

Надоленко Геннадій О.

Надзвичайний і Повноважний Посол,
Директор Дипломатичної академії України
при Міністерстві закордонних справ
вулиця Велика Житомирська, 2, Київ, Україна
e-mail: rector@da.mfa.gov.ua
ORCID: 0000-0001-6342-452X

ДИПЛОМАТИЧНІ МЕХАНІЗМИ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ПРОДОВОЛЬЧОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ (В УМОВАХ ВІЙСЬКОВОГО КОНФЛІКТУ)

Nadolenko Hennadii

Ambassador,
Director of Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine
at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Velyka Zhytomyrska Street 2, Kyiv, Ukraine
e-mail: rector@da.mfa.gov.ua
ORCID: 0000-0001-6342-452X

DIPLOMATIC MECHANISMS FOR ENSURING FOOD SECURITY (IN THE CONTEXT OF MILITARY CONFLICT)

Анотація. У статті досліджується критично важливе питання застосування механізмів кризової економічної дипломатії для забезпечення глобальної продовольчої безпеки на тлі поточних викликів у сільському господарстві та на продовольчих ринках. У ній підкреслюється нездатність забезпечити населення планети безпечним і достатнім продовольством через кризу, яка перешкоджає доступу до основних продуктів харчування та їх споживанню. У статті проаналізовано вплив зовнішніх чинників на продовольчу безпеку України в умовах російської агресії як одного з основних важелів політичного та економічного тиску в міжнародних відносинах. Обґрунтовано, що перехід від простої продовольчої проблеми до більш широкої кризи продовольчої безпеки вимагає більш активного застосування механізмів двосторонньої та багатосторонньої економічної дипломатії для поступового її подолання.

Країни індивідуально розробляють стратегії, виходячи з різних факторів, таких як географія, клімат, економічний стан та проблеми безпеки. Для України вивчення стратегій країн, які стикаються з конфліктами та прагнуть забезпечити продовольчу безпеку, набуває особливого значення. Метою статті є дослідження ефективності існуючих механізмів двосторонньої та багатосторонньої економічної дипломатії для забезпечення продовольчої безпеки в умовах військового конфлікту.

Варті уваги приклади США та Китаю, які розкривають їхні стратегії та функції відомств, відповідальних за забезпечення продовольчої безпеки. США наголошують на глобальній продовольчій безпеці за допомогою різних ініціатив, тоді як Китай вирішує проблеми з обмеженими орними землями за допомогою різноманітних стратегій.

У статті висвітлюється вплив конфліктів на продовольчу безпеку на прикладах Ізраїлю, Іраку, М'янми та Судану. Своєю чергою війна росії проти України, що триває, суттєво підриває глобальні продовольчі системи. Вплив виходить за межі обох країн, впливаючи на світові ціни на продовольство та його постачання. Зусилля української дипломатії спрямовані на створення безпечних транспортних коридорів для українського зерна, але проблеми залишаються.

Для їх вирішення Україна започаткувала такі ініціативи, як «Grain from Ukraine» та Національна платформа продовольчої безпеки. Вони мають на меті забезпечити безпеку та експорт зерна, водночас підтримуючи внутрішню продовольчу безпеку країни.

Насамкінець у статті підкреслюється вразливість глобальних продовольчих систем під час криз і необхідність об'єднання глобальних зусиль. Вона підкреслює нагальність спільних дипломатичних зусиль для пом'якшення впливу конфліктів на продовольчу безпеку, особливо на тлі нинішнього російсько-українського конфлікту.

Ключові слова: продовольча безпека, дипломатичні механізми, міжнародне співробітництво, економічна дипломатія, двостороння економічна дипломатія, багатостороння економічна дипломатія, військовий конфлікт, стратегічна політика, національна продовольча стратегія, міжнародна допомога, геополітичний вплив, глобальна продовольча криза.

