

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 20 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the pleasure to inform you that Ireland will organize an Arria-formula meeting on conflict and hunger, on 21 April 2022. The meeting will take place in the Economic and Social Council Chamber from 2.30–6 p.m.

In order to guide the discussions on this topic, Ireland has prepared a concept note, which is contained in the annex to the present letter (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Geraldine **Byrne Nason**
Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 20 April 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Concept note for the Arria-formula meeting on the theme “Conflict and hunger”, 21 April 2022

I. Introduction

1. The year 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 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), the number of people affected by acute food insecurity, with conflict and insecurity as the main driver thereof, 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, and was accelerated by two years of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The combined impacts of conflict, food, fuel and fertilizer price rises, displacement, loss of livelihood and climate change have resulted in acute food insecurity in countries including Afghanistan, Haiti, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. In a number of these countries, populations have been projected to experience Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 5 – catastrophic famine, starvation and death.

2. 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 consequences for 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 the practitioners who are active on the conflict and hunger agenda, both in the United Nations 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 regarding the mutually reinforcing impacts of conflict and food insecurity in the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Economic and Social Council and other forums to share understanding of the issues driving conflict and hunger.

II. Context

3. The Security Council has a clear and defined but underutilized role in addressing instances of conflict-induced hunger. Council resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#), which was adopted unanimously, signalled the clear political will of the Council and its members to break the vicious cycle between armed conflict and food insecurity. It calls upon 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 on global peace and security.

4. In line with Security Council resolution [2417 \(2018\)](#), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has alerted the Council to famine risk in conflict situations on a number of occasions, including in South Sudan in August 2018 and Yemen in October 2018, and to conflict-induced food insecurity and the risk of

famine in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the north-east of Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen in September 2020 and in Tigray, Ethiopia, in May 2021.

5. Security Council resolution [2573 \(2021\)](#) placed strong emphasis on the protection of civilian objects indispensable to food production and food systems and demonstrated the continued concern of the Council about the consequences of conflict on food security.

III. Guiding questions

6. Proposed questions to guide the discussion:

(a) 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?

(b) The last white note on famine risk in conflict situations was received by the Security Council in May 2021. With a marked increase in food insecurity as a consequence of conflict, would further white notes help to facilitate earlier action by the Council in response to conflict-induced hunger?

(c) What other actions could be taken to strengthen anticipatory action by the Security Council?

(d) How best can accountability be ensured for instances of conflict-induced hunger in contravention of international humanitarian law?

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

(f) Can the Security Council and the wider United Nations system benefit from best practices at the regional organization level in response to conflict and hunger?

IV. Briefers

7. Briefings will be given by the following speakers:

Chief Economist of FAO, Máximo Torero Cullen

Director of Emergencies of WFP, Margot van der Velden

Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food, Michael Fakhri

Regional Director for the Horn of Africa of Concern Worldwide, Amina Abdulla

V. Format

8. All Member States, Permanent Observers, United Nations system entities and civil society organizations are invited to attend. The meeting will take place in the Economic and Social Council Chamber.

9. Following opening remarks by the Permanent Representative of Ireland, 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 be opened to other Member States.

10. To facilitate the participation of as many Member States as possible, interventions should not exceed three minutes. The Arria-formula meeting will be conducted in English and broadcast on United Nations Web TV.

11. For inscription to deliver a statement, please email the name of the Member State and the name and title of the speaker to pmun.events@dfa.ie, with the subject line “Conflict and hunger Arria-formula meeting”.

12. A compilation of statements will be prepared by the Chair. Civil society organizations are invited to email written submissions to pmun.events@dfa.ie for inclusion in the compilation.
