FORUM: Economic and Social Council

QUESTION OF: Issue regarding Sri Lanka food price inflation

MAIN-SUBMITTED BY: Kenya

CO-SUBMITTED BY: France, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Sri Lanka

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

*Recalling* the principles of the United Nations Charter, which promotes economic and social development, and reaffirming the commitment to promote sustainable development for all,

*Noting* with concerns the issue of food price inflation in Sri Lanka, which has negatively impacted the economy and the livelihoods of Sri Lankan citizens,

*Recognizing* the need to address the root causes of food price inflation, including supply chain disruptions, weather-related issues, trade restrictions, currency devaluation, and fuel price hikes,

*Emphasizing* the importance of international cooperation and solidarity to support Sri Lanka in addressing the food price inflation issue,

*Acknowledging* the efforts made by the government of Sri Lanka to mitigate the impact of food price inflation, including the provision of subsidies for essential food items,

*Reaffirming* the commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1: No poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, and SDG 10: Reduced inequalities,

*Expresses its appreciation* to United Nations (UN), which aims to reach 3.4 million people for unconditional food assistance through cash or in-kind, school meals, and nutrition support,

1. Requires national support for people who are below the poverty line or in middle-income groups, which may be most affected by the inflation of food prices in such ways, but not limited to:
	1. providing food assistance for the citizens to help vulnerable households purchase food supplies in such practices, but not limited to:
		1. food subsidies,
		2. food vouchers,
		3. cash transfers,
2. requiring facilities such as local food banks and food pantries to provide food assistance to those who are affected by food inflation,
3. ensuring that people who are below the poverty line or in middle-income groups have healthcare, such as medical care and nutritional counseling, so fewer people suffer from chronic conditions that are aggravated by food insecurity, which can reduce health problems caused by lack of access to adequate nutrition;
4. Encourages world organizations, such as World Food Organization (WFO), or other nations to support Sri Lanka to make a leap forward related to their agricultural industry and mitigate the seriousness of the inflation of food sources in such ways, but not limited to:
	1. Suggesting world organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and nations to provide technical and financial support to Sri Lanka by such means, but not limited to:
		1. Providing technical assistance to farmers, facilitating access to necessary resources like seeds, fertilizers, and equipment to address the root causes of food price inflation,
		2. Providing financial support to implement sustainable agriculture practices, such as torrent rice, to increase the amount of land that can be used for agriculture so that Sri Lanka has a more scientific farming method and efficient land usage,
5. Providing humanitarian assistance from United Nations (UN) to vulnerable groups in Sri Lanka who are below the poverty line or in middle-income groups;
6. Strongly encourage organizations to improve the infrastructures such as roads, storage facilities, and cold storage chains so that Sri Lanka can have a sustainable food source;
7. Urges the Sri Lankan government to develop comprehensive policies aimed at addressing the issue of inflation in food prices, utilizing a range of approaches, including but not limited to:
8. Promoting citizens to actively consume their finance so that there would be circulation of finance that could cause the economy to be active,
9. Controlling the price of foods in the local market to ensure that all citizens can purchase them at a low price,
10. Encouraging all nations to conclude an agreement with Sri Lanka about importing food sources and transportation so that they can get enough supply of food with a lower tax,
11. Requesting Sri Lanka to renounce the law restricting fertilizer import;
12. Urges all member states to encourage Russia to mitigate measures regarding shipments of Ukraine to activate the exports of food commodities to supply food commodities to Sri Lanka by requesting Russia to remove restrictions on exports to help increase the supply of food and highlight the benefits that Russia could gain from eliminating the regulations;
13. Encourages Sri Lanka to create a brand-new organization, Grain Infrastructure Management Organization (GIMO) in partnership with UN organizations, such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), to oversee the management of farmland and other food production-related infrastructure by carrying out the following responsibilities but not limited to:
	1. Establishing requirements for the amount of grain that must be held in the nation’s reserves,
	2. Maintaining quality control of grain and food products by taking the following measures:
		1. Carrying out regular inspections of farming production, extraction, and processing facilities,
		2. Creating quality-control standards that food products must meet before they may be consumed,
	3. Overseeing the maintenance of supply transportation and storage system by:
		1. Ensuring that grain transport and storage facilities are working correctly,
		2. Requiring the company or companies that own and run the grain transportation and storage infrastructure to submit annual reports regarding the grain supply network’s performance,
		3. Creating a system that allows companies involved in producing and selling grain to access the grain transportation and storage systems,
	4. Ensuring transparency in the food industry by requiring companies that produce and sell different food to publicly disclose their financial information, including their production capacity, the amount of grain they produce and sell, debt, cost of operating their facilities, profits, and other financial liabilities and assets.