Abstract: The article explores the critical issue of applying the mechanisms of crisis economic diplomacy to ensure global food security against the background of current challenges in agriculture and food markets. The article emphasizes the inability to provide the world's population with safe and sufficient food due to the crisis that impedes access to and consumption of basic foods. The article analyzes the impact of external factors on Ukraine's food security in the context of russian aggression as one of the main levers of political and economic pressure in international relations. It is substantiated that the transition from a simple food problem to a broader food security crisis requires more active use of bilateral and multilateral economic diplomacy mechanisms to gradually overcome it.

Countries individually develop strategies based on various factors, such as geography, climate, economic status, and security concerns. For Ukraine, studying the strategies of countries facing conflicts and seeking to ensure food security is of particular importance. The purpose of the article is to study the effectiveness of existing mechanisms of bilateral and multilateral economic diplomacy to ensure food security in the context of military conflict.

The examples of the United States and China are worthy of attention, as they reveal their strategies and functions of the agencies responsible for ensuring food security. The United States emphasizes global food security through various initiatives, while China addresses the problem of limited arable land through a variety of strategies.

The article highlights the impact of conflicts on food security on the examples of Israel, Iraq, Myanmar and Sudan. In turn, Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine is significantly undermining global food systems. The impact goes beyond both countries, affecting global food prices and supplies. Ukrainian diplomacy efforts are aimed at creating safe transportation corridors for Ukrainian grain, but problems remain.

To address them, Ukraine has launched initiatives such as Grain from Ukraine and the National Food Security Platform. They aim to ensure the safety and export of grain while maintaining domestic food security.

The article concludes by emphasizing the vulnerability of global food systems in times of crisis and the need for a unified global response. It emphasizes the urgency of joint diplomatic efforts to mitigate the impact of conflicts on food security, especially in the context of the current Russian-Ukrainian conflict.

Keywords: food security, diplomatic mechanisms, international cooperation, economic diplomacy, bilateral economic diplomacy, multilateral economic diplomacy, military conflict, strategic policy, national food strategy, international assistance, geopolitical impact, global food crisis.

JEL codes: F59, Q18

Target setting. The current state of global agriculture and food markets makes it impossible to provide the entire world's population with safe and high-quality food, and the crisis is reducing the availability and consumption of essential food products. The

food problem, albeit slowly, is increasingly becoming a food security issue, which requires a coordinated policy and joint practical actions of the international community. However, such actions are not sufficiently addressed in the current environment, due to the aggravation of political and economic problems at the global level.

It should be noted that each country separately develops and applies its own economic food security strategy based on its geographical location, natural and climatic conditions, the state of its economic development, the current security situation, the need and possibilities of obtaining international assistance, etc.

For Ukraine, the international experience of state support and regulation of agricultural production in those countries that suffer from military conflicts, are located in regions with an unstable security situation and are trying to ensure food security for their country and for other countries of the world is especially important.

Analysis of research and publications. A significant contribution to the study of food security issues was made by domestic scholars, including V. Andriychuk, V. Bohachova, P. Borshchevskyi, V. Balabanov, B. Danylyshyn, L. Deineko, O. Goichuk, P. Sabluk, B. Stefanyshyn and others. Among the latest works, it is worth highlighting the monograph by A. Mostova, which is devoted to the study of the problems of strategic food security of Ukraine in the context of the state's European integration perspective. In this monograph the author defines scientific approaches to the formation and implementation of the state's food security strategy, assesses the situation and the prospects of Ukraine's food security and outlines strategic directions for its provision [1, c. 114].

Research Methods. To research and analyze the diplomatic mechanisms for ensuring food security in the context of military conflict, the article uses a variety of methods, both general scientific and special. In particular, the method of literature analysis was used to review scientific articles, books, reports and documents of international organizations on the use of bilateral and multilateral economic diplomacy tools in addressing food security in conflict. The comparative analysis method was used to compare different approaches to diplomatic measures to ensure food security in different conflict situations. The graphical method was used to show the place of food security in the structure of economic security, as well as its structural and functional features. The use of the statistical analysis method made it possible to display statistical data assessing the impact of the Russian war against Ukraine on the level of food security in the world.

The use of a combination of these methods made it possible to collect a variety of data and consider in detail the aspects of the use of bilateral and multilateral economic diplomacy tools in ensuring food security during military conflicts.

