

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 26 July 2023 from the Permanent Representative of  
the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to  
the President of the Security Council**

I have the honor to inform you that, during its August presidency of the Security Council, the United States will hold an open debate on famine and conflict-induced global food insecurity on Thursday, 3 August 2023. In order to help to steer the discussion on the subject, the United States has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

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

*(Signed)* Linda **Thomas-Greenfield**  
Ambassador

Representative of the United States to the United Nations



**Annex to the letter dated 26 July 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

**Concept note for the Security Council high-level open debate on famine and conflict-induced global food insecurity, 3 August 2023, 10 a.m.**

**Overview**

The world is experiencing an alarming rise in acute food insecurity, which is threatening international peace and security in countries around the world. The Security Council open debate seeks to identify and advance solutions to conflict-driven food insecurity, which can exacerbate conflict over resources. The *Global Report on Food Crises 2023* estimates that 258 million people were acutely food insecure and required urgent food assistance in 2022, the highest number in the seven-year history of the *Global Report*. The report of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) *Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity: June 2023 to November 2023 outlook* and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network projected peak needs estimate through December 2023 identify Afghanistan, Haiti, Nigeria, the Sahel region (Burkina Faso and Mali), Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Yemen as countries where populations face starvation and death absent urgent humanitarian intervention.

In November 2022, Secretary-General Guterres announced the appointment of Reena Ghelani as the United Nations Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator, an important step in strengthening international efforts. In recent years, Member States, the United Nations, civil society and the private sector have led global efforts to avert the worst outcomes and have built momentum behind an agenda that strengthens food security and resilience.

Around the world, armed conflict is exacerbating hunger. Building on 2021 and 2022 United States-Security Council open debates on conflict and hunger; the Road Map for Global Food Security – Call to Action (May 2022); and the declaration of the Leaders' Summit on Global Food Security (September 2022), the open debate during the United States' presidency of the Security Council will spotlight the generational challenge of addressing acute food insecurity and call for an ambitious goal to rid the world of famine.

The linkages between armed conflict and food insecurity, including their connection to famine, have long been highlighted by the Security Council, notably through its resolution 2417 (2018). The goal of ending famine and conflict-driven food insecurity will require a complementary short- and long-term vision coupled with diverse leadership, multilateral engagement and sustained partnership with the private and philanthropic sectors, civil society and international institutions. Past efforts to avert famine have proven effective when the international community is goal-oriented and coordinated between donors and implementing partners, including the campaign to address four famines (2016–2017) and the 2020–2021 desert locust anticipatory action initiative. Future efforts to avert famine will require a close look at the root causes of conflict-driven insecurity and climate change.

**Objective**

This open debate seeks to identify opportunities to strengthen, coordinate and elevate efforts by the United Nations and its implementing partners, Member States,

civil society and the private sector to strengthen global food systems and prevent future famines to reduce conflict.

### **Background**

During its March 2021 Security Council presidency, the United States convened an open debate focused on the cycle of conflict-driven food insecurity and the need to confront famine and acute malnutrition. The meeting reinforced the commitment of the Security Council to advance international efforts to address global food insecurity. During his intervention, the Secretary-General announced the establishment of a High-level Task Force on Preventing Famine to bring coordinated, high-level attention to famine prevention and mobilize support to the most affected countries.

The following year, in May 2022, the United States hosted a ministerial-level meeting at the United Nations to mobilize action around key objectives to address and mitigate the worst impacts of the global food security crisis – a crisis exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), climate and conflict. This event brought together a broad, regionally diverse group of countries that included those most affected by food insecurity and those in a position to help to strengthen efforts around global food security, nutrition and resilience. It resulted in the Road Map for Global Food Security – Call to Action, a document endorsed by over 100 Member States.

### **Format**

The open debate will be chaired by the United States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, and Security Council members are encouraged to be represented at the level of foreign minister. 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. Inscription for the list of speakers will open at 9.30 a.m. on 31 July, the third working day preceding the date of the meeting. In order to guarantee the participation of as many Member States as possible, statements should not exceed three minutes.

### **Briefers**

- United Nations Famine Prevention and Response Coordinator
- Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Edesia, Navyn Salem
- President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Rescue Committee, David Miliband

### **Guiding questions**

These questions may help guide Member State interventions:

1. How can the Security Council, Member States, philanthropies and the private sector and civil society, working in concert with other parts of the United Nations system, better align on anticipatory actions to prevent the most severe forms of hunger driven by conflict and climate change?
2. What kind of investments will be best able to tackle the root causes of conflict-induced food insecurity that ultimately result in famine? What specific roles can Member States, civil society, multilateral bodies and the private sector play in improving food system resilience?

3. How can Member States enhance collaboration and accountability to increase access to civilians in need of life-saving assistance during conflict, with particular attention to children under 5 years of age, as well as women and girls?

4. How has the Security Council succeeded in catalysing global efforts to prevent severe hunger and acute malnutrition in conflict, and what are best practices to replicate and scale moving forward?

5. What more can the Security Council do to minimize the effects of conflict and climate in worsening global food insecurity and famines?

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