and Participation

The High-Level United Nations Security Council Open Debate will be held under the Agenda Item "Maintenance of International Peace and Security" and will be chaired by H. E. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Member States wishing to participate should inscribe their names on the list of speakers through the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE. A letter addressed to the President of the Security Council, duly signed by the Permanent Representative or the Chargé d'affaires a.i., requesting to participate in accordance with Rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure must be uploaded to the eSpeakers module of e-deleGATE.

All speakers are requested to limit their interventions to no more than 5 minutes.