Materials on international experience in ensuring food security were obtained from the current archive of the Department of Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

Uninvestigated parts of general matters defining. The state of Ukraine's food security due to the Russia's aggression requires additional research. The impact of external factors on Ukraine's food security is growing, as food is increasingly becoming one of the main levers of political and economic pressure in international relations due to the increase in food consumption in almost all countries, the intensive development of bioenergy, the decline in world food reserves, etc.

The purpose of the article is to study the existing diplomatic mechanisms for ensuring food security in the context of military conflict and to determine their effectiveness.

The statement of basic materials. The concept of food security was first introduced at the 1974 World Food Conference in Rome. The conference was initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) because of the paradoxical situation in the world: overproduction of food products in economically developed countries and simultaneous catastrophic food shortages in «third countries», mass starvation of tens of thousands of people.

Scientists propose to consider food security as the degree of provision of the country’s population with environmentally friendly and healthy food products of domestic production according to scientifically sound standards and affordable prices while maintaining and improving the environment [2, c. 134]. Its provision at the state level is inextricably linked to the state’s guarantee of food independence (self-sufficiency), as well as full satisfaction of the population’s food needs through sufficient volumes of its own agricultural production. At the same time, they note that the system of national food security should be based on the principles of self-sufficiency, independence, accessibility, quality, which should form the basis for the formation of a strategy and state policy of food security [1, c. 146].

Based on the analysis of the main approaches to understanding food security in national and foreign science, as well as our own theoretical generalizations, we have developed a diagram (Fig. 1) illustrating the place of food security in the structure of economic security, as well as its structural and functional features.

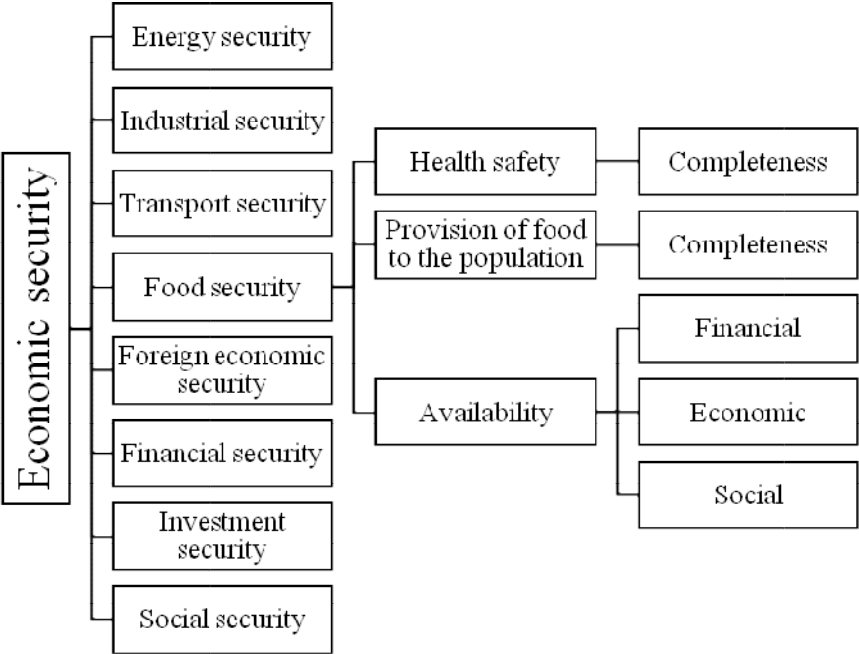


Figure 1. Food security in the structure of economic security of the state

Source: compiled by the author based on [3].

The central element of food security is food availability. Food availability manifests itself in three forms [4]. Physical accessibility implies the simple availability of vital products on the consumer market, economic accessibility includes the financial ability to obtain them, and social accessibility implies minimal differentiation in the consumption of the main food groups among different segments of the population. The availability of food is linked to the state's self-sufficiency in providing the relevant goods to its population. One hundred percent provision of the consumer market with the main food products of domestic production is optimal, but this situation is observed only in some economically developed countries. In most cases, a rational combination of domestic production and imports of certain types of agricultural products is needed, along with the creation of sufficient state reserves of strategically important food products.

