Joint Statement by the Group of Friends of Action on Conflict and Hunger

High-level Event: ‘Action in Support of Preventing and Ending Famine Now’
October 4, 2021

We are pleased to co-sponsor this important event and to deliver this statement on behalf of the members of the Group of Friends of Action on Conflict and Hunger: the Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, the Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

Our group is deeply concerned by the global rise in hunger. The UN estimates that 584,000 people are already experiencing famine-like conditions and that the number of people at imminent risk of falling into famine has doubled in just two years – to 41 million. These numbers increase year on year. The main driver is clearly conflict.

We call on all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, to guarantee the protection of humanitarian personnel and to ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access. We stress the importance of national authorities enabling the work of the UN and other humanitarian actors delivering lifesaving assistance.

We encourage a scale up of humanitarian operations and for coordinated efforts between humanitarian, development and peace actors to prevent hunger and prevent conflict.

We also urge all relevant actors to strengthen timely reporting of information on food insecurity and famine risks, building on existing tools, networks and data and the use of early warning mechanisms to monitor risks and track violations of international humanitarian law and access challenges, so that we can take action early to save lives and reduce need.

This group supports the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2417, which recognizes the link between conflict and hunger. However, we note with regret that, despite the rise of conflict induced hunger, there has been a lack of action under 2417.

We have the tools. We must now use them to respond to growing need, avoid further deterioration, hold those driving conflict and hunger accountable, and prevent future crises. In this spirit, we, as a group, call for urgent action.

These crises are avoidable, and parties to these conflicts hold the power to end people’s suffering. We must all take action to ensure this happens.

Thank you.