



“The Role of Humanitarian Diplomacy in Anticipating and Preventing Food Crises”

A side-event held on the margins of the high-level week of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly

19 September 2022; 14:30 – 16:00 (EDT)

AGENDA

Opening		
<i>Moderator: Habib Ur Rehman Mayar (Deputy General Secretary of the g7+ / Co-lead of the HDP Nexus Coalition)</i>		
5 minutes	Opening remarks	H.E. Jan Lipavský, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
5 minutes	Critical Viewpoints on Humanitarian Diplomacy – Statement	H.E. Ville Skinnari, Minister for Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Finland
Fragility and Vulnerability in the Current Global Food Crisis		
15 minutes	Presentation - the Updated States of Fragility Framework	Jonathan Marley, Policy Analyst, Crisis and Fragility OECD

	<p>The representative of the OECD/DCD will present the Updated States of Fragility Framework.</p> <p>This presentation would look at the underlying fragility in food insecure countries and highlighting vulnerabilities to the knock-on effects of the global food crisis. It will seek to situate food insecurity in the broader context of fragility in given settings to better understand the context of the affected nations grappling with the current crisis.</p>	
<p>Humanitarian Diplomacy in Responding to the Global Food Crisis: Solutions to Engage in Prevention and Anticipatory Action</p>		
3 minutes	<p>First Reflections and Framing Comments for Discussion</p>	<p>H.E. Jan Eliasson, Former DSG and Foreign Minister for Sweden; Distinguished Associate Fellow for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute</p>
20 minutes	<p>Moderated panel discussion</p> <p>The panel discussion will seek to further explore humanitarian diplomacy as a key component of anticipating and preventing the worsening global food crisis. It will seek to generate a solutions-orientated discussion with a wide variety of actors.</p>	<p>Panelists will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Danzi, Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, • Ute Klamert, WFP Assistant Executive Director for Partnerships & Governance, • Hon. Abdirahman, Abdishakur, MP, Special Envoy for Humanitarian & Drought Response for Somalia, • Maryna Domushkina, Adviser, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

15 minutes	Q&A session - Interventions from the floor and online	Moderator: Habib Ur Rehman Mayar
Closing		
5 minutes	Statement and Concluding remarks	H.E. Jan Eliasson, Former DSG and Foreign Minister for Sweden; Distinguished Associate Fellow for the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
5 minutes	Closing remarks (video-message)	H.E. Janez Lenarčič, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management

CONCEPT NOTE

The world is facing a global hunger crisis of unprecedented proportions in 2022, and we are at a critical crossroads. The conflict in Ukraine is compounding what is already a year of unprecedented needs, unleashing a wave of collateral hunger that is spreading across the globe, transforming a series of terrible hunger emergencies into a global food crisis the world cannot afford.

While the war in Ukraine was a catalyst for the current global food crisis, the state of food insecurity was already dire, due to the impacts of COVID-19, widespread conflict as the main driver of hunger and frequent climate shocks. However, given the current crisis, it is essential that we as the global humanity, represented by an international system are able to make it work to turn the trajectory and prevent catastrophe.

Countries who are already experiencing fragility and acute food insecurity are the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of the global food crisis and are at risk of further deterioration, famine and likely instability and conflict. While the UN, the EU and the international system are stepping up to mitigate the devastating impacts of the crisis, the scale and possible knock-on effects around the world are monumental and alarming. It is not only necessary to address the immediate humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations around the world, but to engage in prevention and the critical component of anticipatory action, to stop further deterioration and work to reduce it, before it becomes completely unmanageable.

Despite significant investment and attention given to prevention and anticipatory action in recent years, acute food insecurity has continued to deteriorate significantly. Today we fall far short of collective commitments to 'leave no one behind' and deliver and maintain the basic services that the most vulnerable need to survive and then rebuild their lives.

Translating advocacy into diplomatic action remains key to changing the depreciating trends in food insecurity. Humanitarian diplomacy, which seeks to open and maintain the way for the HDP community to reach and support the survival of the most vulnerable communities, has yet to be fully realised. As actors across the HDP Nexus come together post the Food System Summit to address the drivers of hunger and strive together to deliver innovative programming with appropriate and accurate information and funding, humanitarian diplomacy at all levels plays a key role in bringing the pieces together - generating the necessary political will to engage in effective anticipatory action and prevent famine.

Objectives:

This event will present policy makers with the latest information on the underlying drivers of food insecurity and global fragility, and discuss the role of humanitarian diplomacy in facilitating informed anticipatory action and prevention. We will consider the Sahel as an example/case study to look at these issues in a practical sense. In particular, the session will seek to:

- Highlight the complex dynamics affecting food insecurity by considering underlying fragility and drivers of food insecurity and fragile food systems at particular risk around the world, including to highlight situations or countries that are particularly vulnerable to the effects of the war in Ukraine and the global food crisis.
- Drawing on the outcomes of the pre-UNGA event co-organised by the High-Level Task Force on Famine Prevention and the Global Network on Food Crises, demonstrate the necessity of engaging in prevention and anticipatory action to halt the urgent deterioration in global food security and to underline the importance of humanitarian diplomacy and political will to make this a reality.
- Examine why efforts to engage in anticipatory action and prevention have failed to stop a deteriorating in food security over the past 5 years and to identify and promote practical solutions and best practice that will allow for strengthened anticipatory action and resilience building in fragile contexts.