Improving nutrition is fundamental to achieving FAO's vision (Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition as a form of multilateral economic diplomacy) of a world free of hunger and malnutrition. FAO's role in realizing this vision is to assist Member States in their work to improve the efficiency of agri-food systems to improve nutrition at all stages of human life, working at the global, regional and national levels.

The development of global food security is significantly influenced by joint diplomatic efforts, especially those of the **US government** aimed at supporting agricultural production and food security.

The main legal acts that regulate agricultural production are the Global Food Security Act of 2016 and the Farm Bill of 2018. These laws, among other things, provide for strategic principles of food security in the United States, namely: providing the population with quality food, access to world food markets and development of agricultural production.

The key government agency that develops and implements state policy in the agricultural sector is the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Department of State's Office of Agricultural Policy also play an important role in the context of the U.S. efforts to ensure global food security, which is one of the priorities of the current Biden-Harris administration.

An important area of government regulation is the funding of targeted programs from the federal budget. Such programs are aimed at stabilizing farmers' incomes and using scientific and innovative approaches to improve agricultural production. In the United States, there are more than ten cross-sectoral targeted programs related to the agricultural sector and farmers at the state level.

The United States pays special attention to the issue of countering the global food crisis. Last year, the United States implemented the Global Food Security Strategy 2022-2026 [5], which provides for support for global food security through U.S. assistance mechanisms, as well as effective solutions to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition, which are inextricably linked to poverty. As part of the Strategy, the Feed the Future initiative is being implemented to target global hunger and ensure global food security. Within the framework of FTF, the United States has provided food assistance to more than 3.4 million children and more than 5.2 million families, and provided support for the fight against poverty for more than 23.4 million people from around the world, including the African continent.

The search for ways to resolve the global food crisis is currently one of the main tracks in the US bilateral and multilateral economic diplomacy. At the initiative of the United States, the UN launched the Global Roadmap, which was signed by 94 countries. This roadmap stipulates that the signatory countries should take swift and concrete steps to ensure the delivery of food to people around the world.

In the context of international cooperation to resolve the global food crisis, the United States currently emphasizes the following priorities:

- strengthening humanitarian assistance, in particular by increasing support for specialized international organizations;
- strengthening activities, in particular those under the auspices of the UN, to unblock Russia's ability to export Ukrainian food by sea;
- reducing the shortage of fertilizers by increasing production and ensuring their more efficient use;
- increasing the potential and sustainability of global agriculture;
- support for initiatives of international financial organizations aimed at mitigating food shocks and providing countries with greater flexibility in providing food to their populations;
- improving information exchange and ensuring proper coordination of international efforts to combat the global food crisis.

Also of great interest is the experience of the **People's Republic of China** in ensuring food security. China, home to 18% of the world's population, has limited land resources. The country with the world's largest population of 1.4 billion people has only 9% of the world's arable land (10% of the country's area). The uneven distribution of arable land concentrates agricultural production mainly in the eastern regions of the country.

China is the world's largest grain producer (over 686 million tons harvested in 2022). However, this is still not enough to fully meet the country's food needs, so the shortfall is covered by imports (according to various sources, about 10%).

Formation and implementation of policy in the field of agricultural production and the food market are the responsibility of the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the State Administration for Market Regulation of the People's Republic of China.

The issue of ensuring food security is included in the 14th National Development Plan (14th Five-Year Plan — 2021–2025) and is part of the National Security Strategy section. The strategy for the development of the country's agricultural sector is spelled out in more detail in the Five-Year Agricultural Development Plan (2021–2025). These documents envisage, in particular, maintaining the amount of agricultural land at 120 million hectares, supporting annual grain production of more than 650 million tons, and expanding production to 700 million tons by 2025 [6].

