



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement after the adoption
of the resolution on State of Global Food Insecurity
by
H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand
to the United Nations**

**at the 74th plenary meeting
of the United Nations General Assembly**

23 May 2022, UNHQ, New York

Mr. President,

1. If climate change is considered as fast approaching “red alert” and the SDGs is seen as fast requiring ICU, then the current crisis in food security, if unaddressed, may ultimately require CPR.

2. The latest data should keep us awake nights. According to the WFP, 811 million people are already hungry; 276 million people already face severe food insecurity. Meanwhile, the average FAO food price index in the first four months of 2022 is at one of its highest ever since records were kept.

3. With rising agricultural and energy prices and weather extremes, with the pandemic, geo-political tensions and conflicts, we are facing a “perfect storm” scenario where the situation is likely to get worse before it gets better.

4. Unless we act decisively and in unity.

5. Thailand therefore welcomes the initiatives and concrete actions undertaken by the UN system to address this food crisis, from the Secretary-General to the WFP and FAO, from the Security Council with its timely debate last week to the General Assembly with its resolution on State of Global Food Insecurity just adopted by consensus. In the months ahead, the ECOSOC should likewise be focusing on how to turn the food crisis around and thereby help rescue sustainable development. This should be a priority at the HLPF.

6. As one of the world’s large food producers and 13th largest food exporter, Thailand believes that concerted multilateral action, anchored on the UN system and complemented by regional cooperation, is essential to lead humanity out of this crisis. For the Asia-Pacific, for example, the APEC Trade Ministers just met in Bangkok this past weekend and reiterated their commitment to help one another achieve food security, support the WFP’s efforts in combatting hunger and malnutrition and call for a trade and investment environment that supports increased food security.

7. So what are the priority steps ahead, in our view?

8. First is for the immediate term. Urgent action must be undertaken to get food to the starving and those on the threshold of starvation.

9. Meanwhile, concessional financing and other support needs to be directed to those who need it most: the low-income food deficit countries; the small-scale farmers; and groups most vulnerable to price shocks especially women and

girls. As the Secretary-General said, there is no answer to the food crisis without an answer to the finance crisis.

10. Second is for the short-term. Global supply chains for food and agricultural products need to be open and secure. Countries should refrain from banning food exports. They should keep supply chains open for the unimpeded movement of essential goods, food, fertilizer and agricultural products. One fifth of all fertilizer exports are currently restricted, for example.

11. Any such emergency trade measures should be targeted, proportionate, transparent and temporary, without creating unnecessary barriers to trade and should be consistent with WTO rules. Relevant international organizations should facilitate policy dialogue and coordination to ensure efficient movement of food, grains, oil seeds, animal feed, fuel, fertilizer and agricultural commodities.

12. And third is for the medium to longer-term. Sustainable production of food and agricultural products, through sustainable farming for example, needs to be more vigorously promoted. Science and technology should be mobilized to increase yield, enhance efficiencies and improve food storage.

13. Looking down the road to 2050, it is envisaged that the world will need to feed two billion more people and therefore need to double crop production. To keep up with this pace, humanity may ultimately have to diversify its current 90 percent dependency on 15 crops for its nutritional needs.

14. To conclude: we will never achieve the level of food security in the Biblical Garden of Eden, before Adam ate the apple and departed paradise. But we will need to come together if we are to rescue millions of people from the purgatory of starvation and hunger. People deserve one of their most basic human rights: the right to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food.

15. Thank you, Mr. President.
