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UNITED NATIONS



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FIFTH COMMITTEE

**Agenda item 137
Programme budget for 2022**

**Revised estimates on United Nations activities to mitigate global food
Insecurity and its humanitarian impact
(A/77/325)**

Introductory statement
by
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Assistant Secretary-General, Controller

10 October 2022

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. I have the honour to present the report of the Secretary-General, A/77/325, on revised estimates for the 2022 programme budget in connection with United Nations activities to mitigate global food insecurity and its humanitarian impact.
2. The report is presented in the context of a world facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity, owing to a combination of factors including the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflict in Ukraine, and significant increases in fuel and energy prices. By its resolution 76/264, the General Assembly called upon the international community to urgently support countries affected by the food security crisis and recognized the fundamental role of the United Nations system in catalysing and coordinating a comprehensive global response in that regard, under the leadership of the Secretary-General. The Russian Federation and Ukraine are among the most important exporters of foodstuff and fertilizers in the world.

Both are net exporters of agricultural products and leading suppliers of foodstuffs and fertilizers to global markets. A large number of food- and fertilizer-importing countries, many in the Least Developed Country (LDC) and Low-Income Food-Deficit Country (LIFC) groups rely on Ukrainian and Russian food and fertilizers.

3. In this regard, the Secretary-General established two United Nations task forces in April 2022 to negotiate the parallel implementation of two initiatives, which culminated in the signing on 22 July 2022 of a memorandum of understanding between the Russian Federation and the Secretariat of the United Nations to facilitate the unimpeded access to the global markets of Russian food products and fertilizers, which are not subject to sanctions. On the same date, an initiative was signed among the Republic of Türkiye, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations signing as a witness, for the purpose of establishing a maritime humanitarian corridor for the safe transportation of grain, foodstuffs and fertilizers from Ukrainian ports.

4. To enable the urgent mobilization of United Nations support, voluntary contributions are being utilized as a temporary bridging mechanism, pending a decision by the General Assembly on the resource requirements proposed in the Secretary-General's report.

5. The United Nations activities for the operationalization of the two initiatives would entail additional resource requirements for 2022 in the amount of \$3,524,600, comprising \$848,600 under Section 12, Trade and development, \$2,481,700 under Section 27, Humanitarian assistance, and \$194,300 under Section 36, Staff assessment. The General Assembly is requested to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments not to exceed the total amount and to note that utilization of the commitment authority would be reported in the financial performance report for 2022. The Secretary-General also intends to submit a related revised estimates report for consideration by the General Assembly during the main part of the seventy-seventh session, which would include the requirements for 2023.

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates,

I thank you for your consideration of the proposal and we look forward to supporting you in addressing any questions you may have.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.