The PRC government has established the following areas of support for the agricultural sector and agricultural production:

- control of grain exports;
- control over the use of arable land;
- diversification of import sources;
- increasing land productivity, development of agricultural technologies;
- measures to reduce food waste (the Law on Food Waste was adopted in 2021);

- promotion of the use of low-carbon technologies in agricultural production;
- Rural Revitalization Strategy;
- subsidizing farmers, measures aimed at increasing their incomes and encouraging them to continue/expand production, reducing the difference in incomes between rural and urban populations.

The war in Ukraine has also threatened the food security of a country like Israel, as half of its consumable wheat products and a third of its animal feed are supplied by Russia and Ukraine.

Several state institutions in **Israel** are authorized to organize food security in emergencies:

1) The National Emergency Management Authority (RACHEL), which is subordinated to the Ministry of Defense, is the coordinating body for ensuring the preparedness of the home front for emergencies, as well as assisting the defense ministry in the emergency response process.

2) The Emergency Food Supply Sector in the Ministry of Economy is responsible for implementing the Ministry's emergency policy in the context of ensuring the supply of products and services and maintaining the stability of a functional economy.

This unit is authorized to prepare a baseline scenario for food, as well as to ensure a reserve of strategic food for the needs of the economy during a crisis situation. The goods in the warehouse are renewed in accordance with Israeli standards during the shelf life of each product, and the inventory is carried out on a first-in, first-out (FIFO) basis. The food is stored in warehouses and granaries of operators (franchisees) selected through public tenders.

The value of the products stored in the warehouses is about 200 million NIS (approximately 57 million USD), and the annual costs of maintenance and product renewal by the operators are about 40 million NIS (11 million USD).

The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for providing the population with fresh agricultural products, milk, fruits and vegetables, wheat, poultry, fish and beef in emergency situations. Information on the exact amount and value of emergency reserves is classified.

3) The Quality, Production Panels and Emergency Unit under RACHEL in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is responsible for managing stocks of feed grains (flour, cake or gluten, dried distillers grains or soybean cake) and milling wheat. The volumes are determined by actual weekly consumption and the required lead time according to the baseline scenario. Most of the stocks are imported and stored in the warehouses of operators (franchisees) selected through public tenders.

During an emergency, the unit's responsibilities include:

- ensuring stable agricultural activities in the context of supplying fresh produce to the population;
- ensuring economic stability of the agricultural market and providing assistance to farmers.

Food security around the world has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in supply chain disruptions, lower incomes, and higher food prices. However, the impact of the pandemic on food security has been more severe in developing countries. In India, for example, the pandemic has led to a serious food crisis, with some 189 million people facing food insecurity. The country's strict quarantine measures have led to a significant loss of income for millions of people, making

it difficult to access food and basic necessities. The pandemic has also disrupted the country's agricultural supply chain, leading to shortages of seeds, fertilizers, and labor.

India's agriculture sector, which employs more than half of the population, is considered one of the key sectors of the country's economy (accounting for about 19% of GDP). In the context of rapid population growth (according to current forecasts, in 2023 India may overtake China and become the most populous country in the world with a population of more than 1.4 billion people), the development of agricultural production and food security are priority tasks for the country's authorities. To achieve these goals, the country has introduced a number of government programs (schemes) to support local farmers, including financial support to the industry in the form of preferential lending, subsidy mechanisms for the industry, etc.

In the context of India's experience in ensuring food security, it should be noted that the key legal act regulating the issue of food security is the Food Security Act, 2013 [7].

In India, a separate state body, the Food Corporation of India, has been established to ensure the formation of food stocks. Among other things, the corporation purchases food grains from farmers in accordance with the aforementioned «minimum support prices», ensures its storage and further distribution in accordance with the existing needs in the regions of the country. The central government is responsible for the procurement, storage, transportation and wholesale distribution of food grains, while local governments (state governments) are responsible for its distribution to consumers.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution of India is the key government agency responsible for implementing this program. It provides for the distribution of essential commodities and foodstuffs (such as wheat, rice, sugar) to the poorest segments of the population. In this regard, the country operates a network of social stores that sell these goods at minimum prices (below market prices). The purchase of goods in such stores is allowed to those citizens who fall under this social program and have the appropriate cards of the established sample.

Among other things, India has a state program called the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. According to this program, the poorest segments of the population have the right to purchase 35 kg of food grain at subsidized prices once a month.

In many countries in Africa, meeting the most basic food needs of the population is complicated by military conflicts and the general underdevelopment of the economy. For example, **in Sudan**, 47% of the nearly 48 million people live in poverty, which challenges the efforts of the Sudanese government to balance high urban population growth with the environmentally sustainable use of the country's natural resources.

The combined effects of military conflict, economic crisis and low harvests due to prolonged dry periods have the greatest impact on food security. Currently, 18 million people are facing acute food shortages, despite the fact that in 2022 the country received \$100 million from the World Bank to mitigate the threat of famine.

Sudan's food security is currently highly dependent on international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UNICEF and other food security programs, as well as aid from developed countries.

The issue of ensuring food security in the context of the ongoing internal conflict in the **Republic of the Union of Myanmar** remains one of the most urgent issues of preventing a humanitarian crisis in this country. At the same time, given the military junta's lack of control over the entire territory of the Myanmar (according to estimates, the Myanmar military does not control 30% to 50% of the country's territory), as well as the ongoing resistance of the Myanmar population against the military, which sometimes has manifestations of armed conflict and even civil war, no measures taken by the Myanmar military administration to address this problem bring tangible results.

Following the military coup on February 1, 2021, and the ensuing political crisis, Myanmar has been experiencing nationwide instability, which has led to protests and nationwide strikes, which have caused an upsurge in conflict between various armed groups. Ongoing violence, the economic crisis, periodic climate shocks, forced displacement of the population, and the COVID-19 pandemic are factors that disrupt the national food security system. In turn, this significantly hinders the country's ability to overcome hunger. Myanmar remains one of the least developed countries in the world: most of its people face difficult physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food. Women, the elderly, people with disabilities, and members of national minorities are particularly affected.

One of the key ways to ensure food security in the country is to use the mechanism of multilateral economic diplomacy, in particular, the deployment of the UN World Food Program (WFP), which aims to provide vital food and financial assistance to internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. The WFP responds to emergencies in urban areas where people are increasingly vulnerable to food insecurity, and implements its livelihoods and school feeding programs. It should be noted that the number of WFP projects in Myanmar has quadrupled since 2020. Myanmar is also a recipient of support programs from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The specificity of the food security policy **in Iraq** is that the country does not face financial difficulties in importing food, but there are problems with pricing policy and speculation in the food market.

The Ministry of Trade of Iraq, through the Iraqi Grain Corporation, purchases (in accordance with the established requirements for the standardization of imported grains) the grains necessary to ensure food security. Imports from the USA, Australia, and Canada are allowed for budgetary funds. Canada. Since 2021, Germany, Ukraine, and Argentina have been added to this list. Imports of grain by private entrepreneurs are not limited by the geography of origin. According to Iraqi law, public procurement of goods must be approved by the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Trade, and the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Russian's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine's sovereign territory is not only bringing death to Ukrainians. By fighting and disrupting traditional supply chains, the Russians have pushed at least 70 million people around the world to the brink of starvation. A total of 345 million people are suffering from catastrophic food shortages. Eighty-two countries are in need of food aid (according to the UN). The demand for agricultural products in the world is growing by 2-3% annually, and the deficit of grain in the markets of Africa and Asia may reach 10-15% in 2024. The global food market needs more flexibility, which means that it will be impossible to

replace Ukrainian products through diversification from other countries in the next 4-5 years.

Russia's war against Ukraine has demonstrated the vulnerability of both national and global food systems to anthropogenic (the impact of armed conflicts), economic (rising world food prices), and natural factors (increased impact of crop failures due to disruption of global food supplies) [8].

After all, the consequences of this war are leading to a reduction in the food supply of many countries in the Middle East and North Africa, which import more than 90% of all food. In particular, experts from the World Bank and the EBRD note that Turkey, Egypt, India, Thailand, Georgia, Armenia, South Africa, Lebanon, and even Sri Lanka may become «victims» of Russian aggression against Ukraine [9]. Russia and Ukraine account for almost a third of the world's wheat exports and 60% of the world's sunflower oil exports. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute, for every 100 calories of food sold worldwide, 12 come from Russia and Ukraine. In addition, its consequences will lead to serious threats of further increase in world food prices (according to the forecast of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of 11.03.2022, due to the war in Ukraine, world food and feed prices may increase by 20%); a global surge in inflation, which will primarily affect countries with underdeveloped unstable economies in the Middle East and North Africa [10].

The Government of Ukraine signed The Initiative on Safe Transportation of Grain and Foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports, also called the Black Sea Grain Initiative to partially unblock grain exports through the seaports of Greater Odesa (Odesa, Chornomorsk, Pivdennyi). Under the terms of the agreement, a safe corridor was established in the Black Sea from the ports of Chornomorsk, Odessa and Yuzhny port to the Bosphorus Strait to transport grain, related food products and fertilizers. Russia pledged not to attack these ports, as well as Ukrainian ships escorting transport ships along the fairway through the country's mined inland waters.

«Grain from Ukraine» is a humanitarian food program launched by President of Ukraine Volodymyr on November 26, 2022 and presented during the first inaugural International Food Security Summit in Kyiv. Thanks to the efforts of Ukrainian diplomacy, the Grain from Ukraine program has accumulated support in the amount of about USD 220 million. The amount of the contribution and the number of donor countries are not finalized. It is planned to increase the contributions of individual countries, as well as to attract new countries and enterprises as donors to participate in the initiative. In cooperation with the UN World Food Program, Ukraine and the program's partner countries identify recipient countries for Ukrainian grain from among those countries that face acute food shortages. More than 30 countries and international organizations have joined the Grain from Ukraine program.

Under such circumstances, in order to ensure the country's food security, the National Food Security Platform was created on the basis of the State Service of Ukraine for Food Safety and Consumer Protection, which allows to combine the efforts of military administrations, food producers, retailers, and international organizations to stimulate the development of the Ukrainian economy, even in times of war, and to provide food and essential goods to the population, military personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and territorial defense. Its value for enterprises and other participants is that it provides access to up-to-date information on the real needs and supply

of certain goods, which greatly simplifies the options for finding a market for product manufacturers; the possibility of their instant communication with the buyer or supplier without unnecessary intermediaries; ordering transportation services; in a few days — smart contracts for several of the public offers and access to government orders without unnecessary paperwork and time loss [11-13].

Conclusions. The study suggests that the modern world is becoming extremely vulnerable to the consequences of any crisis, as, regardless of their scale, they have an extraordinary impact on both national and global food security, and overcoming their consequences is possible only through joint coordinated efforts of the international community. This applies to both the fight against large-scale pandemics and counter-acting Russia's armed aggression through sanctions and providing comprehensive support to Ukraine in protecting its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The war in Ukraine has exacerbated existing tensions on the global agricultural market. Due to the invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops, food prices have risen as the supply of food products on the global market has decreased. In particular, at the end of 2023, prices for food products such as grain and vegetable oils reached record levels, exceeding even the level of the global food price crisis reached more than a decade ago. This has primarily affected countries that are dependent on food imports (Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries), as well as sub-Saharan Africa, which are largely dependent on Russian and Ukrainian wheat exports. Disruptions in Ukrainian exports due to Russia's aggressive actions in the Black Sea region and high prices further destabilize food security in these regions. Therefore, the urgent task of Ukrainian diplomacy is to create favorable conditions for establishing and increasing food exports from Ukraine. Unfortunately, on this path, it faces extraordinary political obstacles and inertia in multilateral economic diplomacy.

To ensure national food security, the Government of Ukraine has prepared an action plan to ensure food security under martial law and created the National Food Security Platform. To mitigate the negative impact of the war on global food security, the Ukrainian diplomacy prepared and signed the Initiative for the safe transportation of grain and food from Ukrainian Ports in the context of the ongoing Russian armed aggression against Ukraine.

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